



Imagine the disciples' panic. They are in the boat all by themselves when a storm begins to rage. It's so bad the boat is in danger of sinking. They are full of fear. All seems lost... and then they see Jesus walking towards them, on the water.

Eager as ever, Peter asks Jesus if he, too, can walk on the water, and Jesus invites him to come to him. Peter climbs out of the boat, but the wind rises, and he begins to sink. Even Peter, the most important figure in the early Church, has a faith that falters in the midst of the storm.

Jesus saves him, and castigates him for his weak faith. As soon as they are back in the boat, the storm eases, the winds calm, and the awestruck disciples acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God.

The message is clear: the boat represents the Church, and the disciples represent all believers, while the storm represents the difficulties and doubts the Church is facing. The boat will face many storms, but if the disciples make sure to recognise Jesus and trust in him, they will always be safe. Trust in God and an adventurous faith have the power to overcome doubting fear. ■

## REFLECT

One of the classic songs of the last half-century is "Bridge over Troubled Water". At the time he wrote it, Paul Simon was influenced by Gospel music, and this influence comes across in the chorus of the song:

"When you're weary, feeling small  
When tears are in your eyes  
I will dry them all  
I'm on your side  
Oh, when times get rough  
And friends just can't be found  
Like a bridge over troubled water  
I will lay me down..."

The words speak of offering comfort, solace, help, refuge. It is the assurance Jesus offers his frightened followers in today's Gospel.

It's what he offers us in our distress and at all times. Jesus is our bridge over troubled water. It's easy to trust in Jesus when life is good and all is plain sailing. Like Peter, we can even begin to think we can walk on water. Nothing can sink us.

Then, suddenly or over time, the skies darken and storm winds blow in. Maybe a relationship crumbles or our health fails, or financial woes overwhelm us, or scandal envelops us, and, like Peter, we flounder. We begin to sink. Our faith is tested. We feel lost and frightened and afraid. But we are not alone. Jesus is with us in every storm in which we find ourselves. He never abandons us. Trust in him, call out to him, as Peter does, and we will be safe. ■

## SAY

"Lord, I believe;  
help my unbelief."

## DO

As Christians, we know that Jesus is with us in the midst of any storm in which we find ourselves. But he is more than with us; he calls on us to face that storm. To have courage. To trust. To be not afraid. Think of the challenges and difficulties you and your loved ones are facing at this time. Ask the Lord's help in facing them.



## PRAY

Pray for those who feel as if they are caught in a storm – those who are ill, or depressed, or suicidal, or bullied, or suffer from discrimination or intimidation – that they may experience Jesus's soothing, calming, saving presence with them.

## LEARN

God is with us always, in good times and bad.

It is okay to experience doubts and difficulties so long as we continue to trust in God.

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Look to your covenant, O Lord,  
and forget not the life of your poor ones for  
ever.

Arise, O God, and defend your cause,  
and forget not the cries of those who seek  
you.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Almighty ever-living God,  
whom, taught by the Holy Spirit,  
we dare to call our Father,  
bring, we pray, to perfection in our hearts  
the spirit of adoption as your sons and  
daughters,  
that we may merit to enter into the  
inheritance  
which you have promised.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** 1 Kings 19:9-13

A reading from the first book of the Kings.  
When Elijah reached Horeb, the mountain  
of God, he went into the cave and spent the  
night in it. Then he was told, "Go out and  
stand on the mountain before the Lord."  
Then the Lord himself went by. There came a  
mighty wind, so strong it tore the mountains  
and shattered the rocks before the Lord.  
But the Lord was not in the wind. After the  
wind came an earthquake. But the Lord was  
not in the earthquake. After the earthquake  
came a fire. But the Lord was not in the fire.  
And after the fire there came the sound of a  
gentle breeze. And when Elijah heard this, he  
covered his face with his cloak and went out  
and stood at the entrance of the cave.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM** Psalm 84:9-14

Response:  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace.  
His help is near for those who fear him  
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;  
justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth  
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
3. The Lord will make us prosper  
and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him  
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)

**SECOND READING** Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the  
Romans.

What I want to say is no pretence; I say it  
in union with Christ – it is the truth – my  
conscience in union with the Holy Spirit  
assures me of it too. What I want to say  
is this: my sorrow is so great, my mental  
anguish so endless, I would willingly be  
condemned and be cut off from Christ if it  
could help my brothers of Israel, my own  
flesh and blood. They were adopted as sons,  
they were given the glory and the covenants;  
the Law and the ritual were drawn up for  
them, and the promises were made to them.  
They are descended from the patriarchs and  
from their flesh and blood came Christ who is  
above all, God for ever blessed! Amen.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia. alleluia!  
Blessings on the King who comes,  
in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest  
heavens!  
Alleluia!

