



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*

Solemnity of St Edmund, King and Martyr Solemnity of Christ the King 20th & 21st November 2021

When I was appointed to St Edmund's parish two years ago I thought I should read up on my new patron saint. The book that I bought was Rebecca Penner's, *The Cult of St Edmund in Mediaeval East Anglia* and it is a fine piece of work, telling the story of how we get to the image that we now have of this saxon king and how he becomes such an important saint in England.

What caught my eye this week is the way in which Abbo of Fleury in his Passion of St Edmund draws a close parallel between the death of St Edmund and the death of Jesus. Both are mocked, beaten, and tied to a tree, but most importantly both die because they refuse to exercise power in the manner of the kings of this world. Despite being a keen soldier in the prime of his life, Edmund refuses to pay tribute to the Danes or to fight them and is then taken and killed. Jesus, not a king of this world, refuses to exercise worldly power, is taken and killed and thus (by what C.S.Lewis calls 'a deeper magic') does away with the power that death holds over the sons and daughters of God.

The two feasts we keep this weekend – Christ the King and St Edmund, King and Martyr – invite us to reflect on the ways in which we exercise power and stewardship as disciples of Jesus. The Synod Pathway that will begin shortly will help us with this reflection. We will be invited to pray and reflect on our listening and our speaking out, on our entry into dialogue, on our participation in co-responsibility, on our participation and our exercise of authority, on our need for formation for mission.

This Sunday is Youth Sunday, and I would like to say a word of appreciation for our young people. Many of them find it difficult to juggle their commitment to sport and other life-giving activities with joining us for Mass, and I always admire them when they manage to do both. Our young people have a sense that being Catholic is somehow important. They are grateful for the example of Catholic and Christian life that they see in their parents and grandparents. They appreciate their friends who share that same sense that faith is still important in helping them to live good and fulfilled lives. Pray for them this weekend. Support them by your own joyful example and they will support you with theirs.

Readings for St Edmund

1st Reading, 2 Maccabees 7:1-2,9-14; Psalm 30;
2nd Reading Hebrews 10:32-36; Gospel Matthew 10:28-33

Mass Responses for Christ the King

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.252878

This Saturday, 20th November, is the Solemnity of **St Edmund, King and Martyr**, patron of our parish. We look forward to receiving Ashley into full communion and conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation on Petra and Ashley at Mass that evening.

Advent

The joyful season of Advent begins next weekend. There are a couple of particular opportunities to help mark this season.

Lectio Divina. Fr Jonathan will lead a series of prayer with the Advent readings on zoom on Wednesday evenings from 24th November at 7.30pm. Those who are new to this way of prayer are particularly welcome and help will be given. Do join us and give it a try. (Zoom Meeting ID: 846 7892 5944, Password 2021)

Sacrament of Reconciliation. A priest will be available after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's, Milford on Saturday 27th November and 4th, 11th and 18th December for anyone who would like to celebrate this Sacrament. There will also be confession available all day at St Joseph's, Guildford on Saturday 18th December. Fr Tomasz and Fr Jonathan will be available after Mass on 4th December.

Outdoor Carols at Ladywell Convent on Sunday 19th December at 3pm. We know that many people are still being careful so we are once again having an *outdoor* carol sing, this time in the newly restored walled garden at Ladywell Convent. It will help planning if you can register for this through the parish calendar. There will be mulled wine and mince pies too! We will move into the refectory if it is raining.

Booking for Mass Apart from Christmas Eve and Christmas Day this is the last weekend we are encouraging people to register for Mass. Both open seating and distanced seating will be available on a first come first served basis.

Synod Pathway The resources from the Diocese for the Synod have just been received. We'll say a bit about it next week.

COVID arrangements Please wear face coverings at Mass if you are able. There is socially distanced seating available at St Joseph's and seating elsewhere is mostly 1m+.

Christmas Masses The times of Masses for Christmas are now on the Parish Calendar. We have provided two vigil Masses (5pm at St Joseph's and 7pm at St Edmund's) to help ensure they are not too busy. Mass of Christmas night is at 10.00pm, and Christmas morning follows our usual Sunday pattern. If you need seating which is socially distanced there will be some provision at St John's and St Joseph's on Christmas morning, but none for the vigil Masses, which will be open seating. Please dress warmly as we will look to provide good ventilation.

