



# 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*

## **Baptism of the Lord** **"O come to the waters"**

This weekend we keep the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As Jesus passes from the hidden life of Nazareth into his public ministry so we pass from Christmastide into the passage of the year.

Today's reading from the prophet Isaiah concludes a section in which he reflects on the work of the suffering servant. It is in the light of the work of the Saviour that the clear invitation is made: come, buy, listen, live. The Jesuit John Foley set the invitation to music in my younger years and its words and melody remain strong in my mind. "O let all who thirst", he sings, mentioning by name those who have nothing, those who are weary and labour without rest, those who are laden. This latest turn in the pandemic, and our fatigue, remind us of our poverty before it, and of our human condition. There is not much more we have left to give.

It is into this poverty and need of ours that the Lord calls, gently but persistently. He calls us to listen to him and to his word for us, and it is a theme that will be repeated in the liturgy over the coming weeks.

The call comes with a guarantee and promise. Listen and you will have good things to eat, rich food to enjoy. "Listen, and your soul will live", says the Lord. As rain and snow water the earth and produce fruit, so the word of God never returns without bringing life to our souls.

Hearing the Word of God present to us and for us really is life changing. We do indeed come just we are, but he touches and transforms us. As we are confronted anew by our poverty, I repeat the invitation from the Lord himself to come to him and listen to him. It is his word alone which has the power not only to sustain us but to fill us with life. Over the next few weeks there are two particular opportunities to grow in listening to the word of the Lord – our established weekly *Lectio Divina* and the new Sycamore programme. You might like to give one or both of them a try. Whatever you do, do take time to listen to the Lord's word to you.

### **Mass Responses for the Baptism of the Lord**

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered:  
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

PSALM RESPONSE: With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said:  
This is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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## Mass during Lockdown

In contrast with earlier lockdowns, places of worship remain open and coming to them is a permitted reason to come out of the house. There are good reasons for us to use this welcome facility prudently and with due caution, moderation, and discretion:

- infection can and does spread through coming to Mass, even if the controls in place significantly reduce that risk
- many of our congregation are at high risk of serious illness if infected
- many of the wider local community will not be aware that common worship is a permitted activity, and may regard our gathering as reckless when they are holding back from seeing others to protect lives
- it is very easy to switch off when at church and to have social contact with others that is both risky and prohibited.

For this reason and reflecting the fact that very many parishioners are staying away until things improve, the **main focus of parish activity for the coming weeks will move online**, while still providing opportunities to come to in Mass in person.

**10.30am Sunday Online Liturgy of the Word** will replace the Mass of that time. It gives an opportunity to meet up with others, to sing a little and share some of our prayers with one another. It will take place on Zoom (ID: 846 7892 5944, Passcode: 2021)

The **9.00am Sunday Mass** will move to St Edmund's to facilitate live-streaming and in anticipation of St John's closing sometime soon. The vigil Mass will not be livestreamed after this weekend.

If you would like to come to Mass, there is still no need to book on a weekday. As we expect numbers to be much lower until things improve, we have moved **weekend booking** to Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/y7gntvex>)

Please do pray about when to come to Mass – or not – in the present circumstances and allow your conscience to lead you in judging what is the most appropriate action for you. There isn't a simple right or wrong answer that will apply to all and it may not be an easy judgement to make.

**Eventbrite** Because the capacity of our churches is more related to households than individuals the booking system allows you to book either a whole pew for a family group or enough room for one or two people. Unless you are booking for more than just your household one 'ticket' will usually be enough. There is no need to print off or download tickets. When you arrive tick your name on the list or ask the steward to do so.

## Live-stream from St Edmund's

From this Sunday the 9.00am Sunday Mass will be live-streamed on YouTube. You will find a link at the end of the welcome message on the parish website or by going to: <https://tinyurl.com/ya47rkkw>.

**Guildford parish** do a very good livestream that many find helpful and can be found at <https://www.cpg.church/live.html>

**Sunday of the Word of God** falls this year on 24th January. There will be a blessing of readers at all Masses and in the Online Liturgy of the Word that weekend.

