



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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021

***It is by his gift that already we rejoice
at the mystery of his Nativity,
so that he may find us watchful in prayer
and exultant in his praise.***

When does Christmas really start? Strictly speaking it begins on Christmas Eve with the Vigil Mass of Christmas. Some might argue that we should wait just a little longer until midnight. However, from 17th December there is a marked shift in the liturgy: our primary focus turns from watching expectantly for the return of the Lord to celebrating his coming at Bethlehem in the land of Judah. And so, we start reading the infancy narratives from Matthew and Luke, and on this fourth Sunday of Advent we read the gospels of the Annunciation to Joseph and to Mary and, this year, of the Visitation. They prepare us for what will come later in the week when we sing of our Saviour's birth.

Christmas will, once again, be marked by the darkness of a world which is manifestly broken. We will seek to celebrate in the midst of a pandemic and at the end of a year which has been marked by a growing awareness of the challenge of climate change. Many will celebrate separated from loved ones either by the difficulty of travel or by death. Many both near and far will spend Christmas cold, hungry and lonely. We may think that our Christmas cannot be as joy-filled as before, but I do not think that needs to be the case. Christmas has always been about light shining in darkness. It has always been about the coming of a saviour, and that presumes that we need saving. Holy women and men of the past, in times when life was distinctly nasty, brutish, and short, teach us that there can be real deep joy in our feasting.

We started the season of Advent with an invitation to exercise our longing for the coming of the Lord. As in this week we prepare to celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us continue to long for him and watch for his coming, for he is God-with-us.

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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www.stedsgod.com

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

Plan B COVID precautions Please do not attend if you have any COVID symptoms. Face coverings are now mandatory in places of worship, unless exempt. We encourage you to take a lateral flow test before coming, or as part of your preparations for meeting up with others over Christmas. Mass booking is not required but welcomed over the Christmas period. Please dress warmly as doors and windows will be open for ventilation. Socially distanced seating is available at St Joseph's (but not for Christmas Eve 5pm Mass).

Christmas Masses

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, Sung Mass of Christmas Night (with choir)

Christmas Day -

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 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.

There's no requirement to book but it helps with planning if you can register for Mass by clicking on the event in the parish calendar on our website.

If you are looking for a quieter Mass have a look at booking levels on the Christmas page of our website: www.stedsgod.com/christmas

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

Livestream from www.cpg.church

Outdoor Carols at Ladywell Convent on Sunday 19th December at 3pm in the newly restored walled garden at Ladywell Convent. Please wear a face covering if you are in a crowded part of the garden.

Lectio Divina during Advent Fr Jonathan leads the final Advent reading on zoom on Wednesday 22nd at 7.30pm.

Supporting those in need

Crib Offering: Catholic Children's Society

We look forward to seeing our nativity cribs in our churches next week. Your offerings support the A&B crisis fund, which provides emergency support for vulnerable children and families in our diocese. You can donate cash or use the contactless device. There will also be a collection for this fund at the Outdoor Carols.

DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal As winter approaches, over 22 million people are in desperate need and face hunger and extreme poverty. To donate online visit:

www.cafod.org.uk

Foodbank - urgent needs All types of pasta sauces, including meat-based sauces e.g. bolognese sauce (but not curry sauces); tins of macaroni cheese, tins of hot dogs and tins of mixed sausages and beans. Also, orange squash. The foodbank is open from Monday to Wednesday 22nd next week; if you can't drop off there, please give to Fr Jonathan after Mass. More information at:

<https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/st-marks-food-bank/>

Christmas break Children's Liturgy finishes this Sunday, and sessions resume at St John's on Sunday 9th January at 8.45am. The next Bumps & Babes session is on Monday 10th January at 10.30am at St John's.

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.

Parish Buildings Survey - deadline reminder!

Please respond soon as the survey closes on 3rd January. We are keen to make sure that we cover as wide a range of people as possible. The online form is at: <https://forms.office.com/r/qzusEpZsjV> and paper forms are also available at church if needed; and one for young people under 16: <https://forms.office.com/r/tjX0Kv8V0G>

Christmas Offering offerings over Christmas weekend go to support our priest.

You can Gift Aid your offering allowing us to claim 25% of the value of your donation from HMRC. To keep things simple there are some envelopes at the back of church that can be used by anyone to do this: if you have a current Gift Aid declaration just fill in your name, and if not please complete all the details on the envelope. If you have a box of numbered Gift Aid envelopes these also include one that can be used at Christmas.

If you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope and not one for St John's! You can also use the contactless devices or leave cash in the offertory basket; these contributions are currently tax rebated.

Heaven Made at Christmas A delightful new BBC mini-series featuring Benedictine nuns and monks making Christmas gifts, and featuring the brothers at St Augustine's Chilworth.

Livesimply Christmas Try and avoid glitter, foil and plastic so that gift wrap and cards can be recycled and use ribbon and string rather than Sellotape. Also, you can cut down on black bin rubbish by using fabric tablecloths and napkins instead of paper alternatives. Remembering our desire to live sustainably we can also try to buy less stuff and buy from ethical retailers.

Synod Discussion Groups A two-year 'synodal' process is taking place across the Catholic Church, which is an important moment in the life of the world Church, with Pope Francis calling us all to reflect on the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission'.

Synod discussion groups in our parish will take place during January on Wednesday evenings at 8pm on 12th, 19th and 26th, hopefully in person at Ladywell Convent. If you would like to take part please register using the link in the parish calendar, or by emailing the parish office.

There are other dates and times locally, including an online option. For this and further details please ask or visit our Synod page: www.stedsgod.com/synod

Parish Diaries are no longer available as the company has discontinued production.

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 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 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 Hugh Wright, Ken Dunn and Basia Weaver who died recently, and Malachi Fleming, Ana Maria Lopez, Tom O'Kelly, Bill Bowles, Antony Monje, Julia Gomez, Veneta Wells and Rousin Chowney whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies Fourth Week of Advent

19th December 2021

Saturday 18th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)* - <i>Pat & Len Marsh RIP</i> <i>*Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00am</i> <i>(also at St Joseph's, Guildford from 11am to 3pm)</i> 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the wellbeing of the teenagers of our parish confirmed this year</i>
Sunday 19th December 4 TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Ken Dunn RIP</i>
Monday 20th December	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 21st December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Connie & Bernard Edgar</i>
Wednesday 22nd December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Tom & Helen Kelly RIP</i>
Thursday 23rd December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Guy Wright RIP</i>
Friday 24th December	5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Joseph's) – 7.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Edmund's) 10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's) – <i>For the people of the Parish</i>
Saturday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	8.45am Dawn Mass of Christmas (St John's) – <i>Deacon Jeremy's Intentions</i> 10.30am Mass of Christmas Day (St Joseph's) – <i>Frank & Matthew Brown RIP</i>
Sunday 26th December THE HOLY FAMILY	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Joan Dalton RIP</i>

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 4

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

www.stedsqod.com