



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*

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 24th 2022

In today's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 11:1-13), Saint Luke narrates the circumstances in which Jesus teaches the "Lord's Prayer". The disciples already know how to pray by reciting the formulas of the Jewish tradition, but they too wish to experience the same "quality" of Jesus' prayer because they can confirm that prayer is an essential dimension in their Master's life. Indeed each of his important actions is marked by long pauses in prayer. Moreover, they are fascinated because they see that he does not pray like the other teachers of the time, but rather his prayer is an intimate bond with the Father, so much so that they wish to be a part of these moments of union with God, in order to completely savour its sweetness.

Thus, one day they wait for Jesus to finish praying in a secluded place and then they ask him: "Lord, teach us to pray" (v. 1). Jesus does not provide an abstract definition of prayer, nor does he teach an efficient technique to pray in order to "obtain" something. Instead, he invites his own to experience prayer, by putting them directly in communication with the Father, causing them to feel nostalgic for a personal relationship with God, with the Father. Herein lies the novelty of Christian prayer! It is a dialogue between people who love each other, between children and their Father. This is Christian prayer.

Hence, he delivers the "Lord's Prayer" to them, perhaps the most precious gift left to us by the Divine Master during his earthly mission. When Jesus teaches us the "Our Father", he allows us to enter into God's paternity and he points the way to enter into a prayerful and direct dialogue with him, through the path of filial intimacy. It is a dialogue between a father and his son, of a son with his father. As we ask, we open our hand to receive; to receive the gifts that the Father has shown us in his Son. Distractions can occur in prayer, but sometimes we stop at the first word, "Father", and feel that paternity in our heart.

Jesus then recounts the parable of the importune friend and Jesus says: "we must persevere in prayer". My thoughts turn to what children do when they are three-and-a-half years old: they begin to ask about things they do not understand. In my country, it is called "the 'why' age", I think it is also the same here. Children begin to look at their father and ask: Why Dad? Why Dad? They ask for explanations. Let us be careful: when the father begins to explain why, they come up with another question without listening to the entire explanation. What is happening? Children feel insecure about many things that they are only partially beginning to understand. They only wish to attract the father's gaze, and thus the "why, why, why?". If we pause on the first word of the "Our Father", we will be doing the same as when we were children: attracting the father's gaze upon us: saying, "Father, Father" and also asking, "why?", and he will look at us.

[This reflection is a shortened version of one of Pope Francis's addresses]

Mass Responses for Seventeenth Sunday

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: God is in his holy place, God who unites those who dwell in his house; he himself gives might and strength to his people.

PSALM RESPONSE: On the day I called, you answered me, O Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! The Word was made flesh and lived among us: to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.

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St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.2528

New Priest for Godalming & Haslemere

As announced recently, Bishop Richard is appointing Fr Rajesh Minz to serve alongside myself in Godalming. Fr Rajesh and I are also appointed to the neighbouring parish of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold, where Fr Rajesh will reside. Fr Rajesh will take the lead in the day-to-day pastoral care of Haslemere parish and I will continue to do so for Godalming. There is no intention to merge the two parishes, and the plan is for me to celebrate Masses one weekend a month in the Haslemere parish, and for Fr Rajesh to do the same here. We pray that this new arrangement will bring many blessings to our priests and our parish.

- Fr Jonathan

This weekend we welcome Fr David

Osborne who will be celebrating all Masses in the parish whilst Fr Jonathan is away.

This Sunday is World Day for the Elderly and Grandparents

The theme is 'In old age they will still bear fruit' (Psalm 92:15). Pope Francis has requested that we use this day to honour those who have further steps on their life journey and particularly Grandparents. He says "Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!"

<https://tinyurl.com/39zur39a>

Food crisis in East Africa The worst drought in decades, rocketing food prices and the devastation of a massive locust infestation have caused a terrifying food crisis, and in Ethiopia, Kenya and South Sudan millions could die. Please consider donating to the **CAFOD World Food Crisis** appeal: <https://cafod.org.uk/> Or to **Mary's Meals** which feed school children in North Kenya, where 50% are acutely malnourished. A donation of £15.90 feeds one child for a year: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Sea Sunday Thank you for your donations so far of £264 (and counting), for the work of Stella Maris chaplains www.stellamaris.org.uk

First Holy Communion preparation

2022-2023 If you missed the recent FHC information evening and would like some information, please email the co-ordinator Anne: communionatsteds@gmail.com More information at: <https://stedsgod.com/fhc>

Pizza and Prayer on Sunday evenings in the school hols

If you're in Yr9 or above and are interested, please pop your name against dates in the Doodle and we'll pick dates when there are enough people to run it: <https://tinyurl.com/erxceffx> Those thinking about Confirmation in the coming year are particularly encouraged to come along.