## SOME THINGS TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

**Restarting Childrens' Liturgy** If you might be able and willing to help please let Sarah know in the parish office and we will fix an online meeting of those interested to progress the planning.

**Relaxed masses?** Did this seem a good idea? Let us know.

**New Altar Servers?** Any children or adults interesting in starting to serve Mass later this year please contact Fr Jonathan.

## Diocesan Online Mission for Lent

**"Invited"** for more details see

<https://tinyurl.com/y3tna7uu>

**Year of St Joseph** Pope Francis has proclaimed a Year of Joseph to mark the 150th anniversary of the declaration of the Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

**Confirmation Preparation** for students in Years 10+ will begin once we can meet in person. The sacrament will be celebrated in October 2021. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like your son or daughter to prepare for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

**Sycamore** is an informal course about the Catholic faith and its relevance for life today. It gives you space to meet other people, share ideas, explore your beliefs, and think about questions that really matter. It has been produced by the very talented Fr Stephen Wang in London, who has a real gift for sharing the depth and richness of the Catholic tradition and its compassionate and life-giving vision. He helps us to see how these truths can be recognised in our lives and in the longings of our hearts. Each session includes a short film and opportunities for discussion.

We will be running the first five sessions on Zoom on Tuesday evenings starting on 19th January 2021 (Join at 7.30pm for 7.45pm prompt start). To **register your interest** please visit <https://tinyurl.com/y6hq5r4f> by the end of Sunday 17th January.

At the start of this new year, and in the difficult circumstances of lockdown, this would be a good opportunity to explore some of the basics of the Christian faith from a Catholic perspective.

I would like to extend a **particular invitation to anyone who reads this newsletter who is not Catholic** and would like to know more about how we see the world and God at work in it and in us. Maybe this last year has made you more curious. Maybe no one has ever invited you to learn more. Maybe it's been on the cards for 40 years but the time has never seemed right. Whatever the reason, you will find a warm welcome and an opportunity to explore the Catholic faith in the company of others on the same journey, and sympathetic guides. You are very welcome to speak with me before registering, should you wish.

I believe that many in our parish will find Sycamore helpful for their journey in faith. I do look forward to the time when we can run the sessions over a meal together, but in the meanwhile I'd like to encourage everyone in the parish to have a think about giving it a go as some spiritual food during this lockdown.

**Crib Offerings** Contributions for the Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund may be made this weekend.

**Thank you** from Fr Jonathan for the kind and generous contributions to the Christmas offering, and for the many cards and gifts he received.

**Thank you** to members of **LOAF** for the Christmas hampers that were extremely well received. They were a welcome expression of love and care for many for whom 2020 had been difficult, in a whole range of ways.

### **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 January:** For human fraternity: May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all.

#### **The sick and those who care for them**

including – Sylvia Reilly, 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 Tommy Doherty who died recently and for Danny Furlong, Robert Wilson, Andrew Barnard, Lilian Legg, Jan Heksel, Kathleen Wheeler, Malcolm Ogilvie Forbes, John Bunting, Jesu Lopez, Patricia Hedley, Vera Bowens whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses  
Baptism of the Lord and  
First Week of Ordinary Time 2021**

<b>Saturday 9th January</b>	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)*</b> – <i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Sunday 10th January</b> BAPTISM OF THE LORD	<b>9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)*</b> – <i>People of the parish</i> <b>10.30am Online Liturgy of the Word (Zoom)</b> <i>The season of Christmas ends this evening</i>
<b>Monday 11th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Peter Kelly RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 12th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (Live-stream only)*</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> <b>7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online</b> GoToMeeting 450-922-301
<b>Thursday 14th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>For healthcare workers</i>
<b>Friday 15th January</b>	<i>No public Mass today</i>
<b>Saturday 16th January</b>	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Sunday 17th January</b> SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)*</b> <b>10.30am Liturgy of the Word online (Zoom)</b> 12.00pm Baptism (St Joseph's)

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I.

\*Livestreamed on YouTube – <https://tinyurl.com/ya47rkkw>

**St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm**

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