**GOSPEL** Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Matthew.

Jesus made the disciples get into the boat  
and go on ahead to the other side while he  
would send the crowds away. After sending  
the crowds away he went up into the hills by  
himself to pray. When evening came, he was  
there alone, while the boat, by now far out  
on the lake, was battling with a heavy sea,  
for there was a headwind. In the fourth watch  
of the night he went towards them, walking  
on the lake, and when the disciples saw him  
walking on the lake they were terrified. "It  
is a ghost" they said, and cried out in fear.  
But at once Jesus called out to them saying,  
"Courage! It is I! Do not be afraid." It was  
Peter who answered, "Lord," he said "if it  
is you, tell me to come to you across the  
water." "Come" said Jesus. Then Peter got  
out of the boat and started walking towards  
Jesus across the water, but as soon as he  
felt the force of the wind, he took fright and  
began to sink. "Lord! Save me!" he cried.  
Jesus put out his hand at once and held him.  
"Man of little faith," he said "why did you  
doubt?" And as they got into the boat the  
wind dropped. The men in the boat bowed  
down before him and said, "Truly, you are  
the Son of God."

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.  
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
(all bow during the next three lines)  
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.  
For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

Be pleased, O Lord, to accept the offerings of  
your Church,  
for in your mercy you have given them to be  
offered  
and by your power you transform them  
into the mystery of our salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord,  
who gives you your fill of finest wheat.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

May the communion in your Sacrament  
that we have consumed, save us, O Lord,  
and confirm us in the light of your truth.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

"True, God is infinite majesty, but he is also  
infinite goodness and infinite love. There  
can be no greater Lord than God; neither can  
there be a more ardent lover than he".  
St Alphonsus Liguori

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

We are a **LiveSimply** parish aiming to live Simply, Sustainably and in Solidarity with the Poor

Parish Priest:	Fr. Jamie McGrath	Tel: 01235 520375
Parish Secretary:	Lisa Paterson	Tel: 01235 520375
Office Hours:	9am-12pm Monday to Friday	
Office Email:	abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	
<i>We live stream all services</i>		
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 Website:	www.ourladyandstedmund.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

**PARISH OFFICE:** The parish office is open on Tuesdays to Fridays from 10.30am to 12.30pm.

**PRIVATE PRAYER**

- The church will be open for **private prayer only**, between **12.00pm and 1.00pm on Tuesdays and Fridays**.

**MASS BOOKINGS**

Please remember that **bookings for the whole week beginning Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August** should be made on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> August**. Do **please try and give us several options for days/times** when you could come and let us know **how many people you are booking for**. We will do our best to accommodate your request. If you would like to attend more than one Mass in the week, please make this clear when you book.

- Those people **without** Internet access can phone **07395 946827** between 10am and 11am **each Monday** to give the day of the week when they are able to attend Mass. **There is no recorded answering message system**. Please do not use the office phone number or phone outside of this time period.
- Those **with** Internet access are asked **not** to use the phone booking system, but instead to email us at: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk** giving us 2 to 3 possible days of the week when you can attend Mass. Please do this **each Monday**. You will then receive a reply with the day allocated to you.
- In all cases, you are asked to state the number in your family who will be attending Mass. This is essential for our planning and to maintain safety distances.
- Be aware that singing is not yet permitted under the guidelines. Also, there will be no collection basket passed around, but you may leave donations as you leave the Church.
- Please note that there are currently only **two** Sunday Masses – one at **10.15am and the other at 6.30pm**.

Thank you all very much for your patience and help.

