



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*

Christ the King Sunday 22nd November 2020

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year we are celebrating the Solemnity of Christ, King of the Universe. His is a kingship of guidance, of service and also a kingship which at the end of time will be fulfilled as judgment. Today, we have Christ before us as King, shepherd and judge, who reveals the criteria for belonging to the Kingdom of God. Here are the criteria.

The Gospel passage opens with a grandiose vision. Jesus, addressing his disciples, says: "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne" (Mt 25:31). It is a solemn introduction to the narrative of the Last Judgment. After having lived his earthly existence in humility and poverty, Jesus now shows himself in the divine glory that pertains to him, surrounded by hosts of angels. All of humanity is summoned before him and he exercises his authority, separating one from another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.

To those whom he has placed at his right he says: "Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me" (vv. 34-36). The righteous are taken aback, because they do not recall ever having met Jesus, much less having helped him in that way, but he declares: "as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me" (v. 40). These words never cease to move us, because they reveal the extent to which God's love goes: up to the point of taking flesh, but not when we are well, when we are healthy and happy, no; but when we are in need. And in this hidden way he allows himself to be encountered; he reaches out his hand to us as a mendicant. In this way Jesus reveals the decisive criterion of his judgment, namely, concrete love for a neighbour in difficulty. And in this way the power of love, the kingship of God is revealed: in solidarity with those who suffer in order to engender everywhere compassion and works of mercy.

The Parable of the Judgment continues, presenting the King who shuns those who, during their lives, did not concern themselves with the needs of their brethren. Those in this case too are surprised and ask: "Lord, when did we see thee hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to thee?" (v. 44). Implying: "Had we seen you, surely we would have helped you!". But the King will respond: "as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me" (v. 45). At the end of our life we will be judged on love, that is, on our concrete commitment to love and serve Jesus in our littlest and neediest brothers and sisters. That mendicant, that needy person who reaches out his hand is Jesus; that sick person whom I must visit is Jesus; that inmate is Jesus, that hungry person is Jesus. Let us consider this.

Jesus will come at the end of time to judge all nations, but he comes to us each day, in many ways, and asks us to welcome him. May the Virgin Mary help us to encounter him and receive him in his Word and in the Eucharist, and at the same time in brothers and sisters who suffer from hunger, disease, oppression, injustice. May our hearts welcome him in the present of our life, so that we may be welcomed by him into the eternity of his Kingdom of light and peace.

(Pope Francis, 2017)

19 Croft Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DB t: 01483 416880

Parish Priest: Fr Jonathan How e: pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

www.stedsgod.com

St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.252878.

We are open! Our churches will be open for private prayer this week as follows:

St Edmund's each day from 10.00am – 4.00pm for private prayer and on Tuesday and Friday from 5.30pm-6.30pm with the Blessed Sacrament exposed. There will also be Exposition on Thursday 10.00am-11.00am

St Joseph's on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10.00am-12.00pm; and with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday and Thursday from 6.00pm-8.00pm, Saturday 3.00pm-5.00pm and on Sunday 2.00pm-4.00pm.

Please sign in or scan the QR code on arrival, and before leaving please wipe down your seat with one of the wipes provided.

Sunday Liturgy of the Word Online at 10am is now on **Zoom: 863 5827 7653** password **2020**

Scout Peacelight online For many years a light has been kindled in Bethlehem, flown to Austria and distributed by Scouts around Europe and further afield as an expression of hope and peace. As this cannot take place in the usual way this year Fr Jonathan will be hosting an online version on Zoom from our church next Saturday 28th November at 5pm. If you would like to join Scouts from around the world and from different religions for a kindling of lights visit the parish Facebook page or contact Fr Jonathan.

Baptism We are getting ready for Baptisms after lockdown and are arranging preparation sessions for the week of 5th December which provide an opportunity to reflect on the gift of Baptism while meeting other couples with young children. **Please contact the parish office if you are thinking of Baptism before Easter 2021 and have not yet completed a form.**

Sacrament of Penance is available by arrangement.

Thinking of becoming Catholic? In the New Year we hope to start a group for adults who would like to explore becoming Christian or being received into full communion with the Catholic Church. Please contact the parish office if you would like to take part.

The Bishops Conference met this week and have issued a statement indicating their acceptance of the **IICSA report** and its recommendations. A copy is attached to this newsletter. Please pray for the healing of all those who suffer from abuse in all its forms.

