



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*

First Sunday of Advent Sunday 29th November 2020

For me, the season of Advent is marked by its rich melodies and heartening song. They are not as well-known as the more popular Christmas carols, but getting to know them is worth the effort.

One of the most moving pieces is the Advent Prose, *Rorate Caeli*, ('Drop down ye heavens'), a setting of verses from the prophet Isaiah, some of which we will hear in the first reading this Sunday. Isaiah is writing at a time when Jerusalem has been laid waste and the Israelites deported to Babylon, and the traditional plainsong setting perfectly expresses the sense of sadness at what has been lost, longing for God to come and heal, and hope and trust that he will indeed come in might and power.

Some commentators suggest that the tune we use might have originated in Paris in the early 1600s, at the end of the wars of religion, and I don't think it's too hard to imagine its effect in the churches of a ruined city. It seems right too for our Advent this year. To allow us to mark our sadness at some of the things we have lost and to recognise our need and longing for a saviour to come with firm but gentle power to heal and make whole.

R/. Drop down, ye heavens, from above, and let the skies pour down righteousness.

Be not wroth very sore, O Lord, neither remember iniquity forever:
thy holy cities are a wilderness, Sion is a wilderness, Jerusalem a desolation:
our holy and our beautiful house, where our fathers praised thee. R/.

We have sinned, and are as an unclean thing, and we all do fade as a leaf:
and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away:
thou hast hid thy face from us: and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities. R/.

Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen:
that ye may know me and believe me: I, even I, am the Lord, and beside me there is no Saviour:
and there is none that can deliver out of my hand. R/.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, my salvation shall not tarry:
I have blotted out as a thick cloud thy transgressions: fear not, for I will save thee:
For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Redeemer. R/.

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

Advent

Praying with the Scriptures

Each Wednesday evening in Advent at 7.30pm Fr Jonathan will lead a meditation on some of the key readings of the Advent Season - Isaiah 40, Isaiah 61, The Annunciation and the Prologue of St John. Online on GoToMeeting, usual parish code.

Church open for prayer

St Edmund's church will continue to be open each day from 10am to 4pm.

Exploring the Season of Advent with

Bishop Richard This series of Advent talks from Arundel Cathedral runs for the four Fridays in Advent, each talk with a different theme: Waiting (27th November), John the Baptist – Witness (4th December), Gaudete – Rejoice (11th December) and Mary – Openness (18th December). The talks begin at 7pm and are live streamed from the Cathedral website. 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>

This Sunday Liturgy of the Word Online

at 10am is on Zoom: 863 5827 7653 password 2020. Public Masses resume on Wednesday 2nd December.

Christmas Masses We are looking forward to being able to come together for Mass over Christmas. In order that we can do so safely and well we are running a booking system and making use of the whole Christmas period. The booking form asks you to give your preferences for Mass between Christmas Eve and Sunday 27th. After 13th December we will use these to allocate places and let people know. After that any remaining places will be on a first come first served basis. <https://tinyurl.com/y4lu4dtj>

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 haven't completed a form.

Sacrament of Penance is available by arrangement.

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.

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.

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>

Baby Loss Matters The news this week reported on the pain and grief of Duchess of Sussex recent miscarriage. Many of those who experience miscarriage, stillbirth or the tragedy of abortion carry a pain that is hard to share with extended family or friends, and yet every life is precious to God and remembered by him. Some parishes have an annual memorial and time of prayer as an opportunity to pause and remember these little ones and acknowledge their place in our hearts. If you would like to help with this, please speak with Fr Jonathan. You will also find some small cards at the back of our churches with a helpline for those who have experienced baby loss and would appreciate having someone to speak to.

CAFOD World Gifts In a year that has brought unimaginable suffering to people living in poverty across the world please be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. Gifts start at just £4. Free delivery if ordered early.

livesimply support for prisoners Visiting hours and church services have been reduced in many prisons during the pandemic causing extra hardship; acting in solidarity with prisoners at Send and Coldingley we are collecting: **packs of Christmas cards** to enable prisoners to send Christmas messages to their families; and **CDs of Christmas carols** so that they can sing along. To donate these items please place them in the collection boxes at our churches asap or phone Sarah in the parish office.

Buying charity Christmas cards and Advent Calendars Many charities have suffered financially this year through lack of fund-raising opportunities so please make an extra effort to support charities rather than buying Christmas cards/calendars from High Street shops. Some good options are: [Aid to the Church in Need](#), [Traidcraft](#), [Oxfam](#)

The Bishops Conference met recently and have issued a statement indicating their acceptance of the **IICSA report** and its recommendations. Please pray for the healing of all those who suffer from abuse in all its forms. In the light of the IICSA report the parish is arranging for all those with a volunteer role to 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.

CTiG Christmas Angels Grateful thanks for the knitted Angelic Angels donated so far. You can follow their progress on [CTiG facebook page](#) CTiG are also producing a Christmas Service of Hope on CD and are distributing 100 copies to members of our community who do not have access to the internet/in local care homes. If you know of anyone who would like a CD contact Angela Gilmour angelagilmour181@btinternet.com

The sisters at Ladywell are looking for some Companion / Befrienders to work with the Sisters at La Verna Care Home. It is a flexible, paid role. If you are interested or know someone who might be contact kayleighdocherty@ladywell.org.uk.

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/>

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.

Financial support for the parish Thank you to all who have set up a standing order to support the parish through these difficult times. If you would like information on how to arrange a standing order, please email the parish office. Offertory baskets are also in place at the entrance to our churches.

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 December:

For a life of prayer - that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

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 Rheenan, 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 Mary White, Michael Scanlon and Fr Timothy Garratt, who died recently and for Josephine Mathieson, Kitty Blunt, Mary Gelder, Joan Wheeler, Bridget Madden and John Piasecki whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Church Opening and Times of Prayer
First Week of Advent
29th November 2020**

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

Saturday 28th November	*9.30am Mass (in private) – <i>Josie Mathieson RIP</i> 3.00pm-5.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Sunday 29th November 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	*9.00am Mass (in private) – <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 30th November ST ANDREW	10.00am-12.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Tuesday 1st December	6.00pm-8.00pm Exposition (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 2nd December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Kevin Gallagher RIP</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 3rd December ST FRANCIS XAVIER	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Neil Marshall</i>
Friday 4th December	7pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Thomas Ryan RIP</i>
Saturday 5th December ST AMBROSE	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Pat Hooper RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Mgr Barry Weymes RIP</i>
Sunday 6th December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00am Mass (St John's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Chris Rooney RIP</i>

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