

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

Parish Office is now closed until Tuesday 2nd January.

Mary's Meals are delighted to announce that the parish managed to give 555 kg* of unwanted clothes; there were also cash donations of £957.45 making a total contribution of £1,268.25. With the 'Double the Love' matched funding these cash donations are effectively doubled taking the grand total to a wonderful £2225.70. Many thanks for your support.

Parish Water Gift - Congratulations to everyone who supported our Live Simply Advent appeal. You raised a magnificent £1252 for CAFOD which will be used to finance a whole Community water supply, provide water testing facilities so that people can monitor water quality, and supply water directly to at least six poor families. Thanks to everybody for their support.

Mass of St Stephen this is a celebration for the servers who are in the Guild of St Stephen. All are welcome.

All Welcome to join at the Annual Christian Aid New Year's Day Walk

The details of this year's walk are as follows:
 Start/Finish - St Helens Church Centre West St Helen St Abingdon
 Start Time - 10 am.
 Route- around 6 miles
 Refreshments – Mid-walk in St Helen's Church Centre
 Maps/directions- Still only £1 on the day
 If you wish to be sponsored please download the sponsorship form from
<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2017-08/christian-aid-uk-sponsorship-form.pdf>
 Please bring your sponsorship form if you have one to the walk.

PAX CHRISTI There are copies of the current Justpeace newsletter on the table at the back of church. Please take a copy if you wish. Peace Sunday will be on Jan 14th.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Sunday 24 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8.45am	Mass	
10.15am	Mass	
6pm	First Mass of Christmas	John S Brady RIP (Anniversary)
8.30pm	Christmas Vigil with Carols	Winifred, Hubert & Matthew Carey RIP

Monday 25 December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8am	Mass	
9.30am	Mass	Paul & Simon Worrallo RIP
11.30am	Mass	

Tuesday 26 December ST STEPHEN

12noon	Mass
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Wednesday 27 December ST JOHN

6.30pm	Rosary
7pm	Mass

Thursday 28 December THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9am	Rosary
9.30am	Mass

Friday 29 December ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

6.30pm	Rosary
7pm	Mass

Saturday 30 December

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

The RCIA Group will resume on 9th January.

The Alpha Course is starting again this January. This is the internationally renowned course which proclaims who Jesus is. Alpha is a

wonderful mixture of food, learning about Jesus and time to discuss anything you would like about the Christian faith. It has proved very popular in our parish for both those who are Catholic regular mass-goers, and those who have no faith whatsoever but are open to discovering more. Why don't you come and see on the first evening, and then decide if it is for you? And who do you know who you can invite? Who do you know is curious about the meaning of life? Everyone is most warmly welcome. Great way to meet people too! Lasts 9 weeks. We start on Sunday 21st January, with the supper at 6pm, and finish at 8.30pm. Please contact Clare or Maeve (parish office).

The next Mothers Prayer meeting will be on Sat 6th January 10.15 - 10.45am in the church. Every mother, grandmother, godmother is most welcome to come and pray for their children. We use the set prayers from the Catholic Mothers Prayers organisation. Many prayers have been answered!

St Edmund's Baby & Toddler Group resumes on Friday 12th 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).

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 Ciccarone (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).

Parish Events for the Week

TODAY Refreshments after 10.15am Mass

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

Future Diary Dates

3rd Jan Cake & Conversation resumes
12th Jan Baby & Toddler Group resumes
14th Jan Peace Sunday
20th Jan Safeguarding Training, Parish Centre
21st Jan Presentation of Parish Live Simply Award

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 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 no later than 15th January. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for seeking sponsorship and fundraising.

Money Matters: 17th December 2017
 Envelopes £450.90 Loose Plate £715.09 Many thanks

Counters: R. & P. Taylor, M. Webster
Cleaners: T. & M. Kelly