Exploring the Season of Advent with Bishop Richard This series of Advent talks from Arundel Cathedral starts on Friday 27th November and runs for the four Fridays in Advent, each talk with a different theme: 27/11 Waiting; 4/12 John the Baptist – Witness; 11/12 Gaudete – Rejoice; 18/12 Mary – Openness. Each talk begins at 7pm and is live streamed from the Cathedral website. It may be even be possible to attend December's talks in person - further details in due course. For details visit <https://abdiocese.org.uk/news/advent-with-bishop-richard>

Wintershall Nativity Walk 18th-21st December. Join Mary and Joseph – safe and socially distanced! – and follow the donkey to Bethlehem, meet the Shepherds watching their sheep, spot the Angel as you climb the hill and help the Wise Men find the star. The mile-long walk should take 1½ hours through fields and woods across the hills at Wintershall. Free parking and hot drinks/refreshments available. Tickets are £35 per family group of up to 6 people, from: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/nativity-winter-walk>

Confirmation Preparation for students in Years 10+ will begin in the New Year. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like your son or daughter to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Colour and Shape is a new weekly online resource for Children's Liturgy for young families during the pandemic. The brilliant Sunday liturgies are uploaded at: <https://www.youtube.com/c/ColourandShape/featured>

Support for prisoners Many prisoners have suffered additional hardship during the pandemic through a reduction in services and home visits. The *livesimply* group is collecting items requested for prisoners at Send and Coldingley: **Christian CDs** (contemporary or classical), **DVDs of inspiring Christian stories; Wool; and Craft materials.** There are collection boxes at our churches; or phone Nicki on 07757 281829.

Book Tokens for Prisoners' Families The Prison charity PACT is asking for £10 book tokens for Christmas presents for prisoners' children, as it's not possible to send toys/gifts this year. Google 'Operation Elf 2020' or: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/news/operation-elf> to buy the tokens online at National Book Tokens and send by 23rd November.

Christmas Visits CTiG will not be able to run their usual Christmas lunch this year. Instead they're hoping to find volunteers to visit anyone on their own on Christmas Day, with a small gift and card. If you would like to volunteer or know of anyone who would like a visit contact Gillian Martin: martin2ls@btinternet.com

Reusable face coverings Did you know that disposable masks contain micro plastics which pollute water and harm wildlife? Reusable alternatives are easy to make but if you're not a 'sewing type', Jan is offering to make one for you for free or a small donation to CAFOD. Please supply Jan with your cotton fabric: honeysett@btinternet.com

Could you write a message to the brave? CAFOD would like you to write messages of hope to Human Rights Defenders and Environmental Activists around the world who risk everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. More than 300 Defenders have been killed in the last year and many face death threats and intimidation. Messages of hope let them know that they are not alone and will make a huge difference. More info: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns/Messages-to-the-brave>

Safeguarding Awareness Training In the light of the IICSA report the parish is actively working to ensure that all those with a volunteer role in the parish undertake safeguarding awareness training. The online training modules are CPD accredited, free and available to all parishioners. The training deadline is 31st March 2021. If you have any queries, please contact Fr Jonathan or Sarah.

Kasanka Appeal - A big thank you from the FMDM sisters at Ladywell for the generous donations of £287 in 2020. The funds have helped to develop the school facilities in Kasanka. Thank you all.

Useful resources during the pandemic

LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship)

This team of parish volunteers offers practical help. The helpline number is 07593 121430.

SVP members offer regular visits, friendship and practical support to those in need. The helpline number is 07990 717067.

Godalming Food Bank provides vital support. No referral required. 01483 418741.

Parish Welfare Fund If you need a bit of help or know someone who is struggling please don't hesitate to contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

The Catholic Mental Health Project website is a good resource with many links <http://www.catholicmentalhealthproject.org.uk/>

Second Collections We are very grateful for the support that you give to the parish. If you would like to give to any of the causes we usually support with second collections - *Retired Priests' Fund, Cathedral Maintenance Fund, World Communications Day, Day for Life, and Apostleship of the Sea* - please put your offering in an envelope, write the desired cause on it and place it in the offertory basket when you next visit church.

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 Intention for

November: Let us pray that the progress of robotics and artificial intelligence may always serve humankind... may it 'be human'.

