



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 Sunday in Ordinary Time – 23rd January 2022 Sunday of the Word of God

Jesus's reading from the Prophet Isaiah and the re-dedication of Israel in the Book of Nehemiah are the model for the Liturgy of the Word – that part of Mass when we listen to the readings and homily and respond in prayer. We are not so much participating in a book club, or studying a text, as sharing in an *action* in which God speaks to us here and how – “these words are being fulfilled today, even as you listen”.

The Liturgy of the Word is an *event* in which Jesus Christ himself is fully present (in a way that is analogous to his presence in the Blessed Sacrament), addressing us with his saving word and with the same transforming power and authority as he addressed those gathered in the synagogue at Nazareth, by the Sea of Galilee, on the mount of beatitudes, and in Jerusalem.

How can we make this more a reality in our celebration, and make our celebrations more fruitful in transforming our lives and the world?

Firstly, I would strongly encourage you to pray through the readings *before* you come to Mass. Be familiar with the words you will hear so that you can then go deeper when they are proclaimed in the assembly. Lectio Divina is a particularly fruitful way of prayer and preparation.

Secondly, those who proclaim the word (note that I didn't say 'read') need not only to speak clearly and to understand what they are saying, but also to allow the word to enter their lives through prayer so that when they speak, we hear the Lord himself. I am grateful to all those who offer this service to our parish and would love to hear from anyone who thinks they might be able to exercise this service in our liturgy.

Thirdly, and I know some will vehemently disagree with me, I really encourage you to put your missals or mass books to one side during the Liturgy of the Word and look up. The Word of God is ultimately not lines of black and white on a page, but a person who addresses us. Many speak of the importance of community, and there is a world of difference between everyone reading in their own bubble while someone else reads at a lectern and engaging in a common action of listening and responding. Do give it a try. (That said, a missal or mass book can be a great help, and entirely appropriate, if it is difficult to hear what is being said.)

Mass Responses for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

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www.stedsgod.com

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

Sunday of the Word of God There will be a blessing of readers at each of our Masses this weekend, after the bidding prayers.

If you are thinking of buying a new Missal, remember that we will soon have new translations of the readings. If you would like to borrow a copy of the Sunday Mass book so that you can prepare at home, please do ask.

The God who Speaks website has some great resources, including an introduction to the Bible from Fr Stephen Wang, advice on how to read it, and introductions to each of the Gospels: <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The 10.30am Mass at Milford will be a Mass for the Unity of Christians, with the readings of the Sunday.

The United Service at 10.30am on Sunday at St John's will be livestreamed and available afterwards: <https://youtu.be/xaH0XWvk7xk>; and at <https://guc.online.church>.

Even though we are still separated at the Eucharistic table, on this Sunday of the Word of God we might give thanks for the great blessing of the Common Lectionary, in which most Christians now read the same scriptures each Sunday.

Coffee after Mass at St John's Next month we are delighted to be reinstating coffee after Mass on the first and third Sunday of the month and look forward to providing an opportunity to chat and socialise after Mass as and when people are ready. If you can help just a few times a year, please speak with Jo Lewry or Fr Jonathan.

Screens at St Joseph's will be back in use in February. If you enjoy IT and would like to join the rota to operate the screens, please get in touch with Peter Sims: 01483 422755.

COVID precautions We will continue to encourage the wearing of face coverings and keep doors and windows open. Please do not attend if you have any symptoms and test before coming to Mass if possible. There is some socially distanced seating at St Joseph's, but if you are wary of coming to Sunday Mass, weekday Masses are much quieter, with space to spread out.

Confirmation 2022 Please make contact with Fr Jonathan before 31st January if you or your children are in Year 10 or above and interested in being confirmed this summer or exploring what this might mean.

Synod 2021-2023 Discussion Groups

Thank you for participating; we have been enjoying some lively conversations! Everyone is welcome to join us for our final session is on **26th January** when we will be looking at the theme of 'Mission'. We meet at 8pm in person, and socially distanced, at Ladywell Retreat Centre. For more information about the Synod visit: www.stedsgod.com/synod.

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.

