



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*

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 26th June 2022

Once the hand is laid on the plough, no one who looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.

I have to confess that I have never ploughed a field, but I think we are supposed to think that looking back is not a good thing to do, that maybe it causes you to go off-line. This saying of Jesus was really important for me in my twenties. As a teenager I had wondered whether to become a teacher (maths or physics would have been my subjects) or to explore a vocation to priesthood. I went from university to seminary and was ordained priest just before my 26th birthday. (Some of my later students at Wonersh thought that was a *very* young age to be ordained.) During those years of formation and discernment I would sometimes wonder whether I should leave and get some other experience, perhaps by teaching for a few years, but it was this very phrase from today's Gospel that kept coming back to me and helped me to trust that the Lord knew what he was doing in leading me along this way without regret.

There is something very human about what is sometimes called 'counterfactual thinking' – wondering, or spending too much time and energy worrying, about how things might otherwise have been. What if I had done X or Y instead? What if P had happened instead of Q? This way of thinking may sometimes be helpful in reviewing serious incidents, but I am not sure that it is helpful to our day-to-day wellbeing and our spiritual lives.

I remember Archbishop Kevin MacDonald, when he came to Southwark, asking 'What was the best time to be Catholic?' and suggesting to us that *now* was the best time, because it was the time that had been given to us. A pandemic, a war in Europe, a waning of faith and a political and economic crisis are not things that we would choose but they are the context in which *we* are called to follow the Lord and bear witness to what *we* have received. There is no time in history in which the life of faith has been without its challenges. Those who were Catholic here in the early modern period were fined into submission. Those who might have celebrated Mass were arrested and imprisoned, as were those who sheltered them. Many others later were to be migrants, penniless and poor and far from their homeland. Their faith, like that of the psalmist, was based on their sense that God was with them now and that they need only look to him to be safe, secure and ultimately full of joy. In challenging times we too need to run the race that God has given us, with our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Mass Responses for Thirteenth Sunday

PSALM RESPONSE: O Lord, it is you who are my portion.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all within me, his holy name.

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www.stedsgod.com

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

Feast of SS Peter and Paul – 29th June

*Vigil Mass Tuesday 7.30pm at St Edmund's, with adjournment to The Star pub for a pint.

*Mass Wednesday 10.00am at St Joseph's with coffee and cake at Squires after. (Please let us know if you are coming for coffee)

*Mass Wednesday 2.00pm at St Edmund's School. Parents and parishioners welcome.

First Holy Communion 2023 There will be a meeting for parents wishing to prepare their children for First Holy Communion in 2022/23 at 7.30pm in St Edmund's Church on Thursday 7th July. Please register for this via the website (See Calendar on home page or go to the First Holy Communion page).

Coffee after Mass at St John's next Sunday Please come along to support the Fairtrade sale and to listen to Jo speaking about **CAFOD's Fix the Food System Campaign** and find out more about how to support this campaign.

The Day for Life The focus this year is the care of the elderly, chosen because of the present catechesis of Pope Francis on the topic, the tragic impact of COVID on elderly people, and the fact that elderly people are those who are most threatened by the possible legislation of Assisted Suicide and by the current health and social care crisis. We are invited to think again about the value and worth of older persons in families, in parishes, in society, and to make practical choices to build bridges between the generations. In this way we will learn from the wisdom of the elderly and the different rhythm of their lives, 'The arrogance of the time on the clock must be converted into the beauty of the rhythms of life.' (Pope Francis). The collection supports a range of organisations which seek to protect life from the beginning to its natural earthly end as well as some practical projects such as Rachel's Vineyard, and homes run for pregnant mothers by Life.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross 7am on Friday 3rd July. All welcome.

Fr Jonathan will be at **Scoutabout** from 1st to 3rd July. See him at Mass or the Abseil Tower. Fr Chris Dobson will be celebrating the Masses in our parish that weekend.

St Edmund's School PSA Summer Fest is on Saturday 9th July from 1pm to 4pm. Please come along and support this annual event.

Pilgrimage of reparation and consecration with Mass and devotions will take place at West Grinstead (just south of Horsham) on Saturday 16th July from noon to 4.15pm.

Hymn Books To support music at the 6pm and 8.45am Masses we have purchased enough copies of *Laudate* for the regular congregation. We feel that this is something that people may wish to make a special contribution to and this can be done in cash or using the contactless machines. The cost is £6 per hymn book. Thank you to those who have already contributed to a total of £500+.

'**Gluten-free hosts**' we have a new supply of ultra-low gluten hosts. They are made from wheat starch contain 20ppm gluten and are on the Coeliac UK list. If you need one please ask Fr Jonathan.

End of Term Pizza Evening on 21st July and an **Outdoor Activity Day** on 14th October are being organised for young people currently in school years 6, 7 or 8. Further details can be found in the Youth section of the parish website or against the relevant entry in the parish calendar.