**19<sup>th</sup> week of Ordinary Time**

**In Church for those who booked, and also live streamed**

**Sunday 9 August**

10.15am Mass (People of the parish)  
1.00pm Polish Mass  
6.30pm Mass

**Monday 10 August (St Laurence)**

9am Mass

**Tuesday 11 August (St Clare)**

NO Mass See: [www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse](http://www.ourladyandstedmund.org.uk/english-martyrs-vale-of-white-horse) for other masses

**Wednesday 12 August**

7pm Mass

**Thursday 13 August**

9.30am Mass

**Friday 14 August (St Maximilian Kolbe)**

7pm Mass

**Saturday 15 August (Our Lady on Saturday)**

9am Mass (Marian Kearns, RIP)

**THE MONTH OF AUGUST** is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

**HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS**

**No Internet Access?**

Phone **07395 946827** **EACH MONDAY** between 10am and 11am **ONLY** to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

**Have Internet Access?**

**DON'T** phone. Instead, email: **contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk** **EACH MONDAY**, to book a place for the **FOLLOWING** week

## FAITH IN PRACTICE

Lockdown deprived us of that greatest of gifts – to worship Christ in His real presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle and to receive Him sacramentally during Mass. We are blessed in our parish to be able to do this once again. The Eucharist sustains and strengthens us! If you are able to, *don't deny yourself any longer* – you are encouraged to come along for quiet and private prayer on Tuesdays and/or Fridays between 12pm and 1pm or, even **better**, *come along to a Mass during the week* (using our booking system).

## LAUDATO SI':

On the 5th anniversary of the publication of *Laudato Si'* - in May this year - Pope Francis announced the beginning of a *Laudato Si'* Year. He encouraged everyone to actively participate in the *Season of Creation* which runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi. More information is available on the 'News' page of our website.

## NEWSLETTER:

Please note that, for now, we are unable to provide the newsletter in church. If you would like a copy for the readings and prayers, please print your own copy from the *News* page of our website (if you have the Internet) or for those without Internet access, bring the copy delivered to you on Saturdays. We are also unable to accept any books, pamphlets, etc. at this point in time, so please don't bring any of these with you.

## YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

The parish still needs your donations. You can make these on our website. This will enable those who normally use the weekly gift aid white envelope system or loose plate donations to continue to support the Parish. *You can also place donations in the basket as you leave church.* **Your continued support for the Parish is greatly appreciated.**



## ST EDMUND'S SCHOOL - STAFF VACANCIES

St Edmund's School are currently advertising the following vacancies to start in September 2020.

- **Caretaker** - 20 hours per week
- **Cleaner-in-Charge** - 15 hours per week, term-time + 5 INSET Days + 2 weeks (41 weeks)

Further details of these posts are available on the School website or by contacting the School Office. **Applications close on 17th August 2020.**

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER DURING MASS:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## Parish Events for the Week

**NO EVENTS IN THE PARISH CENTRE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## Future Diary Dates

*No events at the moment.*

## Youth Events

### YOUTH GROUPS

*The Saturday youth groups will stop meeting for now. We will let you know when they resume through our parish newsletter.*

## PRAYER FOR THE RENEWAL OF OUR DIOCESE:

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we beg you to change us, to convert us and to make us holy. Fill us with a deeper faith, hope and love for you. Send into our hearts the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit and powerfully renew all the clergy, religious and laity of our Diocese. Unite us in love and respect for one another and unify us as your one, holy people. Grant us a new passion and zeal for our Catholic Faith, for mission, outreach and service. Help us to proclaim your Gospel generously to the poor and needy that many more souls may be saved by finding their way to you in your Church.

May Mary Immaculate help us. May St Edmund of Abingdon and Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati pray for us. Amen.

*Holy Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do though, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust down to hell Satan and all the evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. Amen*

## WE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:

- Beth Millikin
- Todd Churchman

## CIA NEWSLETTER:

A copy of the August issue is available on the news page of our website. We are sorry, but we cannot offer printed copies in church.

## BIBLE ALIVE

The **August** issue is now available. If you would like a copy delivered, please email: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) giving your name and postal address and we will get a copy to you. If you don't have email, leave a message on the office phone number.

## PRAYING THE ROSARY

If you would like to join us on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 8pm in August, please email us on: [contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk](mailto:contact@ourladyandstedmund.org.uk) so that we can send you the new link.