



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 Baptism of the Lord – Sunday 9th January 2022

This January the Lectionary presents us with the “Three Wonders” of the Epiphany: the coming of the magi, the Baptism of the Lord and the Wedding Feast at Cana. Each of them is a particular moment in which the Lord is revealed to us.

If you ever visit some of the ancient baptisteries you will see that their decorative scheme very often gives prominence to the Baptism of Jesus. One of the most famous of these is Pierro della Francesca’s painting which now hangs in the National Gallery. While the meaning of baptism draws on all those ways in which God saves his people through water it is this episode which seems to have the greatest importance. Jesus, of course, does not need to repent of his sins, nor to have them forgiven through baptism, and yet his baptism is recorded in each of the four Gospels (one of the few things that are), so how should we understand it?

From the earliest days, men and women have become Christian by baptism. At the end of Matthew’s Gospel Jesus commands his disciples to go and baptise all nations. Baptism is our first and most important contact with the mystery of Jesus. It is the sacrament of divine exchange. Jesus humbles himself to share our humanity and through the waters of baptism we come to share in his divinity. We are adopted as sons and daughters of God, becoming heirs to his kingdom and his promises. We become part of the body of Christ, such that what we do is done in Christ and our actions can share in his saving and loving work.

Over the last 50 or 60 years the church has come to understand the importance of dialogue – of speaking and *of an attractive listening* – as reflecting the way in which God himself deals with us in his son Jesus and as the pattern for living the mystery of faith in our day and age. With Pope Francis it takes the form of accompaniment. The Synod is an invitation to grow in our capacity for listening to the Holy Spirit at work in the church and in the lives of men and women. Please pray that the Holy Spirit may grow always stronger in us and that we may be every more faithful and fruitful in our mission.

Mass Responses for The Baptism of the Lord

PSALM RESPONSE: Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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

COVID precautions Please don't attend if you have any COVID symptoms. Face coverings are mandatory in places of worship, unless exempt. For the moment we encourage you to take a lateral flow test before coming to Mass. Sunday Masses are currently not too busy and it is possible to spread out. We are retaining some socially distanced seating at St Joseph's. Please dress warmly as doors and windows will be open for ventilation.

We know that some people are wary of coming to Mass on a Sunday. Weekday Masses are much quieter, with between six and 20 people, and plenty of opportunity to spread out.

Synod 2021-2023: a two-year process taking place across the Catholic Church, with Pope Francis inviting all Catholics to reflect on the theme 'For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission'.

This week sees the start of the 'synodal' process within our parish with **Discussion Groups on Wednesday evenings at 8pm on 12th, 19th and 26th January**, in person (and socially distanced) at Ladywell Retreat Centre. To take part, please register with the link in the parish calendar, or email the parish office. There are other Synod groups locally: in person on Monday morning in Bramley and Wednesday morning in Cranleigh, and online with Ash on Wednesday evening.

There are more details of these on our web page: www.stedsgod.com/synod

There is also an opportunity to make an individual contribution, and to help with this there is an A4 handout this weekend with the themes, prompt questions and details of how and where to reply.

Lectio Divina During January this will take place in person at Ladywell Retreat Centre, from 7pm-7.45pm before the Synod discussion groups start at 8pm.

New Small Group(s) for young couples
There are some young couples in the parish interested in forming a new small group to meet for prayer and fellowship each month. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Fr Jonathan. It is suggested that these be part of Teams of Our Lady.

Supporting those in need

Crib Offering: Catholic Children's Society Your offerings support the A&B crisis fund, which provides emergency support for vulnerable children and families in our diocese.

