



# 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*

## Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent – 12th December 2021

***I trust, I shall not fear....  
With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation!***

The Responsorial Psalm this weekend is one of the great pieces of poetry from the Prophet Isaiah. The theme of trust is central to the first part of the prophet's ministry and writings. There is every reason for his hearers, God's people, to be afraid: the superpower of the day – Assyria – is on the war path and they are its next target. They are faced with a dilemma – do they trust in God or do they compromise the covenant and make alliances with neighbours (and perhaps worst of all with an Egypt from whom God saved them centuries before).

This, then, is not a song of joy because things are going well for God's people. They are not. It is, instead, the fruit of their experience that when they place their trust in God their hearts become full of joy, because they understand that God will make all things well and exercise his power in human history and will do so soon.

The wells of salvation are for us those privileged places in which we encounter the living Lord Jesus: Sacred Scripture read in church; *Lectio Divina*; the Sacred Liturgy; the Eucharist; the Sacrament of Reconciliation; personal and community prayer; the community of faith and love; the poor, afflicted and sick; and popular devotions. Time and time again over recent decades we have been reminded and urged to go to these sources, to be refreshed and re-energised. To draw water from the wells of salvation.

There is a lot of uncertainty around Omicron, and a good number are at best disappointed at the plans that it is upsetting and concerned about what it might mean next for them, their families, and their colleagues. It is in this context perhaps that we might read the Prophet Isaiah this Advent. Like the people of his day, we are again under threat. We will not find our happiness in the regular things of prosperity and security. But Isaiah, many of the saints, and many fine people we have each known and loved, teach us that despite this, joy and deep happiness is to be found if we will drink deeply from the wells of salvation.

### **Mass Responses for Third Sunday of Advent**

PSALM RESPONSE: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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**This Third Sunday of Advent is 'Gaudete' Sunday** named from the entrance antiphon 'Gaudete in Domino semper' or 'Rejoice in the Lord always'. On this Sunday rose vestments are permitted in the Eucharistic liturgy and we light the rose-pink candle on our advent wreath, the penitential purple of advent being softened by the joy of the Lord's nearness.

**Lectio Divina during Advent** Fr Jonathan leads a prayer reading of 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.** Fr Jonathan will be available after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's, Milford on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December for anyone who would like to celebrate this Sacrament. There will also be confession available all day at St Joseph's, Guildford.

**Outdoor Carols at Ladywell Convent on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm** We look forward to the *outdoor* carol singing next Sunday in the newly restored walled garden at Ladywell Convent. To provide a bit of distancing we will be asking folks to bring their own mulled wine or other hot or soft drinks. Please bring an umbrella as we will remain outside whatever the weather.

**COVID arrangements** Face coverings are now mandatory at Mass unless exempt. Dress warmly as there may be drafts. There is socially distanced seating available at St Joseph's and St John's.

**Baptism Preparation** The next sessions will be on the afternoon of Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> January with part 2 on the following Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Follow us on facebook** So far, we have 76 followers; you can find us @stedsgod

**Christmas Masses** The times of Masses for Christmas are on the Parish Calendar on the website. Vigil Masses on Christmas Eve:  
**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

There will be some socially distanced seating 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 Mass 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 25<sup>th</sup> December.

**Can you help connect our parish community?** 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. 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.

**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. In the meanwhile, do have a look at the online resources from the Diocese for the Synod: <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 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

**Assistant Premises Manager Vacancy at St John's Seminary** Full-time for one year, salary OIR £25,000, incl some w/e work and some on-call availability. Accommodation offered. Closing date: 20<sup>th</sup> December. Email: Mgr Gerald Ewing, [rector@wonersh.org](mailto:rector@wonersh.org)

**Parish contact for National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW)** Would you like to be our parish contact to help give Catholic women a voice? If you're interested visit: <https://www.nbcw.co.uk/> and contact Sue Petritz: [nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:nbcw@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Advent Quiet Mornings on 18 December** 'Making space for God', an online retreat led from the House of Prayer by Audrey Hamilton from 10-12.30pm. (<https://www.christian-retreat.org/>) And an hour of praise, scripture, carols and prayers from 11am-12 noon, with Alton Renewal group: [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

**Knitting Group** If the cold weather encourages you to think of doing some knitting for charity, please get in touch with Sarah in the parish office; free patterns are available and a knitting group newsletter.

**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

**CTiG December Link-Up Newsletter** This is now posted on our website; you can find it by selecting 'Newsletters' on the first tab.

**Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar** 'To a Safer Shore?' Spotlights refugees highlighting what we can do to help. 15th January, 9.45am to 1pm, online. To book contact [Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk)

**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](mailto: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 Fr Chris Dobson, 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 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 for Ken Dunn and Basia Weaver who died recently, and Peter Farrelly, Doris Kilsby, Pat Marsh, John Hawkins, Barbara Czerkiewicz, Millicent Punter and Bridie Brown, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Liturgies Third Week of Advent

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Saturday 11th December</b>                        | <b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)*</b> – Celebrant's Intention<br><i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i><br><b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – Maura & Jane   |
| <b>Sunday 12th December</b><br>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  | <b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – People of the Parish<br><b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – Alexander Moore RIP  |
| <b>Monday 13th December</b><br>St Lucy               | <i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>   |
| <b>Tuesday 14th December</b><br>St John of the Cross | <b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – Private Intention  |
| <b>Wednesday 15th December</b>                       | <b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – Basia Weaver RIP   |
| <b>Thursday 16th December</b>                        | <b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b><br>– Frank & Matthew Brown RIP   |
| <b>Friday 17th December</b>                          | <b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – Private Intention<br>7.00pm Adoration (St Joseph's)<br>8.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)   |
| <b>Saturday 18th December</b>                        | <b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)*</b><br><i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i><br><i>*Sacrament of Reconciliation also available at St Joseph's, Guildford from 11am to 3pm today.</i><br><b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – For the wellbeing of the teenagers of our parish confirmed this year |
| <b>Sunday 19th December</b><br>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT  | <b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – For the people of the parish<br><b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – Ken Dunn RIP   |

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 3.

**St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 5pm**  
[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)