



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*

Second Sunday of Advent – 5th December 2021

The Word of God came to John in the wilderness

The second and third Sundays of Advent always have John the Baptist as their focus – preparing a way for the Lord. John is an interesting figure and one whom we could pay greater attention to. He is the last of the prophets and among the first martyrs. He was the cousin of Jesus. He is the one who pointed the way to Jesus.

The action this Sunday is located in the wilderness - interestingly a theme that Advent shares with Lent. This wilderness is not so much a place of trial and temptation, but a place of revelation. I think we can understand this wilderness in two ways.

Firstly, wilderness as a place of abandonment and desolation. It is a reminder that God will come to us when we experience these things in our lives. It is when we are at our lowest, bowed down by our frailties and living in darkness that the Lord will come with his power and might to raise us up again and restore us.

Secondly, wilderness as a place apart from the hubbub of the town or city, that quiet lonely place to which Jesus regularly withdrew to spend time in prayer with his Father. This wilderness is a reminder to us, when things are going OK, that if we want to allow the Word of God to come to us then we must withdraw and set ourselves apart, at least for a while. Note, however, that this setting apart always leads back to mission: John, having received the Word, becomes the voice crying in the wilderness.

Finally, a short post-script on all those names at the start of the Gospel. Who they are doesn't matter as much as St Luke's point that in Jesus God become a sharer in human history. The events he is concerned with happen in time. For other religions the affairs of the gods took place *in illo tempore*, in a primordial time. Jesus Christ, however, was born in a particular time and place. Aaron Ralston (the mountaineer who became famous for cutting off his own arm) used the phrase 'geological time is now' to warn himself about the dangers of rock fall. We can say the same of the coming of the Lord. God's time is not hereafter but is now.

Mass Responses for Second Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

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

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary This solemnity is on Wednesday and Mass is at 9.30am at St Joseph's.

Lectio Divina during Advent 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 on Saturday 11th and 18th December for anyone who would like to celebrate this Sacrament. (11th December – Fr Roy Waters). There will also be confession available all day at St Joseph's, Guildford on Saturday 18th 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 can offer to help on the day as a welcomer or steward.

COVID arrangements Please wear face coverings at Mass if you are able. Dress warmly as there may be drafts. There is socially distanced seating available at St Joseph's and St John's.

Synod Pathway We are looking at some opportunities to participate in the Synod in January, both in person and online, as individuals or as part of a group. More details to follow over the coming weeks. The resources from the Diocese for the Synod are online: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

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.

Fr Jonathan is having his jabs this week and will be lying low on Tuesday.

Christmas Masses The times of Masses for Christmas are now on the Parish Calendar.

Vigil Masses:

5pm at St Joseph's – children are invited to dress as nativity characters

7pm at St Edmund's

10.00pm at St Edmund's, Mass of Christmas Night with a choir

Christmas Day Masses:

8.45am at St John's, Mass of Christmas morning

10.30am at St Joseph's, Mass of Christmas Day

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.

NB There will be no 6pm Mass at St Edmund's on Saturday 25th December.

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.

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.

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 and Fr Jonathan will provide liturgical preparation to take communion to those at home.

Afternoon Tea If you would like to join the next SVP Afternoon Tea at 2.30pm on Wednesday 8th December, please reserve your place by phoning Janet Quinlan 01252 702156 as numbers are limited. Please make sure you have had your booster jab, and let Janet know if you need help with transport.

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.

Wintershall Nativity Tickets are still available for performances from 16th to 20th December. To book www.wintershall.org.uk Please get in touch if you can volunteer.

Assistant Premises Manager Vacancy at St John's Seminary To prepare the building for its closure and sale. A fixed-term, full-time position for one year, salary OIR £25,000, incl some w/e work and some on-call availability. Accommodation offered. Closing date: 20th December. Email: Mgnr Gerald Ewing, rector@wonersh.org

Ten Steps to Living Simply Step 4 for December is **Go natural. 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*

"Little Library" we have some new children's books at each church. Ask the welcomers if you can't see them.

Thank you Ruth de Stefani would like to thank everyone for the flowers for her 90th birthday and for parishioners' prayers for her.

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 Maria Lopez, Jean Rejniak, 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 Ken Dunn who died recently, and Chris Roman, Helene Ede, Geoffrey Simmonds, Michael Lada-Walicki, Cynthia Stowell and Margaret Bohan, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies Second Week of Advent

5th December 2021

Saturday 4th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* – Celebrant's Intention <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Jacqui Brennan RIP
Sunday 5th December 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Yasuko Morikawa RIP
Monday 6th December St Nicholas	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 7th December St Ambrose	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Wednesday 8th December Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Chris Mooney RIP
Thursday 9th December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Mrs Weguelin, family and friends RIP.
Friday 10th December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Helen Mary Gordon RIP 7.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's) 8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 11th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* – Celebrant's Intention <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 12th December 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the Parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Alexander Moore RIP

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 2.

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

www.stedsgod.com