DEC Afghanistan Crisis Appeal Over 22 million people are in desperate need and face hunger and extreme poverty. To donate online visit: www.cafod.org.uk

Foodbank Your donations are important, so please check the requirement list on the website as it is updated monthly, and drop off items at St Mark's Community Centre <https://parishofgodalming.org.uk/st-marks-food-bank/> If you would like to donate to the Foodbank by bank transfer, please request bank details from Karen: stmarkscentre@googlemail.com

Volunteers are also needed to help out on a Monday afternoon from 12.00 until 14.30. If you would like more information, please contact Rev Sheila Samuels via www.parishofgodalming.org.uk

LOAF Christmas outreach For this year's Christmas card and gifts scheme LOAF distributed poinsettias, presents and hampers to parishioners and others in our local area, and in particular to the sick of the parish and those with mental health difficulties, trying to provide gifts and love in equal measure. As Mother Theresa said, "Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." LOAF thanks everybody involved for their help, and the children and teachers at St Edmund's Primary School for all their beautiful cards. LOAF has received many messages of thanks and knows their cards and gifts were much appreciated. If you would like to know more about LOAF, contact Alan: alio@btinternet.com

Fr Jonathan would like to say "Thank you" for the generous contributions to the Christmas offering and for the many cards and gifts received.

SVP Afternoon Tea - Cancelled In view of current Covid infections, SVP has cancelled the Tea on Wednesday 12th January. They regret any disappointment parishioners may feel and hope to resume this monthly gathering when it is safer to do so.

Confirmation 2022 Preparation will begin on Sunday evenings in a few weeks' time. 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.

Diocesan Directories A few of these are available in the parish on request. Cost £5.

Bumps and Babes This group now meets regularly on Monday mornings at 10.30am, at St John's Centre, Farncombe. All young families are welcome. More information from Eileen: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Justice & Peace Assembly Webinar 'To a Safer Shore?' On refugees and what we can do to help; 15th Jan 9.45am to 1pm, online. To book Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Day of Prayer at Ladywell on 23rd February. Fr Jonathan will lead this day of prayer to help us prepare Lent. More details to follow.

Retreats and prayer courses are available online from: the London Jesuit Centre: <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/>; the House of Prayer: <https://www.christian-retreat.org/>; and the Alton Renewal ADoRE programme: <https://www.altonrenewal.com/2022>

New(ish) to the Parish? Moved house? If you have moved into the parish recently - or would like to check that we have your up to date details - please visit our webpage: <https://stedsgod.com/welcome> or fill out a yellow form at the back of church. Fr Jonathan is very happy to come and bless any new homes – just ask.

Parish Buildings Survey Thanks to everyone who responded. Fr Jonathan and the group will feedback next month. In the meanwhile, please pray that the Holy Spirit may guide us as we discern the next steps for our parish and its buildings.

Churches Together in Godalming (CTiG) Prayer Breakfast takes place on Saturday 22nd January. Please check their website nearer the time for details of venue/online.

CTiG January Link-Up Newsletter This is on our website with Newsletters. Please let you know if you would like a printed copy.

Live Simply January's meeting is on 13th at 7.30pm. More info from: jolewry@aol.com

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 January:

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

The sick and those who care for them

including Fr Chris Dobson, Maria Lopez, Jean Rejniak, Arden Holford, 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, 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 Jean Humphrey, Hugh Wright and Ken Dunn who died recently, and Danny Furlong, Robert Wilson, Andrew Barnard, Lilian Legg, Jan Haskell, Kathleen Wheeler, Malcolm Ogilvie Forbes, John Bunting, Jesu Lopez, Irene Routledge, Barbara Selley, Kaz Kuhlman, Grace Coulber, Dorothy Lacey-Smith, Peter Clark, Teresa Bontoft, Sidney Gale, James McGrath, Bill Frayne, Winifrid de Guignand, Eric Frei, David Goodfellow, Helen Gatford and Halina Lada-Walicki whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses
The Baptism of the Lord
First Week in Ordinary Time**

9th January 2022

Saturday 8th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the synodal journey</i>
Sunday 9th January BAPTISM OF THE LORD	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – 12 noon Baptism – Edwards (St Joseph's) 12.45pm Baptism – Newman (St Joseph's)
Monday 10th January	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 11th January	8.00am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Peter Kelly RIP</i> 11.00am Requiem Mass for Ken Dunn (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 12th January	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
Thursday 13th January	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 14th January	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Peter Lamb RIP</i>
Saturday 15th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 16th January 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 1

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

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

www.stedsqod.com