



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford

*Through the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
our Parish will grow as the Body of Christ in Godalming
and as a sign lifted up for the peoples*

First Sunday of Advent 27th November 2022

Maranatha!

There are a few words in Aramaic, the language of Jesus, that have remained with us. Alleluia and Amen are probably the most familiar. In the season of Advent we take another on our lips – *Maranatha*. It is a word of prayer and of invitation – Come Lord!

The season of Advent, in particular the first part up to 16th December, is not just a time for getting our act together for Christmas. It has its own purpose and character. It is about watching, waiting, and *praying*, for the coming of the Lord. I think sometimes we forget that Jesus promised that he would come again, despite the words we recite each week in the Creed.

Six weeks after I was born Simon and Garfunkel recorded their "7 O'Clock News / Silent Night". They sing the familiar Christmas carol while news headlines of the time are read out. It contrasts the gentle birth of the saviour with the troubles of the 1960s. This advent I find myself praying through the troubles of our present day: war in Ukraine and Tigray, climate change, famine in Africa, flooding in Pakistan, the vast discrepancy of wealth and outcomes for rich and poor. Into these situations I remember Jesus's promise that he would come again and pray that he will come, and come quickly to put an end to human misery and suffering.

Prayer is always an exercise of desire. In Advent in particular this becomes a deep yearning for the Lord to come again, and I invite you to join me in this great act of yearning and watching and waiting – to find within ourselves that same inability to wait for something great and marvellous that is so often how children approach exciting things on the horizon. As we wait we will find that the Spirit stirs in us a commitment to respond to these situations of misery and suffering. We will also discover as we celebrate the Feast of the Incarnation that God is indeed with us.

So that we may feel the mystery and joy of Christmas more deeply, I encourage you to enter into the Advent season. Have a listen to some of the great music that has been part of its observance: the haunting plainsong of the *Rorate Caeli*, Wesley's majestic *Lo, He Comes*, JS Bach's sonorous *Wachet Auf*. Join me for *Lectio Divina* on Wednesday evenings and pray through some of the great prophesies of Isaiah. Above all, allow the Lord to nurture in your hearts a hope and desire for his coming again. Maranatha! Come Lord, come!

Mass Responses for First Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: I rejoiced when I heard them say: 'Let us go to God's house.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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www.stedsqod.com

This Sunday we offer a special welcome to our First Holy Communion families attending the 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's.

Next Sunday Fr Rajesh will celebrate our weekend Masses, and after 8.45am Mass there is coffee/tea and a Fairtrade sale.

Bishop Richard will be with us for 6pm Mass on 10th December to induct Fr Rajesh as one of the priests of the parish. He will celebrate the 11am Mass at Haslemere the following day to induct Fr Rajesh and Fr Jonathan as priests of the parish of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold.

Stewardship A big thank you to all who have kindly returned the leaflets - Time, Talents and Treasure, and My Parish Commitment. Further copies are available at Mass this weekend, with return envelopes to protect your privacy. You can find out more about how to share your Time and Talents at <https://stedsgod.com/time-and-talents> and, if you prefer, fill out a form online at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/rgrm97bf>

Annual parish quiz raises £545! Many thanks to all who supported the quiz night last weekend. Special thanks to quiz master Ian and assistant Louise, and to all who helped with food and clearing up. The funds raised will be used to purchase items from CAFOD's World Gifts catalogue to help the poorest in our world. Thank you.

EdsKnitters The parish knitting group is meeting on 12th December 2-3pm, at St Edmund's presbytery, for tea and Christmas cake. If you enjoy knitting/crochet and would like to come along, please email Sarah for more info: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Live Simply Christmas Appeal for St Mark's Foodbank to help with special Christmas food parcels for families at four local schools. Seasonal food items are needed and can be dropped off at the collection boxes at our churches by 11th December. You can also donate funds to the Foodbank via the contactless devices at Mass. More info from Jo Pomeroy: 07920 180495.

Churches Together Christmas Lunch If you know of anyone who might like to attend at the Baptist Church on Christmas Day, or to help, contact: sarahhiggins478@gmail.com

The Season of Advent in the Parish

Lectio Divina Fr Jonathan invites you to join him for this prayerful reading of scripture, on Wednesday evenings, starting on 30th November at 7.30pm on **Zoom (ID 846 7892 5944, password 2022)**. This is a particularly fruitful form of prayer and can really bring the scriptures alive, and if you haven't given it a try before, there's always a first time! See the parish website for some background information and resources on Lectio Divina: <https://stedsgod.com/lectio-divina>

Sacrament of Reconciliation Fr Jonathan and/or another priest will be available on Saturday mornings to hear confessions at St Joseph's and St Edmund's. See list of services or calendar for time and location each week.

Day of Prayer – Night of Light at St Joseph's, Guilford from 8am into the evening with priests available for confession on Saturday 17th December.

Crib Building Families are invited by the Sisters at Ladywell to help them build the Christmas crib in the Ladywell chapel, on 15th December at 5pm. A lovely event for parents or grandparents to bring their children to. All families are welcome. Adults are kindly asked to wear a facemask.

