

Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon
1 Radley Rd, Abingdon on Thames, Oxon, OX14 3PL

Parish Priest: Fr Jamie McGrath Tel: 01235 520375
 Assistant Priest: Fr. Phil Carroll Tel: 01235 520375
 Parish Secretary: Lisa Paterson Tel: 01235 520375
 Office Hours: 9am-12pm Monday to Friday
 Office Email: abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Youth Worker: Melanie Parris-Dollar E: tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Tel. 07470 094818
 Safeguarding Team: Tel. 07572 935 230
 Visits at JR Hospital: Fr Pius 01865 221732
 Visits and Help: Society of Vincent de Paul Group, contact via Parish Office
 Parish Blog: www.stedmundabingdon.blogspot.co.uk
 Parish Website: access via www.thamesis.org.uk
 Primary School: St. Edmund's School, Radley Road, Abingdon, OX14 3PP Tel 521558
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No 246871 www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Confessions: Saturday, 11:00 -11.30am Sunday Mass Times: 8.45 am, 10.15 am, 6.30pm

Parish Life

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to make our parish Christmas such a wonderful time. To our choirs and musicians, readers and ministers, all our altar servers overseen by Donie, all the welcome teams, also to the great team of helpers who prepared and decorated the church so beautifully. We really do appreciate all the hard work. Also a huge thanks from Fr Phil and myself for your kindness and generosity to us with cards and gifts and your Christmas Offerings. Thanks you all, and God Bless. Fr. Jamie

Parish Office will be closed tomorrow, and re-open Tues 3rd Jan.

TODAY Prayer Ministry. We invite you to come up after the 10:15am Mass for prayer with members of St Edmund's Prayer Ministry team. Give your hurts and burdens to Jesus, He cares for you.

Christian Aid Traditional Sponsored New Year Walk starts at 10am from Peachcroft Christian Centre **TOMORROW** 2nd Jan 2017. The route is through Sunningwell up to Boars Hill, down to Bayworth where refreshments are available and then back to Abingdon. Sponsorship forms are available at chatera2@supanet.com or 01865 736344 or just turn up on the day!

PPC. A report from the recent open parish meeting is available on the board at the back of church, and e-copies can be obtained from the parish office, as for all PPC meetings. (Next meeting **Jan 5th**)

Clearing the Christmas Trees - We need help to dismantle the two Christmas trees on Tuesday 10th January at 2.00. If you can help please contact Jo Milham (parish office). Thank you to the volunteers who very kindly helped to erect them before Christmas.

MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

Sunday 1 January

| | | |
|---------|------|----------------------------------|
| 8.45am | Mass | Sylvia Browe RIP |
| 10.15am | Mass | Gillian Hermann (née Newman) RIP |
| 6.30pm | Mass | Don Heath RIP |

Monday 2 January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

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| 8.30am | Rosary | |
| 9am | Mass | Pat Chapman Intentions |

Tuesday 3 January

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| 8.30am | Rosary | |
| 9am | Mass | Deceased members of the Greaney Family |

Wednesday 4 January

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| 6.30pm | Rosary | |
| 7pm | Mass | Leonard Hemblade RIP |

Thursday 5 January

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|--------|--------|------------------|
| 9am | Rosary | |
| 9.30am | Mass | Joan Fleming RIP |

Friday 6 January

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| 6.30pm | Rosary | |
| 7pm | Mass | Molly Gibbard RIP |

Saturday 7 January

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| 10.15am | Mothers Prayers | |
| 11am | Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament | |
| 11-11.30am | Confessions | |
| 12 noon | Mass | Clergy & Parishioners of St Edmunds |

NEXT SUNDAY there will be a second collection for the White Flower Appeal.

Cake and Conversation Group will start again on Wednesday 11th January at 9.30am in the Parish Centre. If you would like to improve your English conversation please come along to our friendly, informal, group which meets every Wednesday morning at 9.30 in the Parish Centre. For further information, please contact Ann (parish office).

The **Baby & Toddler Group** will restart on Friday 13th January. Sessions are each Friday, 9.30am - 11.15am in the Parish Centre on Oxford Rd.

Looking ahead to the **Lent Project 2017**: Do you wish to propose a charity? While thinking this Christmas about those who are less fortunate than we are, please think about whom you would like the parish to help through our next Lent Project, and send your proposal to the parish council, through the parish office by **Wed 4th Jan**. Many thanks.

Would you like to know more about who Jesus is, why he died for us and how you can find or grow your faith? Would you like to ask hard questions or discuss difficult issues, and look at the meaning of our lives, with others in a social relaxed setting? Would you like to eat a hot meal on Sunday evening and make new friends? Would you like a friend or member of your family to know about the Christian faith? Please come and try the **Alpha Course**, which this year a group of parishioners are running in two different places. It will be on **SUNDAY EVENINGS**, starting 22nd January, in the Parish Centre. And also, with the other churches, we are hosting a **LADIES ALPHA** on **MONDAY MORNINGS**, 9.30 -11am, at the Broad Face Pub. Contact Clare (parish office).

Safeguarding Training - Volunteers in St Edmund's parish who are engaged in any activities with children or vulnerable adults must comply with diocese safeguarding regulations This involves the completion of the DBS application form (which includes providing two references) and attendance at an appropriate training course. The next training sessions will take place in the Parish Centre on the 28th Jan 2017: Child Protecting Awareness from 10am - 12.30pm Vulnerable Adults Awareness from 1.30pm - 4pm.

Please note It is necessary for all those wishing to attend a training session need to register by email with Soraya Ciccarone the Safeguarding Centre in Portsmouth soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Any problems please contact Anne Green (parish office).

Faith Development

Marriage Care Volunteers - We are looking for Marriage Preparation Facilitators and a Head of Centre to volunteer with us at our Reading centre and help us in our mission to support couples in the best and worst of times. Please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk for more information.

Parish Events for the Week

Thursday PPC Meeting 7.30pm, Presbytery

Friday SVP meeting 7.30pm

N.B. All take place in the Parish Centre unless specified

Future Diary Dates

2nd Jan Christian Aid Sponsored Walk 10am
5th Jan PPC Meeting 7.30pm
9th Jan 'Life in the Spirit' DVD 7pm
11th Jan Cake and Conversation 9.30am
11th Jan Parish Lunch 12.30pm
15th Jan Peace Sunday
28th Jan Safeguarding Training, Parish Centre

Youth Events

Epiphany Party and Mass Come and celebrate the Epiphany with us at our pastoral area Youth Mass & Epiphany Party! The event will be at St Mary's in East Hendred on **Fri 6th January from 7-9:30pm**. You will need a torch, comfortable shoes and a warm coat (Preferably waterproof if possible). For more information or to confirm your attendance, please contact Melanie at leader.tipa@gmail.com.

The Youth Group will have its first sessions of 2017 on **Sat 7th January** at the Parish Centre and thereafter will be held on the first Saturday of each month. The session for 8-10 youngsters will be from 1:30-2:30pm. The session for 11-12 & 13-14 year olds will be held from 3-4:30pm. The session for teenagers 15+ will be held from 5:30-7:30pm and will include variety of activities at the Parish Centre and other venues in Abingdon (including local pubs).

For further info please contact Melanie Parris- Dollar

CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting Sat 4th Feb 2017 10am-1.30pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk.

Counters: M. Knott, G. Steele, M. & M. Martin
Cleaners: J. McDonnell, M. Kelly

Please take this newsletter home to read (A copy is available for every household in the parish).