



# **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*

## **Third Sunday of Advent Sunday 13th December 2020**

***Gaudete!***  
***Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.***  
***Indeed, the Lord is near.***

And you thought that the children were getting excited a bit too early? Not at all! On this Sunday the whole church is getting excited. (And at Milford you might even see Fr Jonathan dressed in pink!).

Over the last few weeks we have been taught by the prophet Isaiah to recognise our exile, the desolation of the world in which we live, and the way in which our sin has contributed to the brokenness of the world. We have learned to long for a saviour, for ourselves and all those who share this exile and we have heard the great and wonderful news that he is indeed on his way.

Now he really is near (I will leave the metaphors to JVT) and in the Psalm for today's Mass we take the Magnificat, Mary's hymn of praise, onto our lips.

We are not only recipients of this Good News. We do need to hear it often so that it sinks into the very fabric of our being, but we are called and chosen also to be its messengers. Indeed, John the Baptist, so much a part of the Advent Season, provides a model of what it is to be Christian – to be the voice that speaks the Word.

The prophet Isaiah this week gifts us with some of the songs of the Anointed One. These are written for the lips of Jesus and they are written for us too who, through baptism, share in his life and mission. Each of us is anointed by the Holy Spirit – he is rubbed lovingly and deeply into our very selves. First at our baptism and then throughout our lives, most especially when we celebrate the Sacraments. To be faithful to who we are, and who this Spirit makes us, we must join Jesus in proclaiming good news to the poor, binding broken hearts, proclaiming liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison and a year of favour from the Lord. If we do this then the full joy of Christmas will be ours, just as it will be theirs too. What will you do this year to fulfil your mission?

### **Mass Responses**

PSALM RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

19 Croft Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DB t: 01483 416880  
Parish Priest: Fr Jonathan How e: [pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)  
Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)  
**[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)**

## Parish Carols

### Sunday 20th December 2.30pm at St John's Seminary, Wonersh GU5 0QX

An opportunity to gather for an outdoor Carol Service in the grounds of St John's, Seminary at Wonersh. 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.

To help us manage numbers please let us know if you plan to come using **Eventbrite**: <https://tinyurl.com/yxz4y8xp>, or contact the parish office.

What should I do to keep safe?

- Remember that even though we are outside the risk of COVID transmission remains
- Travel only with your own household
- Keep 2m distance from other households
- Wear a face covering when talking with the stewards
- Do face each other when singing
- Don't drink and drive
- Please don't share food or drink this year
- Wrap up warmly - we will be outside.

You are welcome to bring your own chair and hot drinks, mulled wine and/or mince pies: the event will be fairly informal.

## Advent

### Praying with the Scriptures

Each Wednesday evening in Advent at 7.30pm Fr Jonathan leads a meditation on some of the key readings of the Advent Season. This Wednesday 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 last talk in this series is on Friday 18th at 7pm on the theme: Mary – Openness. The talk is live streamed from Arundel 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 27<sup>th</sup> and booking closes on 13th December. Confirmation of places will be by email. After 13<sup>th</sup> 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)

-----

**Sacrament of Penance** is available by arrangement and at times indicated on the weekly schedule.

**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.

**Contactless Donations** Thank you to everyone who supports the parish through their giving. We are piloting an option to contribute by card (including contactless) and need a few people to help with this type of collection at Mass. If you can do so, please let Fr Jonathan or the parish office know.

**LOAF at Christmas** The parish's 'Love One Another Fellowship' is planning to reach out this Christmas, particularly to those who have had a challenging 2020 for whatever reason. They will be passing on the parish's love through phone calls, cards, gifts and other small acts of kindness. If you would like to suggest someone for them to contact in this way, please let LOAF know as soon as possible by contacting Alan on 01483 420859. **If you would like to contribute to the cost of the gifts** please put your offering in an envelope marked LOAF or make a bank transfer with LOAF as reference.

**CAFOD World Gifts** Printed catalogues are now available at our churches, and please take a copy home and be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers living in poverty across the world by ordering World Gifts as Christmas presents. Gifts start at just £4. Free delivery if ordered by 16<sup>th</sup> December. <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

**/livesimply Christmas** When buying Christmas cards/wrapping paper/crackers and decorations, please try and avoid all glitter and plastic to enable items to be recycled; and use brown paper with ribbon and string to avoid selotape. Also, you can cut down on black bin rubbish by using linen tablecloths and napkins instead of paper alternatives. Remembering our desire to live sustainably we can also try to buy less stuff and buy from ethical retailers.

**/livesimply support for prisoners** The chaplain at Coldingley has sent a message of thanks for all the donations 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. *'Thank you so much, all received and much appreciated! Christmas blessings to you and all your parish in Godalming'*

**Christmas present for Maria** A few people in the parish wish to buy a special Christmas gift for Maria and have found something 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. Thank you.

**Supporting the Sisters at Holy Cross Abbey, Whitland** The sisters earn their living by the work of their hands, and have lost much business due to the pandemic. They are now making Christmas puddings and greeting cards which can be viewed on their website: [www.hcawhitland.co.uk](http://www.hcawhitland.co.uk) In the new year their preserves and home baking will also be available online so please support them if you are able to.

#### **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.

#### **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 – Sylvia Reilly, 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 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 Mary White and Michael Scanlon who died recently and for Doris Kilsby, Pat Marsh, John Hawkins, Barbara Czerkiewicz, Millicent Punter, Bridie Brown and Malachi whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Services for the Third Week of Advent 13<sup>th</sup> December 2020

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

<b>Saturday 12th December</b> <i>(OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE)</i>	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i> <i>Followed by Confessions</i> <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Mrs Weguelin RIP &amp; deceased family and friends.</i>
<b>Sunday 13th December</b> 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<b>9.00am Mass (St John's)</b> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>For the people of the parish</i>
<b>Monday 14th December</b> ST JOHN OF THE CROSS	<i>No Mass today</i>
<b>Tuesday 15th December</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Thelma O'Donnell RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 16th December</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Martin Neylon RIP</i> <b>7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online</b> GoToMeeting 450-922-301
<b>Thursday 17th December</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Michael Scanlon RIP</i>
<b>Friday 18th December</b>	<b>7pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Evaggelos Evergetis RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 19th December</b>	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Tom &amp; Helen O'Kelly RIP</i> <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> –
<b>Sunday 20th December</b> 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	<b>9.00am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>For the people of the parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Connie &amp; Bernard Edgar RIP</i> <b>2.30pm Carols (St John's Seminary)</b>

[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)