



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*

First Sunday of Advent - 28th November 2021

Your liberation is near at hand

Dr Kevin Fong recently shared the story of sunrise after a long hard night shift in a London hospital in last January. The intensive care unit had expanded onto two or three other floors, and it all felt very desperate and hopeless. One weekend it had snowed heavily and as he came back onto the floor many of the nurses were crowding around the window. The sun was coming up and the sky looked like it was on fire. Dawn was breaking on a dark and horrible night. It was for him a reminder that dawn always comes after the night. He shared it as his contribution to BBC's *Museum of Curiosities* for all those he had worked with, proud of his team and all those who had been through that night (and others) with him.

The season of Advent is one of watching and waiting in joyful hope. Most of the time we forget that Jesus promised he would return. We presume that it won't happen in our lives. Yet learning to yearn for his coming and to watch expectantly for him (I think of children waiting for their parents to return home and the excitement when the key is heard in the latch) is an important part of our lives as Christians. In doing so we exercise the gift of hope in our hearts – a reaching out and grasping of that which God has promised.

It is in this context that the Lord enjoins us to 'pray at all times', since it is especially in the waiting on the Lord that we have to do when we sit in silence before him that he teaches us to long for, to watch for his coming and to recognise his presence in our lives.

Pray too this Advent for all who are in deep need of liberation. For migrants – both those trying to cross the channel and those whose dire situation is no longer news. For those who work in health and social care tired of the long fight against COVID. For those who live with chronic mental illness or pain and disease. For those who find it hard to heat their homes and feed their families no matter how many hours they work. For those who cannot shake off the effects of abuse and trauma.

Come, Lord Jesus!

Mass Responses for First Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Lectio Divina. Fr Jonathan leads a series of prayer with the Advent readings on zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. Those who are new to this way of prayer are particularly welcome and help will be given. Do join 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 this Saturday and on 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. Both 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. Please get in touch if you are able to help on the day as a welcomer and steward.

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 1m+.

Baptism Preparation The next sessions will be on the afternoon of Saturday 8th January with part 2 on the following Thursday 13th evening. Please get in touch if you would like to prepare for the baptism of your children.

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.

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.

CAFOD World Gifts for Christmas

Catalogue Copies are available this weekend or at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Christmas prison outreach Thank you for your donations which have enabled us to buy Christmas day gifts for each of the women prisoners at HMP Send. Thanks too for so many packs of Christmas cards, which have now been despatched to HMP Coldingley for prisoners to send home.

SVP Christmas cards And a big thank you to all who supported the SVP. They raised £205 and are most grateful, thank you!

Parish Prayer Group thanksgiving Mass celebrated by Fr Anthony Meredith takes place on Wednesday at 5pm. 01252 702230.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 3rd December at 8am; all welcome.

Christmas Masses The times of Masses for Christmas are now on the Parish Calendar. There will be two vigil Masses (**5pm at St Joseph's** and **7pm at St Edmund's**) to help ensure they are not too crowded. Mass of Christmas night is at **10.00pm at St Edmund's**, and Christmas morning follows our usual Sunday pattern. If you need seating which is socially distanced there will be some 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 quieter.

UN International Day for the Abolition of Slavery Modern slavery is an international trade in human misery. Please offer one minute of silent prayer on Thursday 2nd December for the 40 million slaves in the world today, of which 136,000 are in the UK.

Synod Pathway The resources from the Diocese for the Synod are now available online: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

Parish Buildings Survey The Building Review Group are looking to gain some insight into what is important for different parts of our Catholic community. There is an online form which can be used to contribute (<https://forms.office.com/r/qzusEpZsjV>) Paper forms are available for those who find this easier, and there is one for young people under 16 to share their thoughts too (<https://forms.office.com/r/tjX0Kv8V0G>). We are keen to make sure that we cover a wide range of people so please do encourage friends to participate as well. Please respond by 3rd January 2022.

Can you help connect our parish community? The earliest accounts we have of the celebration of Mass talk about communion being taken to those who cannot be present. There are a number of our brothers and sisters who would really appreciate being able to join with us but cannot do so without some help, by way of a **lift to Mass** or **communion at home**. If you could help with either of these needs we would really like to hear from you. Even if you can help just once or twice a month it would make a difference to those who have been cut off more than usual during COVID. There is a small amount of admin involved in getting new volunteers set up but Sarah in the parish office will help steer you through it and Fr Jonathan will provide the liturgical training to take communion to those at home.

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

Wintershall Nativity Tickets are still available for performances from 16th to 20th December. To book www.wintershall.org.uk Volunteers are also needed.

Ten Steps to Living Simply Step 4 for December is **Go natural. Try home grown and home-made** *"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up? This question not only concerns the environment in isolation; the issue cannot be approached piecemeal."* Laudate Si 160

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Special Christmas Celebration takes place on Saturday 11th December at 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul's Church. All are welcome and there is a minimum entry donation of £5.

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 December:

We pray that catechists, who are called to proclaim God's Word, may be empowered by the Holy Spirit to be its courageous and creative witnesses.

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 Ernoult, 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 Edith Zaprzala and Evelyn Furlong who died recently, and Mary Lynch, Josephine Mathieson, Kitty Blunt, Mary Gelder, Joan Wheeler, Bridget Madden and John Piasecki, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies First Sunday of Advent

28th November 2021

Saturday 27th November	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Josephine Mathieson RIP
Sunday 28th November 1 ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Jim & Nora Flynn RIP
Monday 29th November	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 30th November St Andrew, Apostle	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Jean Sandford RIP
Wednesday 1st December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Elizabeth Whitelaw RIP
Thursday 2nd December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 3rd December St Francis Xavier, Priest	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Private Intention 7.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's) 8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 4th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Jacqui Brennan RIP
Sunday 5th December 2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Yasuko Morikawa RIP

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 1.

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