The sick and those who care for them

including - Derek & Nancy Drapper, 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 Mgr Barry Weymes, Fr Richard Lear CJ, Fr Timothy Garratt, Tim Little and Bonnie Martin who died recently and for Lucia Mintern, Philip Yond, Sheila Burger and Mary Lynch whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Opening and Times of Prayer
Feast of Christ the King
Thirty-Fourth Week of Ordinary Time
22nd November 2020**

**Mass is currently celebrated in private for the intentions given and for all the living and the dead.*

St Edmund's Church is open daily for private prayer 10.00am – 4.00pm

Saturday 21st November PRESENTATION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	*9.30am Mass – <i>Frank Ford RIP</i> 3.00pm-5.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's) 6.30pm – 8.30pm Adoration with Bishop Richard for the ending of the pandemic from Arundel Cathedral (https://abdiocese.org.uk)
Sunday 22nd November CHRIST THE KING	*9.00am Mass – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.00am Liturgy of the Word Online Zoom: 863 5827 7653 / 2020 2.00pm-4.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Monday 23rd November ST CLEMENT I	*9.00am Mass – <i>Thelma O'Donnell RIP</i> 10.00am-12.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Tuesday 24th November ST ANDREW DUNG-LUC & COMPANIONS	*9.00am Mass – <i>Waight Family & Friends RIP</i> 5.30pm – 6.30pm Exposition (St Edmund's) 6.00pm-8.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 25th November	10.00am – 12.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's) *6.00pm Mass – <i>Jim & Nora Flynn RIP</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 26th November	*9.30am Mass – <i>Deceased Friends (CM-M)</i> 10.00am – 11.00am Exposition (St Edmund's) 6.00pm-8.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Friday 27th November	*5.00pm Mass – <i>Peggy Collins RIP</i> 10.00am-12.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's) 5.30pm – 6.30pm Exposition (St Edmund's)
Saturday 28th November	*9.30am Mass – <i>Josie Mathieson RIP</i> 3.00pm-5.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Sunday 29th November 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	*9.00am Mass – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.00am Liturgy of the Word Online Zoom: 863 5827 7653 / 2020 2.00pm-4.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement on Safeguarding

Friday 20th November 2020

The account given in the IICSA Report of abuse known to be inflicted on children in the Catholic Church in England and Wales in the past 50 years is shocking and overwhelming. At our meeting this week, we Bishops have stood together in profound shame. We express our sorrow and contrition before God.

We have reflected on our need to reach out afresh to those who bear the wounds of permanent damage caused by this abuse. We commit ourselves to listen more intently to those who have been abused so as to learn from them and benefit from their wisdom. It is through learning from their testimony that hearts are changed.

We are grateful to those survivors who have come forward, not only to lay before us their experience of abuse, but to help us understand the depth of their pain. We invite anyone who has experienced abuse to come forward, no matter how long ago the abuse took place. We undertake to listen carefully to them with open heart and mind and support them on a journey of healing.

We have carefully considered the recommendations of the IICSA Report and formally accepted them. We have already begun work towards their implementation.

The IICSA's generic hearings into the Church began last October. Around that time we commissioned an Independent Review of our Safeguarding Structures and Arrangements in the Catholic Church in England and Wales. This was carried out by Mr Ian Elliott, an experienced safeguarding professional who has worked across the world in this area.

This week, alongside the IICSA Report, we have also examined in depth the Final Report of the Elliott Review and fully accepted its recommendations. It is a searching analysis of our safeguarding work, in its weaknesses and strengths. It proposes a number of remedial and forward-looking recommendations, which accord with the IICSA Report's own recommendations. The work of implementation will begin immediately. It will be carried out in close cooperation with the Religious Orders who play such an important part in the life of the Church.

In all our activities, our desire and resolve is to be a Church in which every child and vulnerable person is not only safe but nurtured into human flourishing. These recommendations present us with steps towards this goal. Key to them is a standards-based approach to safeguarding together with a specially commissioned national body with powers of effective audit and oversight of safeguarding in both Dioceses and Religious Orders. Everyone in the Church will

be required to work to clear, published standards of behaviour and action. Most significantly, the Elliott Report has been fashioned with the participation of survivors of abuse. Their insight and wisdom has been crucial. We thank them for their great courage and generosity in working with us and we look forward to continuing this growing collaboration.

The Elliott Report builds on all that has been achieved in our safeguarding ministry in the past 20 years, achievements also recognised in the IICSA Report. Therefore we thank profoundly all who contribute to the work of safeguarding in the Church today: the thousands of Parish Safeguarding Representatives, the professionals who work in our Safeguarding Offices in every Diocese, the Safeguarding Commissions who oversee this work and give objective and professional advice to guide our decisions, the staff of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and those who serve on the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission. These, and many others, have contributed greatly to the current work of safeguarding in the Church.

Today, however, we acknowledge without hesitation, our failings, our mistakes, our lack of adequate cooperation. We express our deep sorrow and ask forgiveness, especially from victims and survivors. We affirm our resolve to effect the next step in our work of safeguarding and care for survivors. In prayer we turn to Christ the Good Shepherd, the fount of healing and compassion, asking that this moment of painful truth becomes a time of grace as we strive to fulfil the ministry entrusted to us as bishops in an unshakeable unity of purpose.