



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-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 26th September 2021

Because he was not one of us we tried to stop him

"Read in the context of a gospel written for a small Christian community facing persecution, this instruction [on tolerance towards those who are outsiders] would have encouraged a positive attitude toward the adherents of other religions while enforcing belief in the absolute centrality of the 'name of Christ' in the economy of salvation" (Donahue & Harrington)

The scene in today's gospel echoes the one in the first reading when the people of Israel find themselves with some unexpected prophets. Its central theme is echoed through the history of the church – a need to be open to unexpected voices. St Benedict, in his Rule, requires that everyone in the community be listened to "because it is often to a junior that the Lord reveals what is best." At certain times in history, as a church and a community, we have been better at it than at other times.

The basic pattern of dialogue with those who are outside is laid down by God himself, who became flesh and lived among us. When Jesus ate with tax collectors and sinners, I suspect that he communicated his Father's love and compassion to them by listening as well as by speaking. (Were you ever told by your parents that you had one mouth and *two* ears?)

Listening to the other is often not easy. It challenges our self-understanding and provokes us to deep reflection on who and how we are. And while there is always the need to discern what the Holy Spirit is trying to say to us, it's clear that listening to the voice of God on the margins is an essential component of our renewal as disciples and as a church.

Mass Responses for Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

PSALM RESPONSE: The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

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Sycamore A new series of Sycamore films, looking this time at the Sacraments, starts in the parish on 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.

Diocesan Celebration of Grandparents

This week we celebrate the importance of grandparents. Pope Francis often reminds us of value of their role and contribution:

'Children and the elderly build the future of peoples: children because they lead history forward, the elderly because they transmit the experience and wisdom of their lives.'

Grandparents' Groups Within the Diocese there are several active grandparent groups who gather to pray for their grandchildren and to share the highs and lows of this stage of life. You may remember when you joined toddler groups when your children were young, to enjoy the support of likeminded people? It's a bit like that; chat over issues such as how to help your grandchildren without upsetting your own children...or their spouse!; how to pass on your faith; and find strength through praying about it all together. If you are interested in joining or creating a group in the parish, please contact Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Assisted Dying Bill – Call to Action This bill is currently making its way through the House of Lords. Fr Jonathan encourages us to (i) pray for those who are that burdened by sickness or infirmity, and 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) 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>.

Fr Jonathan will be on retreat this week with a number of priests of the diocese. Please pray for them as they do for you.

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 envelopes, contactless, online at cafod.org.uk/fundraise or text CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate any whole amount between £1 and £20.

COVID arrangements

Please wear face coverings if you are able.

We usually have some spaces set aside at St Joseph's that are socially distanced, especially for those who are more clinically vulnerable. Seating at St John's is based on 1m+ and there is usually some distanced seating at both St Edmund's and St Joseph's (with every other bench left free). These can be booked through Eventbrite. *If you are happy to use the 'open seating' then registering helps our planning but is no longer essential.*

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

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 1st October at 7am; all welcome.

October is traditionally the **month of the Rosary**. There will be an opportunity to pray this together after 9.30am Masses throughout the month. Fr Jonathan suggests that you might include the following in your intentions: the victims and survivors of abuse, the Assisted Dying Bill, the relief of the pandemic, and those affected by climate change.

6pm Mass on 2nd October will be of the Solemnity of the Anniversary of the Dedication of St Edmund's Church.

Receptions On **9th October**, the feast of St John Henry Newman, we look forward to receiving four of our brothers and sisters into full communion with the Catholic Church at 6pm Mass: Angela, Carole, Mark and Peter. Please remember them in your prayers. As it is also a first communion preparation weekend, please be aware that there may be more people than usual at Mass.

Music @ Farncombe We will be starting to sing a little bit at St John's. If you are interested in playing an instrument or practicing the singing please speak to Fr Jonathan or Harriet (at the piano).

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.

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

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.

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 AGM takes place on 13th October.

Open Cloister at Worth Abbey Retreats 'Finding Stillness', in October/ November and December; in person or remotely; www.worth.co.uk/retreat-programme

Litter Pick Many thanks to our Live Simply group and their supporters who removed several bags worth of litter from the areas around our Mass Centres last weekend.

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 young people of our parish to be confirmed by Bishop Richard at Arundel on 10th October.

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 – Arden Holford, Jean Rejniak, 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 Elizabeth Whitelaw (Lavery) who died recently, and Mary McCann, Luigi Ferrucci, Edward Winder, Joan Whitbourn, Teresa Mahony, Caroline Marshall, Richard Skinner, Marie Patrick, Patrick Gallagher, Mary Hawkins, Karen Aird and Tony Kirby whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
26th September 2021

Saturday 25th September	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)† - People of the parish
Sunday 26th September 26 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's)† 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† - Celebrant's Intention
Monday 27th September St Vincent de Paul	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)
Tuesday 28th September	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i> 1.00pm Cash - Anderson Wedding (St Edmund's)
Wednesday 29th September SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, ARCHANGELS	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Thursday 30th September St Jerome	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Friday 1st October St Thérèse of the Child Jesus	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i> 7-8.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's) 8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)† - Deceased benefactors
Sunday 3rd October 27 TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION OF ST EDMUND'S CHURCH)	8.45am Mass (St John's)† 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† 12.15pm Baptism (St Edmund's)

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I. Psalter Week 2.

†Please register on Eventbrite if you can (<https://tinyurl.com/7vnxztc4>)

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

www.stedsqod.com