



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*

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th September 2021

Through Baptism we become part of the family of God and a friend of Jesus. A lot of the time we talk about Jesus as our brother – in a way that emphasises that God is our Father too. But in the Gospels Jesus speaks very clearly about our being his *friends*, ones he had especially chosen. Israel was spoken of as being God's people, but in and through Jesus that relationship becomes so much deeper.

Last week I had a couple of meetings with colleagues who I hadn't seen in person for 18 months, and often people said how good it was to be together face to face again. While zoom and the like might be good for keeping in touch or sorting out simple things, it doesn't really replace what happens when friends or family are able to get together in person. The Mass is the gathering with Jesus of his friends. It is there that he speaks to them and feeds them, that he gives them all that they need for the week ahead.

In Catholic circles we sometimes talk about the expectation to come to Mass every Sunday (the 'Sunday obligation'), and our bishops have expressed their intention that, all things being equal, this expectation, which was put on hold during COVID will resume at the start of Advent. One wise commentator suggested that the idea of obligation was too often misunderstood – as a rule that has to be followed. Instead, he proposed that we should consider it in terms of the sort of obligation that one has to attend a friend's birthday party (in fact a Wedding might be an even more fruitful analogy). We will want to be there, both for ourselves and for our friend. Sometimes, however, there are good reasons why we can't make such occasions, and good friends, while disappointed that we can't share their joy, will understand and appreciate that it is right for us to be elsewhere.

As many of the children of the parish begin their preparation for First Holy Communion this weekend, I invite them and us, to deepen our appreciation of Jesus as our friend. He wants this friendship to grow so that we will be happy and so he comes to us in the most special way in the Mass and the other Sacraments. Let us seek out this friendship, and spend the time with him that will let it grow and bring us the true happiness which is the Father's will and gift for us.

Mass Responses for Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord upholds my life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

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The Assisted Dying Bill 2021 This weekend there is a pastoral letter, included with this newsletter, from Bishop Richard prompted by this bill which is currently making its way through the House of Lords. Bp John Sherrington, in his open letter, writes, *At this stage we need to argue the dangers of the introduction of Assisted Suicide, which include the safety of people who are vulnerable due to external pressures, and the later liberalisation of the law which is evidenced by other countries which have introduced Assisted Suicide. Many voices from the world of disability-rights and other allies are also very fearful and fighting this bill. Whilst there are clear arguments to support Catholic teachings, it is important to remember that this position is not only a matter of faith but also human reason.* He asks us to (i) pray that the Bill will be defeated, (ii) write to the Peers from your personal experience and share stories which will argue the reasons for opposing the Bill as well as narrate the importance of precious time during the final stages of life, especially if you work in healthcare or the law before the Second Reading on 22 October, and (iii) to engage and share stories and reasons against the Bill on social media. For further resources see the Bishops Conference website at <https://tinyurl.com/fj277y>.

First Holy Communion Enrolment This takes place at each Mass this weekend, as we welcome 30 children and their families at the beginning of their First Holy Communion journey.

Ann Lloyd We are delighted to announce that Bishop Richard has awarded the St Philip Howard Medal to Ann in recognition of her services to the Church. We are hoping to present this to her at a small gathering with her family and a few parishioners next month. Please keep Ann in your prayers, and all those of our brothers and sisters who now carry the burden of their years.

Fr Mario Sanderson RIP His funeral will take place in Mayfield this Tuesday. A Requiem Mass will be offered for him at 9.30am that morning at St Joseph's, Milford.

COVID arrangements We ask everyone to wear face coverings and to register for Mass, though it is likely that there will be spare places on most occasions. We are operating at a reduced capacity to provide some distancing and working on 1m+ at St John's. Some spaces will be reserved at St Joseph's each Sunday (facing the altar in the part of the church that is better ventilated) for people who are **more clinically vulnerable**. Weekday Masses are generally quiet and would be a good way back to Mass if you are anxious about coming on a Sunday.

CAFOD Family Fast Day Friday 1st

October CAFOD's local partners help people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD on this Family Fast Day you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Use the envelopes, contactless machine or online cafod.org.uk/fundraise or by text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate any whole amount between £1 and £20.

Sycamore The next series of new Sycamore films starts w/c 18th October. In addition to a Thursday 8pm zoom option, there will be in-person options on Monday evening and Wednesday morning. To sign up please go to <https://tinyurl.com/32m8c7m4>. For more information about Sycamore visit their website: sycamore.fm.

