



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*

Second Sunday of Advent Sunday 6th December 2020

Good News!

The news of a licenced vaccine this week has given a very welcome glimmer of hope in this pandemic. And none too soon given the grim news about the closure of some major retailers and a couple of particularly wet and dark days.

The passage from Isaiah that we read this week is addressed to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon. While Isaiah last week expressed a confident longing for God to come, this week we hear both a message of comfort and consolation and a command to confidently proclaim an end to the harsh conditions his people have suffered. If we look closely at the text and read it as part of the wider scriptures, we see that at the heart of this good news is the atonement for the sin of the people. That what was broken by their faults is made whole again by the offering of Jesus Christ of himself in love to his Father: that same offering that we make whenever we celebrate the Mass.

Two of the features of Catholic church music in the late 20th Century have been the desire to set scriptural texts to music and a turn to popular folk melodies (this latter a feature of Christian music also in Roman times and in the settings of Ralph Vaughan Williams). You may like then to have a listen to Chrysogonus Waddell's version of Isaiah 40 (*O comfort my people*) to the Irish folk tune *Bi Iosa am chroise*. (<https://www.godsongs.net/2011/08/o-comfort-my-people.html>)

In terms of capturing the joy of Advent, little better Charles Wesley's *Lo he comes*. In contrast to the intimacy of the *Rorate Caeli* (see last week) it provides a very grand hymn often with wonderful organ accompaniment and the usual melody (Helmsley) moves us from praise through sorrow and exultation and back to praise. It conveys something of the majesty and glory of the one who is coming, of his movement towards us and of the price that he paid for his victory.

*Lo, he comes with clouds descending, once for favoured sinners slain;
thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! God appears on earth to reign.*

*Every eye shall now behold him robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold him, pierced and nailed him to the Tree,
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiah see.*

*Those dear tokens of his passion still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation to his ransomed worshippers:
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!*

*Yea, Amen, let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;
Saviour, take the power and glory, claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.*

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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. This Wednesday Isaiah 61, Next week The Annunciation and then the Prologue of St John. Online on GoToMeeting, code 450-922-301.

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 The next talk in this series from Arundel Cathedral is on Friday 11th on the theme Gaudete – Rejoice, and the following week on Mary – Openness (18th December). The talks begin at 7pm and are live streamed from the Cathedral website.

<https://abdiocese.org.uk/news/advent-with-bishop-richard>

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/y3bd6jy3>.

Masses will take place on:

Christmas Eve

5pm St Joseph's (Vigil Mass)

7pm St Edmund's (Vigil Mass)

10pm St Edmund's (Mass of Christmas Night)

Christmas Day

9.00am St John's (Dawn Mass)

10.30am St Joseph's (Mass of Christmas Day)

Boxing Day

10.30am St Edmund's (St Stephen)

6.00pm St Edmund's (Holy Family)

Sunday 27th December

9.00am St John's (Solemnity of St John)

10.30am St Joseph's (Holy Family)

Parish Carol Service – Sunday 20th

December 2.30pm We have started planning an outdoor Carol Service to be held in the grounds of St John's, Seminary at Womersley. As the choir haven't had a chance to practice it will be mainly popular carols sung by all. The back courtyard provides a place with a good acoustic where we can gather safely and sing to our hearts content, and there should be sufficient parking. We are starting early so that we can arrive and depart in daylight. More details will follow next week, but probably bring your own chair (if you wish to sit) and some hot drinks and mince pies.

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 recently reported on the pain and grief of Duchess of Sussex recent miscarriage. Many of those who experience miscarriage, stillbirth, the death of a newborn 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. Cards with details of a helpline for those who would appreciate having someone to speak to, are at the back of our churches.

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. Gifts start at just £4. Free delivery if ordered early. Printed catalogues will be available soon <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

/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** and **other CDs** so that they have something to listen to. Please place donated items in the collection boxes at our churches or phone Sarah in the parish office.

Christmas present for Maria A few people in the parish have expressed a wish to buy a special Christmas gift for Maria and are aware of a particular item that she would love to have and can use while convalescing. If you would like to contribute, please mark your envelope 'Maria' and hand it to Fr Jonathan or send to the parish office. Cash only please, no cheques, by 13 December. Thank you.

Buying charity Christmas cards Many charities have suffered financially this year through lack of fund-raising opportunities so please make an extra effort to support charities when buying Christmas cards/paper/crackers, and also remember to avoid all glitter and plastic in decorations to enable items to be recycled. The charity Christmas card shop at the Museum isn't opening this year, but you can buy from the website: <https://www.cardsforcharity.co.uk>

Christmas Angels bringing a message of 'Comfort and Joy' from Churches Together in Godalming are being hidden around the town and close to schools during this festive season. If you're a lucky recipient let them know via [CTiG facebook page](#) or hide the little Angel to bring joy to someone else. CTiG are also producing a Christmas Service of Hope on CD. If you know of anyone who would like a CD contact Angela Gilmour angelagilmour181@btinternet.com

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/Gift Aid, please email the parish office. Offertory baskets are also in place at the entrance to our churches.

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 Cellar Camino Café has reopened in the Bury's off Bridge St and opposite Waitrose and is now the home of the Community Fridge. Come along for a friendly welcome, cup of tea, and home cooked food.

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 – Ursula Waight, 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 and Michael Scanlon who died recently and for Chris Ronan, Helene Ede, Geoffrey Simmons, Michael Lada-Walicki, Cynthia Stowell, Margaret Bohan and Peter Farrelly whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Church Opening and Times of Prayer
Second Week of Advent
6th December 2020

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

Saturday 5th December	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>
Monday 7th December ST AMBROSE	<i>No Mass today</i>
Tuesday 8th December IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Wellbeing of Maria Chacaltana</i> <i>Followed by Rosary</i>
Wednesday 9th December	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Requiem Mass for Mary White RIP</i> <i>(Family and invitees only)</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 10th December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Deceased Relatives of Brenda Brown</i>
Friday 11th December	7pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Terence Nagle RIP</i>
Saturday 12th December <i>(OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)</i>	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Mrs Weguelin RIP & deceased family and friends.</i>
Sunday 13th December 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	9.00am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i>

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