Live Simply Christmas gifts for HMP

Send Thank you to all who contributed to this initiative to show solidarity with the women prisoners at HMP Send on Christmas day. They all received a goodie bag with a variety of items, and due to your generosity, we also donated £359 to the chaplaincy's charity 'The Nazareth Way' for ongoing support for the prisoners and their families. We have received thanks from the chaplains: 'Thank you for all your efforts. The women were absolutely delighted. Please pass on our thanks and those of our residents'.

Colour and Shape If you're not able to bring your children to Mass, or if you'd like to prepare for Mass at home, this weekly video reflection on the Sunday Gospel is a wonderful resource for parents with children: <https://www.colourandshapeonline.com/connect-sunday>

Churches Together in Godalming (CTiG)

Prayer Breakfast takes place on Saturday 29th January at the Cellar Café, 8am-10am.

Evening Prayer for Divorced, Remarried and Separated

on Sunday 6th February at 3.00pm in Horsham. All those in our parish who may be separated, divorced, or have married again, are invited to come together to meet Bishop Richard for conversation, prayer, tea and cake. To register please visit: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/chpfxz58>

Science and Religion Fr Andrew Pinsent, who is both a scientist and a Catholic priest, and currently head of the Centre for Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, is giving a talk at 7.30pm on 12th February at St Joseph's Church Hall, Guildford. He will explore the myth of the conflict between Science and Religion and show that faith and reason are compatible and complementary paths to truth. The talk is open to all; more information from: larissa.bgd@gmail.com

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.

CAFOD Walk against Hunger This Lent join our challenge to walk (virtually) from St Edmund's to Freetown in Sierra Leone, about 3,900 miles or 6300 km! If you can walk 5km/3 miles each day for the 40 days of Lent we can add our miles together and reach Sierra Leone where many children suffer from malnutrition and families don't have enough to eat. We need at least 30 walkers – and more would be great! - so email Jo on jolewry@aol.com to let her know that you are taking part, and share our JustGiving page <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jo-and-julian-walk-against-hunger> with your friends and family so they can sponsor you and together we can reach our target of £1000. Thank you.

A&B Lourdes Pilgrimage The 2022 diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place from 29th July - 4th August. The group takes more than 700 pilgrims and enables 130 sick, disabled, frail or elderly people, to make the journey too. The pilgrimage is 'Love in Action', as we serve each other and renew our commitment to walk with Jesus Christ with the help of Our Lady and St Bernadette. More information: telephone: 01403 740110; <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

The House of Prayer Their programme of retreat days and prayer days is at: <https://www.christian-retreat.org/>

CAFOD are pressing for legislation to make UK companies ensure that their activities do not put human rights or our common home at risk. To support their campaign visit: <https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Human-rights>

Children's Liturgy won't take place at St John's next Sunday (30th January). Fr Jonathan will provide a special welcome!

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. Contact Alan on 01483 420859.

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 people of Tonga.

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, Margarita Crawford, Irene Grant, Margaret Silvester, Nancy Drapper, Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, Ruth de Stefani, Josie Whittle, 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 and Jean Barnes who died recently, and Elizabeth Brewer, Alan Batchelor, Molly Cliff, Carmine Barbato, Freda Etsel, Jean Cox, Peter Ellis, David Little, Leonard Bryant and Marie Batty whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses
Third Week in Ordinary Time**

23rd January 2022

Saturday 22nd January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Alan & Nicki Lion
Sunday 23rd January 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	8.45am Mass (St John's) – Lisa Brodwin 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – People of the Parish 12 noon Baptism – Begoña Gamboa Alcolea (St Joseph's)
Monday 24th January St Francis de Sales	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 25th January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – For the Unity of Christians
Wednesday 26th January SS Timothy and Titus	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) 1.00pm Funeral Mass – Jean Barnes RIP (St Joseph's)
Thursday 27th January	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Celebrant's Intention
Friday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Saturday 29th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Marie Batty RIP
Sunday 30th January 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the Parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Celebrant's Intention 12.15pm Baptism – Robyn Nicholls (St Edmund's)

Sunday Year C. Psalter Week 3.

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>

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