Outdoor Carols at Ladywell at 2.30pm on Sunday 18th December.

Christmas Masses at 5pm (St Joseph's), 7pm and 10pm (St Edmund's) on Christmas Eve; 8.45am and 10.30am on Christmas Day.

Churches Together Christmas Together Day 10th December 3.30pm at Crown Court and 4.15pm at Wilfred Noyce Centre with carols, readings and a 'Nativity from scratch'.

Wintershall Nativity Journey 14-19th December. Tickets at www.wintershall.org.uk

Advent Retreat at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell 'God So Loved the World...' Led by Adrian Peelo OFM, 14th-18th December. Non-residential: £100 (with lunch/supper). 01483 675575 or franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk

Chilworth Abbey Study Day on Saturday 10th December, 9am-3.30pm, Robert Barron on Our Lady: 'Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast'. <https://www.chilworthbenedictines.com/>

Other things in the parish

Live Simply Our parish group next meets on 1st December at 7.30pm on Zoom. If you'd like to join, please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com

St Edmund's School PSA Christmas Market is on Saturday 3rd December, 11am to 2pm, with fun stalls and refreshments.

Confirmation Preparation for 2023 will begin in January. To find out more and for a link to register please visit the parish website at <https://stedsgod.com/confirmation>

North Wales 2023? If you are interested in a family walking trip to North Wales in 2023 please let Fr Jonathan know.

Rome 2025? If you would be interested in a trip to Rome for families in the Holy Year of 2025 please let Fr Jonathan know. If there is early interest we can start to plan something that might work best for families in terms of timing, cost and programme.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross On 2nd December, 7am, led by Canon John Bundock.

Godalming Choral Society Christmas Concert is on 3rd December at 7.30pm at St John's. Tickets are £16 from Record Corner. More info at: www.godalmingchoral.org.uk

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Christmas Showcase 10th December at 7.30pm at SS Peter & Paul Church. Tickets £10 from <https://www.gcgc.org.uk/>

After School Meals at St John's Could you help offer hot meals in a warm space on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3.45-5.45, for families affected by the cost-of-living crisis? Volunteers needed. For more details contact Sue: suepetty60@gmail.com

Synod 2021-2024 The Synod process has now been expanded with a new opportunity to reflect on a document summarising all the submissions from around the world. To view the document, FAQs and provide online feedback see: www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod.

CAFOD is looking for volunteers for local Catholic schools. If you enjoy working with children and young people and could help bring alive their sense of global justice, please contact the CAFOD office in Merrow for info: arundelandbrighton@cafod.org.uk

World Gifts Catalogues from CAFOD are available now, packed full of Christmas gift ideas. <https://worldgifts.cafod.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

SVP members offer regular visits, friendship and practical support to those in need. The helpline number is 07379 108009.

Godalming Foodbanks Please contact the SVP or Fr Jonathan if you need a referral for St Marks Foodbank or Godalming Community Food Store.

Godalming Good Neighbours Volunteer drivers available to help with transport to medical appointments, for shopping etc. 07943 274461 or email: godalminggoodneighbours@gmail.com

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 The people of Ukraine. Those affected by the energy and food shortages that are a consequence of the war. Those affected by flooding in Pakistan.

The Holy Father's Intention for December We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development will find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international co-operation.

The sick and those who care for them Sylvia Reilly, Jane Turner, Valentina Masella, Danny O'Sullivan, Ethel Stammers, Colin Humphrey, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Margarita Crawford, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nancy Drapper, Nicolle Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, John Lennox, Ann Lloyd, Maria Lopez, Betty Matthews, Frances Muir, Gerry Newell, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Anne Stephens, Jean Tyrell, Anita van Rheen and Josie Whittle, and those in our hospitals and care homes, and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Paul Bannister, Barbara Barnett, Irene Grant, Mel Hunter, and Edouard Le Maistre, who died recently, and Mary Lynch, Josephine Mathieson, Kitty Blunt and Mary Gelder, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies
First Sunday of Advent
27th November 2022**

Saturday 26th November	12.30pm Wedding (St Edmund's) <i>– Steve Dagg & Aisling Jensen-Humphreys</i> 6.00pm Vigil Mass (St Edmund's) – Joe King RIP
Sunday 27th November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – Ruth de Stefani RIP 10.30am Mass with FHC families (St Joseph's) <i>– People of the parish</i>
Monday 28th November	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 29th November	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Paul Bannister RIP
Wednesday 30th November ST ANDREW	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Josie Mathieson RIP 7.30pm Lectio Divina (Zoom 846 7892 5944; pwd 2022)
Thursday 1st December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Janet de Vries RIP
Friday 2nd December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Saturday 3rd December St Francis Xavier	6.00pm Vigil Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 4th November SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the Parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Jim & Nora Flynn RIP

Sunday Year A

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm

www.stedsgod.com

Hearing loops systems are available in our churches

For a communion host approved by Coeliac UK - please speak with a welcomer

Mass Books are available – please ask if you can't find one