

**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. Rob Stewart	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**

**Tea & Mince Pies after 10.15am Mass Today.** St Edmund's Catholic Primary School invite you to join us for tea and mince pies after mass today as we continue to fundraise for Cafod. Thank you to all who have supported us during the year. Merry Christmas!

**After the Carol Service TODAY** there will be refreshments served in the Parish Centre. Come and enjoy a mince pie and a cup of tea.

**Parish Office** closed **TOMORROW** 18<sup>th</sup> Dec and then from Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec until Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan. Could all newsletter items be received by Wed 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. Thank you.

**Christian Focus:** this winter edition is now available at the back of the church. The lead article is about our parish's Live Simply initiative.

**CHRISTMAS PARISH LUNCH.** Thank you to everybody who attending the Christmas lunch on Sunday. Sorry that many people could not attend due to weather conditions. Thank you to all who donated raffle prizes. who donated food and cooked it. A big thank to our many helpers on the day. Happy Christmas to our parishioners, good health and happiness in 2018.

**Whole Parish Water Gift** - Last Sundays snow meant lower than expected donations to our LiveSimply appeal aiming to raise £750 to provide clean, safe water to those in need, through CAFOD World Gifts. We hope to make up the deficit this week. Please be as generous as possible. The collecting box will be available as you leave Mass. The contribution thermometer rise at the back of the Church shows we have collected £590 so far. For details see the Notice board and also in the World Gift Catalogue.

**ADVENT BREAD & SOUP LUNCH** If you are able to host a simple lunch in aid of the Parish Advent Water Gift please contact the Parish Office. Thankyou

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**Sunday 17 December**

8.45am	Mass	Cyril & Ada Beck RIP
10.15am	Mass	Mariana Ekop Intentions
4pm	Carol Service	
6.30pm	Mass	Gayle Belcher RIP

**Monday 18 December**

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Mike Moriarty RIP

**Tuesday 19 December**

8.30am	Rosary	
9am	Mass	Eileen & Peter Hairs RIP

**Wednesday 20 December**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Ann Kenneth-Watts RIP

**Thursday 21 December**

9am	Rosary	
9.30am	Mass	Simon Sayce RIP
<b>7pm</b>	<b>Penitential Service</b>	

**Friday 22 December**

6.30pm	Rosary	
7pm	Mass	Gayle Belcher RIP

**Saturday 23 December**

11am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
11-11.30am	Confessions	
12 noon	Mass	Max Bregazzi RIP

**Cake & Conversation.** We will start again on Wed 3rd Jan. Everyone whose first language isn't English is warmly welcome to this friendly, informal weekly session.

**All welcome** to come and sing and join in at the Christian Aid Christmas Carols with silver band in Abingdon Market Place on the 15th December at 10 am.

**Abingdon Scouts & Guides Christmas Post** We are sorry to advise that our post collection box which is normally placed at the back of the church has been taken, presumed stolen! The box in our church was discovered missing on Monday. We are extremely disappointed as this means that not only has the money been taken but more importantly, any cards that were posted will not get to the recipients. Unfortunately, we do not have a spare box for those who were intending to support us here in church, however the nearest box is located in Waitrose and will be available until noon on Monday 18th December. We are in discussion with Father Jamie in the hope of finding a secure service for next year. Thank you for your support.

**St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group** resumes on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. The group meets every Friday during school term time from 9.30-11.15am at the Parish Centre. It is aimed at babies and children, up to preschool age, together with their parents/carers. It is a friendly drop-in group providing opportunity for play, crafts, singing and refreshments. **WE NEED HELPERS** to put out equipment before the session starts (from approx 9-9.30am) and clear away afterwards (from 11-11.30am). In addition, we would welcome helpers to prepare and organise craft activities and/or to help during the session. We operate a rota for helpers which can be for all or part of a session. This is a worthwhile community activity and a great way to make friends. Come and meet us during the group for more info or contact Bernadette (parish office).

**Parish Pastoral Council AGM 5 November 2017.**

Minutes of the meeting are on display on the noticeboard at the back of the church or an electronic copy is available from the parish office.

**Saturday 20th January 2018, Parish Centre**

Creating a Safe Environment Training 10am-12.30pm. Safe Guarding Refresher Training\* - 1.30-4pm. "The policies and procedures we employ and the values that underpin them, demonstrate the Catholic Church's commitment to safeguarding. The Safeguarding Commission has decided that it is important that this training be delivered to parish priests, group leaders and others involved with the running of group activities in the parish. To register for either session you must book your place with Soraya Ciccarrone (soraya@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) \*SG Refresher Training is for volunteers who haven't attended a SG training session since 2015 or before. You can get information from your group leader or from Anne Green (parish office).

**Money Matters:** 10<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Envelopes £428.20 Loose Plate £363.83 Many thanks

**Counters:** P. & D. Brooks, M. O'Mullane  
**Cleaners:** D. & D. Kearney

**Parish Events for the Week**

**TODAY** Mary's Meals Collection 8.45-9.30am  
 Refreshments after 10.15am Mass  
 Confirmation Class 3.30-5pm  
 Carol Service Refreshments 5pm

**Thursday** Scripture Group 10am

**Friday** SVP meeting 7.30pm

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

**Future Diary Dates**

**20th Jan** Safeguarding Training, Parish Centre

**Youth Events**

*Further info please contact Melanie Parris- Dollar  
 tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

**Parish Lent Project 2018**

Looking ahead to the **Lent Project 2018**, do you wish to propose a charity? While thinking this Advent and Christmas season 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, via the parish office by Wed 4th January 2018. Many thanks.

**Faith Development**

**Have you signed up for Bishop Philip's weekly e-News?** Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.

**Portsmouth Diocese** is sending a group of 18-30s to World Youth Day, Panama in January 2019 (21st-27th). Anyone who would like to go should express their interest by emailing [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than 15th January. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for seeking sponsorship and fundraising.

**CAFOD** send their thanks for the generous donations made for Harvest Fast Day 2017. Please see their letter on the noticeboard.