



# Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford

*Through the love of the Father, Son and Spirit,  
our Parish will grow as the Body of Christ in Godalming  
and as a sign lifted up for the peoples.*

## Twenty-Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time 27th September 2020

When I was preparing our seminarians to undertake the formal ministry of reader, I would often take them with Sikh or Jewish scout friends of mine to an Orthodox Synagogue in London or to the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurdwara in Southall. To see the reverence and personal attention that others give to the scriptures which they hold holy or to share in the divine can encourage us to ask – are we missing something, have we forgotten what a gift is in our midst?

This Wednesday, 30th September, marks 1,600 years since the death of St Jerome. There is a statue of him behind the altar in St Edmund's. He is best known as the translator of the Vulgate Bible, commissioned by Pope Damasus in 382. It fed and sustained the church in the west for over a thousand years and is still (in slightly updated form) in use in the liturgy and the life of the church. One of his best-known sayings is "ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ".

It is an appropriate moment for us to stop as a community and as individuals and to ask about the place of scripture in our lives. The fathers of the Second Vatican Council reminded us that the Word of God is one of the ways in which Christ is present in the Liturgy and in the Church. Many, in our parish and throughout the Christian world, have discovered for ourselves that not only can we know the presence of Christ in the Eucharist and receive him in Holy Communion, but that we can meet him regularly in the scriptures in *lectio divina* – holy reading.

I wonder, are there more people in our parish who can speak clearly, love the scriptures, would like to enter into them more deeply in prayer and might be prepared to proclaim them to us at Mass? Please do let Fr Jonathan know if you think you could do this, or if you know someone who would be good but might be too shy to come forward.

### Responses for Mass

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**PSALM RESPONSE** Remember your mercy, Lord.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** By this we came to know the love of God: that Christ laid down his life for us; so we ought to lay down our lives for one another.

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## **Alpha Online – starting soon!**

The start of the Online Alpha course is getting closer. From registrations to date, it looks like we will be running one online course on **Tuesday evenings** and another online course on **Thursday mornings**. This week's gospel is a call to action. Please use this course as an opportunity to respond to that call, either by joining the course, or by inviting somebody to the course, or both. To register, please go to the parish website [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com) and click on the 'Register For Alpha' button on the home page. For any queries, please contact Nicki and Alan Lion 01483 420859 [alion@btinternet.com](mailto:alion@btinternet.com)

## **CAFOD's Family Fast Day 9th October.**

Help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease – let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected and donate online at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) or by using one of the envelopes and putting it in the collection basket or send it direct to CAFOD. We will have a contactless machine at each Mass if you would like to donate by card. Thank you in advance for your generous support for those living in poverty around the world who desperately need food and clean water.

**The Season of Creation** has become a regular part of September and it extends to 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi, named as long ago as 1979 as the patron saint of those who promote ecology. We are currently praying a Novena to Saint Francis, for a world under threat. There are nine brief reflections asking him to pray for us and our world, based on his beautiful Canticle of the Sun. The novena prayer can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y65o82t6>

## **First Holy Communion Celebration Mass**

We look forward to welcoming another 20 of the children of the parish to Holy Communion at Masses this weekend. Please pray for these children and their families – that the Lord will help them to grow in love for the Eucharist.

## **Arrangements for Mass**

- We now have something like 200 households wishing to come to Mass on a weekend, which is wonderful. But it does mean that it's moving more towards having a place every two or three weeks. If you would like to change the Mass to which we are allocating you please let us know. There is greater demand for places at 6pm and 9am.
- If you have not yet asked to be added to the lists for Mass you can do so online with our form (<https://stedsgod.com/Coronavirus>) or by contacting Sarah in the parish office.
- Please take care not to gather in groups of more than 6 and to observe social distancing.
- The Sunday obligation continues to be dispensed so please don't feel guilty if you aren't ready to come back just yet.
- Face coverings should be worn in Church unless exempt (such as children under 11)
- We will clean the church after each use and continue to observe social distancing.
- There is a basket for the Collection at the entrance. Thank you for your financial support for the parish.

## **Parish Clergy**

**Deacon Jeremy** has been given permission by Bishop Richard to step back from his active roles in the parish. We wish him and Annabella every grace and blessing as they embark on this next phase of life and thank him for his service in our parish. We are delighted, I am sure, that he will continue to be part of our parish and to assist at the Altar from time to time when he is with us for Mass.