Altar Serving Fr Jonathan would like to extend a special invitation to the children who have made their First Holy Communion to become altar servers. If you're interested, please get in touch; the invitation is extended also to older young people and to adults.

Bumps and Babes This group now meets regularly on Monday mornings at 10.30am, at St John's Centre, Farncombe. All young families are welcome. More information from Eileen: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Baptism Preparation New sessions are planned for early October for parents and carers who would like to prepare their child for this sacrament; please get in touch as soon as possible with Fr Jonathan to register.

6pm Mass on 2nd October will be of the Solemnity of the Dedication of the Church.

Wondering about becoming Catholic?

There will be a small group forming this autumn of people interested in becoming Catholic. If you think this might be for you, please speak with Fr Jonathan or with Ian Honeysett: Honeysett@btinternet.com

Big Green Litter Pick 18/19th weekend

Our Live Simply group will be meeting to clean up the areas around St Edmund's at **10am** this Saturday; St John's on Sunday at **9.30am** and St Joseph's at **11.30am**; and they hope you will join them! Please bring gloves and a bag.

School Admission Forms If you need a form signing, please get in touch to arrange to meet with Fr Jonathan who likes to use it as an opportunity to get to know families in the parish; either phone (G 416880) or email the parish office. Ideally, St Peter's SIF form now and St Edmund's form after half-term.

Marriage Anniversaries Mass with Bishop Richard at St Joseph's, Guildford on Saturday 9th October 9th at 11.30am. For those with a significant anniversary this year. To book email: Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Would you like to be our parish rep at Churches Together in Godalming? If you are interested, please contact Angela Gilmour who would be willing to explain the role more fully. The next AGM takes place at Busbridge Church on 13th October.

Prayer from Scratch this Jesuit course, over five Wednesdays, will help participants see prayer in a new way. The course starts on 22nd September at 7-8pm, online, and includes time for discussion and reflection, and periods of guided prayer. More info at: <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/prayer-from-scratch>

Open Cloister at Worth Abbey Retreats 'Finding Stillness', on dates in October/ November and December; you can join in person or remotely; led by Fr Peter Williams O.S.B. www.worth.co.uk/retreat-programme

Ten Steps to Living Simply Step 1 for September is: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.
'The entire material universe speaks of God's love, his boundless affection for us. Soil, water, mountains: everything is, as it were, a caress of God' [From Pope Francis' Laudate Si' 84].

Save the date! Our annual parish CAFOD Quiz Night takes place on 12th November, 7pm-10pm, St John's Church Room. More details to follow.

Parish Finance Thank you to those who support the parish by their regular giving. Donations to the parish by bank transfer can be made to 'RCD AB Godalming' sort code 40-05-20, account number 41077481. To arrange a standing order/sign up for Gift Aid, contact Eileen: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Some sources of practical support

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 contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

Please remember in your prayers

All those affected by the Coronavirus and its impact on people around the world.

The Holy Father's Intention for September:

That we may make courageous choices for a simple and environmentally sustainable lifestyle, rejoicing in those young people who are resolutely committed to protecting God's Creation.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Jean Rejniak, Elizabeth Coombs, Andrew Herrington, Helena Burger, Audrey Hockey, Margaret Szalajda, Anne Stephens, Warren McMillan, Margarita Crawford, Irene Grant, Margaret Silvester, 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, those in our hospitals and care homes and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular Lizzie Laverty and Fr Mario Sanderson who died recently, and Francis Gomez, Patricia Hayes, Malachi O'Donnell, Sally Daley, Celestino Locurto, Florence Gallaher, Valerie Millington and Ethne Clark whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
19th September 2021

Saturday 18th September	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)† - <i>Florence Lydia Shearman RIP</i>
Sunday 19th September 25 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's)† – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† 12.15pm Baptism (St Edmund's)
Monday 20th September St Andrew Kim Taegon, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions	<i>Mass available at 10am at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 21st September St Matthew	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Fr Mario Sanderson RIP</i>
Wednesday 22nd September	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Robert Gilmour & Tom Rogers RIP</i>
Thursday 23rd September St Pius of Pietrelcino	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Frank & Matthew Brown RIP</i>
Friday 24th September	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 7-8.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's) 8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 25th September	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)†
Sunday 26th September 26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's)† 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)†

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I. Psalter Week 1.

†Please Book on Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/7vnxztc4>)

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 5pm

www.stedsqod.com