It would help our planning if you could register for these by clicking on the event in the parish calendar.

If you are being cautious you might like to come to a Christmas Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family, which this year is on Boxing Day: 8.45am at St John's and 10.30am at St Joseph's as we expect these to be much quieter.

Choir for Mass of Christmas Night If you would like to join the small choir for 10pm Mass on Christmas eve please let Fr Jonathan or the parish office know.

Churches Together in Godalming Prayer Breakfast November's Prayer Breakfast will be at St Marks Church, on Saturday 27th from 8.30am with breakfast and with prayer time from about 9.15am to 10am, led by Rev Sheila Samuels.

Confirmation 2022 Any young people in Year 10 or above interested in being confirmed this summer or exploring what this might mean are asked to get in touch with Fr Jonathan. Preparation will begin in the new year and take place on a Sunday evening.

Parish Survey The Building Review Group are looking to gain some insight into what is important for different parts of the local Catholic community. There is an online form which can be used to contribute (<https://forms.office.com/r/qzusEpZsjV>) Paper forms will also be available for those who find this easier. We are keen to make sure that we cover a wide range of people so please do encourage friends to participate as well. Responses are sought before 3rd January 2022.

Second Collection this Sunday for the maintenance of the Cathedral at Arundel.

Baptism Preparation The next sessions will be on the afternoon of Saturday 8th January with part 2 on the following Thursday evening. Please get it touch if you would like to prepare for the baptism of your children.

Parish Prayer Group To mark the 27th year of the group there will be a thanks-giving Mass celebrated by Fr Anthony Meredith, on Wednesday 1st December at 5pm in Elstead. All are welcome. For more information phone Richard on 01252 702230.

Christmas prison outreach Thank you for your donations last weekend which more or less raised the £420 we were looking for to enable us to buy a bottle of body lotion as a Christmas day gift for each of the women prisoners at HMP Send. There are still a few envelopes marked 'Prisoners Christmas Gift' around if you would like to contribute, and any excess funds collected will go to support the work of the chaplains.

We have also been asked by the RC chaplain at HMP Coldingley for **100 Christmas cards** for the prisoners to send to their families, and ideally to supply these asap. If you can help with donating some cards *by 22nd November*, please give them to Fr Jonathan/parish office.

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas Catalogue If you are starting to think about Christmas, please don't forget CAFOD's virtual charity gifts which help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Choose from energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, and much more. Buy online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

Christmas Market at St Edmunds Catholic Primary School Saturday 4th December, 11am to 2pm for carols, mulled wine, food and seasonal merriment.

Ten Steps to Living Simply Step 3 for November is **Say goodbye to plastic**. *"All of us can cooperate as instruments of God for the care of creation, each according to his or her own culture, experience, involvements and talents."* (Laudate Si 14)

Congratulations to Ruth de Stefani who enters her tenth decade this week.

Little Library Watch out for some new children's books at the back of our churches from next weekend.

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, or request envelopes please 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 November:

We pray that people who struggle with depression and all forms of mental illness may find support in us all and allow a healing light to enter their lives.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Ken Dunn, Maria Lopez, Jean Rejniak, Andrew Herrington, 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 Rheenan, 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 for Evelyn Furlong who died recently, and Aileen Mayfield, Lucia Mintern, Mary White, Philip Youd, Sheila Burger, and Michael Scanlon, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Liturgies
St Edmund, Christ the King and
Thirty Fourth Week in Ordinary Time**

21st November 2021

Saturday 20th November ST EDMUND KING AND MARTYR	6pm Mass with Adult Confirmation (St Edmund's) <i>– People of the parish</i>
Sunday 21st November CHRIST THE KING	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Ken Dunn</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Laudi Abilama RIP</i> 12.15pm Baptism - Swain (St Edmund's) 1.00pm Baptisms – Ovens & Austin (St Edmund's)
Monday 22nd November St Cecilia	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 23rd November	11.15am Requiem Mass for Evelyn Furlong (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 24th November St Andrew Dung-Lac & Companions	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Patrick Nolan RIP</i>
Thursday 25th November	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Private Intention</i>
Friday 26th November	12.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Private Intention</i> 7.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's) 8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 27th November	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Josephine Mathieson RIP</i>
Sunday 28th November 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jim & Nora Flynn RIP</i>

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

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