**Fr Michael** is not able to return to his flat in Milford and will be staying at St. Joseph's in Littlehampton. I am sure he will miss the many friends he made in Godalming over the last 26 years, and will be missed by us too. We will arrange for a card from the parish, but I know he also appreciates hearing directly from his friends here. His address is: Rev M. Perry, St Joseph's Nursing Home, East Street, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 6AU. Telephone 01903 711325.

**Confirmation Preparation** for students in Years 10+ will begin in the New Year. Please pray for our young people who will be confirmed on 11th October in Arundel.

**Wednesday Word** children's activity sheet for each Sunday. Currently free online at <http://www.wednesdayword.org/school/index.htm>

**Lectio Divina** This special and fruitful way of praying with the Scriptures takes place online (GoToMeeting) every Wednesday at 7.30pm for an hour.

### **Coming Up in the Parish...**

**Online Sunday Parish Angelus** will resume at **noon on 4th October**. We would like to include a short piece from someone each week, sharing an important part of their journey of faith. If you might be prepared to speak for a few minutes on this please contact Fr Jonathan.

**Parish Quiz Night** on 10th October Something social and fun in the parish, even if it's on Zoom! To register email [honeysett@btinternet.com](mailto:honeysett@btinternet.com) and make a minimum donation of £5 per person to the CAFOD harvest appeal at: <https://tinyurl.com/y33xte2t>

**All Saints Party** We are thinking of holding an "All Saints" Party for children on 31st October 4.00–5.30pm with some fun games and activities online and an opportunity to dress up as your favourite saint. If you might be able and willing to help with this please contact Fr Jonathan.

**Sycamore** There has been some interest in this series introducing our Catholic Christian faith and we are looking at offering it online in the parish <https://www.sycamore.fm>

**October** is the month of the Rosary. There will be an opportunity to pray the rosary before weekday masses, usually at 9.10am. More about this next week.

**November** is the month of Holy Souls. Blessing of graves in Milford will take place after the 9.30am Mass on 2nd November. Please let Fr Jonathan know if there are graves you would like blessing in Eashing or elsewhere.

## **Sources of Practical Support**

**LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship)** If you would like help from our team of parish volunteers do not hesitate to call the help line number (07593 121430) or send a message via the parish email or Fr Jonathan.

The **SVP** are also able to help: 07990 717067. Their members, motivated by their faith, are committed to meaningful and long-term befriending. Inspired by the message of the Gospels they seek and find those in need and offer them sincere friendship. They visit them on a regular basis and offer additional practical support such as food, furniture or financial help where needed.

**Godalming Food Bank** is still providing vital support to many. For a list of items needed: <http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/ourchurch-of-st-marks/food-bank/>

**Parish Welfare Fund** aims to support those who are struggling at this time to afford basic necessities. If you need a bit of help or know someone who does please don't hesitate to contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

### **Please remember in your prayers**

All those affected by the Coronavirus and its impact on our lives and on the economy.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for September:** to respect the planet's resources. We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

**The sick and those who care for them** including - Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, Ruth de Stefani, Josie Whittle, Barbara Brightman, Nuala Gallagher, Maria Chacaltana, Ann Lloyd, Anita van Rheen, Jean Humphrey, Maura Goodfellow, George Gelder, Jean Tyrell, Pat Wilson and Rudolf Dorrepaal, and those in our hospitals and care homes.

**The faithful departed**, in particular for Sr Chiara FMDM who died this week and for Joan Whitbourn, Teresa Mahoney, Caroline Marshall, Richard Skinner, Marie Patrick, Patrick Gallagher, Mary Hawkins, Karen Aird and Tony Kirby whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Services for the Twenty-Sixth Week of Ordinary Time 27th September 2020

<b>Saturday 26th September</b>	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)
<b>Sunday 27th September</b> 26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am Mass (St John's) 10.30am First Holy Communion Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 2.00pm First Holy Communion Mass (St Joseph's)
<b>Monday 28th September</b>	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
<b>Tuesday 29th September</b> SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Doreen &amp; Felix Tobin RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 30th September</b> St Jerome	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Eugene, Rosin, Joseph &amp; Sarah McClinton RIP</i> 7.00pm – <i>Lectio Divina</i> (GoToMeeting)
<b>Thursday 1st October</b> St Therese of the Child Jesus	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
<b>Friday 2nd October</b> Guardian Angels	No Mass today
<b>Saturday 3rd October</b> (Martyrs of Sussex)	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Kevin Gallagher RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 4th October</b> 27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9.00am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>FMDM Sisters Intentions</i> Noon Angelus (GoToMeeting)

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**GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301**  
t: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301