SVP announces a special Summer Raffle

You could be in for a prize of £5,000 by supporting SVP this summer! SVP members will be selling raffle tickets after Mass during July and August to help raise funds for SVP work locally and nationally - offering friendship, practical assistance and everyday support to people in need. Tickets cost £1 and cash prizes are £5000, £1000 and 15 prizes of £100. The draw is on 27th September, the Feast of St Vincent de Paul.

Feast of the Assumption It is always a pleasure to get together as a parish to celebrate this Feast (which is transferred to the Sunday this year) and Richard Grey has kindly offered to host a gathering on Sunday 14th August. More details to follow.

Creation Mass at Ladywell Convent on 4th September

To mark the start of the Season of Creation the 10.30am Mass on 4th September will be celebrated in the grounds of Ladywell Convent, with coffee and cake and time for a parish social afterwards. The 8.45am Mass will take place at Farncombe as usual. All Masses that weekend will have the theme of Creation and mark the start of a month reflecting on our stewardship.

St Edmund's Big Green Week event

The Live Simply group invites you to a parish shared supper and talk on "rubbish" by Ian Honeysett on **24th September** at the Church room at St John's, 7.30pm to 10pm.

St Edmund's Parish Quiz This annual event in support of CAFOD takes place on **Saturday 19th November** at 7.30pm. Save the date and gather your team of 8!

Exploring Becoming a Catholic Christian

Fr Jonathan and the parish, in humility, would like to invite any of our brothers and sisters or visitors who feel at home among us or who desire to join us more fully in the community of faith, receiving the sacraments and proclaiming the good news, to join us for a series of evenings exploring the Catholic faith through the coming year. If you are interested or would like to know more, please speak with Fr Jonathan or Ian Honeysett. (The evenings are often referred to as RCIA.)

Supporting the Foodbank School holidays can be a very difficult time for young families, so please try to add extra items to your shop; there are collection boxes during July... at St John's, for the Community Store needs:

<https://godalmingcommunitystore.org/shopping-list>

and at St Edmund's or St Joseph's for St Mark's Foodbank, whose needs are:

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

Follow up from the Synod The National Synthesis Team has reflected on the conversations from the 'local' part of the Synodal process and their document, issued on 22nd June, will be sent to the Synod Office in Rome, and can be read via a link at: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>

A&B weekly diocesan email This includes a news update, Bishop Richard's reflection on the Sunday Gospel for the week, and other items of interest. If you would like to subscribe the link is at the bottom of the homepage: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/>

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies is a well-established introduction to the formal study of our Catholic faith followed by many who want to deepen their faith or take a leading role in handing it on to others in our parishes or schools. A new cohort will start in October. There are 8 modules (each delivered over two Saturdays) which need to be completed within 5 years. If you are interested, please speak with Fr Jonathan.

Beginning Experience Weekend If you have experienced divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal takes place 14/16 October at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. For more details contact Maura M: 07795 498445 or E: johnbrotherton@gmail.com

New Dawn in the Church Catholic Family Pilgrimage Conference, 1- 5 August at Walsingham. Excellent speakers, workshops, ministries - and experience the power of the Holy Spirit: <https://www.newdawn.org.uk/>

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 for the Food Bank at St Marks or Godalming Community Food Store.

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 Colin Humphrey, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Margarita Crawford, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nancy Drapper, Nicolle 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 Janet Dale, Hugh O'Donnell, and Sean Allmark who died recently, and Jock McKenna, Peter Casey, Kathleen Still, Agnes Grey, Edith Blaikie, Elsie Rapley and Mary Flight whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses & Liturgies

Week 17 in Ordinary Time – July 24th 2022

Saturday 23rd July ST BRIDGET OF SWEDEN	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Matthew & Frank Brown RIP</i>
Sunday 24th July SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Peter Turner RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i>
Monday 25th July ST JAMES	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 26th July Sts Joachim and Anne	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Wednesday 27th July	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>David Newall RIP</i>
Thursday 28th July	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Hilary Grey RIP</i>
Friday 29th July Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Private Intention</i>
Saturday 30th July	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 31st July EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) <i>– Anna-Maria Lewry & James Drummond</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Katie Ewing RIP</i>

Sunday Year C. Weekday Readings Cycle II. Psalter Week 4.

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

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