



# 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*

## The Season of Christmas 2021



Jesus, in his loving response to his Father, leaves his heavenly throne to become human and to truly share all the joys and struggles that go with it.

Once again, as we keep Christmas in a pandemic, we hear this Good News, that "*today* a saviour has been born for us". His coming among us was not only in some distant time and place but is in our here and now. In a particular way he is with us in the Mass. Once cradled in the arms of his mother, now held gently in our hand and heart in the Eucharist.

This Christmas many are looking forward to re-uniting with families and friends. Some others are living with life-limiting conditions. Some remain far from their families - separated by the continuing difficulty of international travel. Some others will be without loved ones who have died and are sorely missed. Some others are separated by COVID measures in care homes.

I am deeply touched by those who have shared their joys and hopes, and their struggles and sorrows with me these last couple of years and who have granted me the grace of walking alongside them. As I stand at the Altar this Christmas, please be assured that I carry all of you and yours in my heart. I pray that this Christmas you may be touched by Emmanuel, God-with-us.

The new year brings an opportunity to participate in "Synod 2021 - 2023: For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission." *Syn-hodos*: a pathway together. It is an encouragement to us to grow as God's people, walking alongside one another, and alongside a broken world. It is an invitation for us to become outward and visible signs of Emmanuel for one another and instruments of Emmanuel for all those God comes to save. It is the first of many steps that we will need to take on this journey.

*Fr Jonathan*

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

**Welcome to all who are visiting our parish over Christmas, and we wish everyone a peaceful, holy and joy-filled Christmas and a healthy New Year!**

**COVID precautions** Please do not attend if you have any COVID symptoms. Face coverings are mandatory in places of worship, unless exempt. We encourage you to take a lateral flow test before coming to Mass. Booking is not required but welcomed as it helps with planning. Please dress warmly as doors and windows will be open for ventilation. If there are changes to these arrangements after Christmas we will advise by email and the website.

**Livestream Mass** is available from Guildford: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html>

**Christmas Offering** Over the Christmas weekend offerings 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.

### **Outdoor Carols at Ladywell Convent**

There was lots of Christmas good cheer at this event, which brought 100+ parishioners together last Sunday. We had a great 'sing' accompanied by jazz pianist Brady Lloyd. The windows of the convent rooms overlooking the garden were wide open and the community of Sisters sang with us, and we were able to wave, clap and cheer each other – and delicious home-cooked mince pies were provided for the journey home! Thanks to everyone who helped organise and support this event.

**The Parish Office will be closed** from 24<sup>th</sup> December to 4<sup>th</sup> January.

## **Supporting those in need**

**Crib Offering: Catholic Children's Society** Our cribs will remain in place until the end of Christmas on 9<sup>th</sup> January. (Some keep theirs up to 2<sup>nd</sup> February) Your offerings support the A&B crisis fund, which provides emergency support for vulnerable children and families in our diocese.

**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](http://www.cafod.org.uk)

**Christmas activities after the break**  
**Children's Liturgy** resumes at St John's on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45am; **Bumps & Babes** sessions on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30am at St John's; and **SVP Afternoon Tea** on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm.

**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 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 will be Lectio Divina at 7pm, also at the Convent, before the discussion groups start at 8pm.

There will be other Synod groups locally: on a Monday morning in Bramley; Wednesday morning in Cranleigh; Wednesday evening online (hosted by Ash and Heath End). For more details of these and of the Synod visit our web page: [www.stedsgod.com/synod](http://www.stedsgod.com/synod)

**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 it touch if you would like to prepare for the baptism of your children.

**Wintershall Stations of the Cross** are on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 8am; all welcome.

**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>

**Quiet Day at Wintershall** 12<sup>th</sup> January, 10.30 am to 3.30pm. 'Letting Christ be born in us: reflecting on the Nativity'. To book email [camillawhite@waitrose.com](mailto:camillawhite@waitrose.com)

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

**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)

**A&B Job Vacancies** The Diocese is looking for a new Director of Education for summer 2022. Closing date 10/01/22. See <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>

**Parish Database** Over the last year we have been transferring our parish database onto a new system. If you have moved into the parish in the last few years or would like to make sure that we have up to date details, you can provide details directly via the website (<https://stedsgod.com/welcome>) or the yellow paper forms at the back of church.

**Of your charity,** please pray for Hugh Wright (formerly MC at St Edmund's) and Ken Dunn (one of our longest serving parishioners) who died recently. Hugh Wright's funeral will take place at Guildford Crematorium at 2.45pm on 5<sup>th</sup> January. Ken Dunn's will take place at St Joseph's Milford at 11.00am on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

**The leaf bin at St Joseph's** is full and offers excellent mulch if any parishioners would like to help themselves.

**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 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 and Ken Dunn who died recently, and Tim Barraud, May Larry, Mary Brister, Jean Martin, Bernard Laverty, Edward Jazwinski, Joan Estell, Margaret Beagley, May Real, Michael Dolan, Nora Denyer, Anna Clark, Harry Pullen, and Anthony Sweatman whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Masses for the Christmas Season 24<sup>th</sup> December 2021 to 9th January 2022

<b>Friday 24th December</b>	<b>5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Joseph's)</b> <b>7.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Edmund's)</b> <b>10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's)</b> <i>– For the people of the Parish</i>
<b>Saturday 25th December</b> THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	<b>8.45am Dawn Mass of Christmas (St John's)</b> <i>– Deacon Jeremy's Intentions</i> <b>10.30am Mass of Christmas Day (St Joseph's)</b> <i>– Frank &amp; Matthew Brown RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 26th December</b> THE HOLY FAMILY	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Joan Dalton RIP</i>
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> ST JOHN, APOSTLE & EVANGELIST	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Esther &amp; Malcolm Hennell RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 28th December</b> THE HOLY INNOCENTS	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Wednesday 29th December</b> ST THOMAS BECKET	<i>10am Mass available in Cranleigh</i>
<b>Thursday 30th December</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Friday 31st December</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> <i>11.30pm Midnight Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Saturday 1st January</b> MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD	<b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> <i>- Intentions of the Franciscan Sisters of the Divine Motherhood</i>
<b>Sunday 2nd January</b> 2ND SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b>
<b>Monday 3rd January</b> THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 4th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b>
<b>Wednesday 5th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Hugh Wright RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 6th January</b> EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Jesu Lopez RIP</i> <b>7.30pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Friday 7th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Saturday 8th January</b>	<b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Sunday 9th January</b> BAPTISM OF THE LORD	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> 12 noon Baptism – <i>Edwards (St Joseph's)</i> 12.45pm Baptism – <i>Newman (St Joseph's)</i>

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