World Meeting of Families 22-26 June Pope Francis says that 'the family is the place where we learn to live with one another, to live with young people and with those who are older. And by being united in our differences - young people, the elderly, adults, children - we evangelize with our example of life'. Pray for Christian families around the world, that they may embody and experience unconditional love and advance in holiness in their daily lives. More info at: www.romefamily2022.com

A Day with Mary at Arundel Cathedral This annual event takes place on 9th July www adaywithmary.org

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) This course, which is for anyone interested in finding out more about their faith, begins again in the Diocese in the autumn. For more information, contact the Jon Harman E: jon.harman@abdiocese.org.uk

Supporting the Foodbank during school holidays School holidays are approaching, which can be a difficult time for young families. Please try to add extra items to your shop and drop off at church where there are collection boxes during July. Items urgently needed for school hols lunch parcels include snacks (crisps etc), children's drinks (e.g fruit shoots) and individually wrapped biscuits/cakes. Also urgently needed: cracker biscuits/Ritz crackers, UHT semi-skimmed milk, squash, custard, noodles, tuna, teabags (40s/80s), toilet cleaner.

Healthcare professionals against assisted suicide Please show your support for better palliative care and life until its natural end by signing the 'Our Duty of Care Declaration'. Last year the British Medical Association voted to become neutral on assisted suicide so it is vital we seize every opportunity to support campaigns opposed to medical suicide and euthanasia. More information at: www.ourdutyofcare.org.uk

Are you thinking of taking a Gap year? CAFOD offers a gap year programme called 'Step into the Gap' which enables young people to gain new skills, develop as a leader and benefit from work experience. Applications for September 2022 are now open. Find out more at: <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/For-young-people/CAFOD-Gap-year>

Abraham – a course for the over 70s with the Chemin Neuf Community The Genesis account of Abraham and his lengthy walk with God is the inspiration for this course which runs at Storrington Priory in West Sussex, on five Thursdays starting on 22nd September. Suggested contribution of £30. <https://www.chemin-neuf.org.uk/abraham/>

Counters Needed Can you help with counting the Offertory collections? It takes an hour or so every couple of months. If you can help, please contact Eileen on 01483 208238.

Church Cleaning at St Joseph's The cleaning team would welcome some new recruits. They work in pairs and are on the rota to clean approx. every 6 weeks, so it's not an onerous commitment. Please contact Helen McSherry on t: 01483 414513; e: helenmcsherry@btinternet.com for more info.

Follow us on facebook So far, we have 87 followers; you can find us @stedsgod

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 contact Eileen: ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

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 07379 108009.

Godalming Foodbank. Please contact the SVP or Fr Jonathan if you need a referral.

Mental Health support The mental health crisis helpline is 0800 915 4644, open 24/7 for support for adults, children and young people in distress. If you're worried about yourself or a young person, you can be signposted to face-to-face assessment or support e.g. Guildford Safe Haven.

Please remember in your prayers
All those affected by COVID and its impact on people around the world. Peace in Ukraine.

The Holy Father's Intention for July We pray for the elderly, who represent the roots and memory of a people; may their experience and wisdom help young people to look towards the future with hope and responsibility.

The sick and those who care for them including Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Margarita Crawford, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nancy Drapper, Nicole Ernould, Eileen Fleming, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Irene Grant, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, John Lennox, Ann Lloyd, Maria Lopez, Betty Matthews, Frances Muir, Gerry Newell, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Ethel Stammers, Anne Stephens, Jean Tyrell, Anita van Rheenan, Josie Whittle, Pat Wilson and those in our hospitals and care homes and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Ronald Voller, Dorothy Leonard, Elizabeth Bowles, Duncan Cosgrove, Victor Birbeck, Mary Williamson, Denise Cockburn, Edmund Szalajda, Joan Matthews, Peter Barnard, Richard Doyle-Davidson, Kathleen Lewis, Matthew Brown and Mary Harmsworth whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses & Liturgies

Week 13 in Ordinary Time - 26th June 2022

Saturday 25th June <i>The Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>	2.30pm Thanksgiving Mass for Hilary Grey (Elstead) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Private Intention</i>
Sunday 26th June THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>In thanksgiving</i> 12.15pm Baptism – Flaherty (St Edmund's) 1.00pm Baptism – Orpin (St Edmund's)
Monday 27th June	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Robin & Catherine Redfern (Anniversary)</i>
Tuesday 28th June <i>St Irenæus</i>	7.30pm Vigil Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Robert Gilmour RIP</i>
Wednesday 29th June SS PETER AND PAUL	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Hilary Grey RIP</i> 2.00pm Mass (St Edmund's School, The Drive) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Thursday 30th June	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) –
Friday 1st July Consecration of Arundel Cathedral	<i>10.00am Mass at St Thomas More, Bramley</i>
Saturday 2nd July	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Matthew & Frank Brown RIP</i>
Sunday 3rd July FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Private Intention</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Bishop Richard's Intentions (Ruby Jubilee)</i>

Sunday Year C. Weekday Readings Cycle II. Psalter Week 1.

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

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