



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*

Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent 11th December 2022

Do not lose heart, because the Lord's coming will be soon

"Are we nearly there yet?" Children find waiting difficult and if we are honest, it's often a challenge for adults too. We may have developed strategies for delaying pleasures to attend to less gratifying but important things, but sometimes it's hard work and a lot of effort. In the Gospel today John has sent his disciples to Jesus to know whether he is the one who is to come. Instead of saying "of course" Jesus tells them to look around and notice the signs of his coming.

Over the last week or so I have been quite uplifted by signs of how things should be – expressions of life and joy, expressions of unbounded love and happiness. The narrative presented to us by the news is all too often discouraging and depressing and if we are to nourish our sense of hope we need to keep our eyes alert for the breaking-through of good news around us, especially in the everyday holiness and wholeness in the lives of those we encounter through our week. (Not just in the fleeting triumphs of football and cricket.)

The practice of the *Examen* at the end of each day can be quite helpful in cultivating an attitude of gratitude and getting used to noticing God at work in our own lives and in world around us. At its simplest it consists of taking a few moments to ask prayerfully "How have I loved today? How have I failed to love? How have I been blessed today?"

In the season of advent in particular we are exposed to how the whole of scripture is about Jesus. The Gospels tell us about his coming among us in the flesh. The other writings of the New Testament reveal his continuing presence in his body, the Church. Many of the characters, stories and prophecies of the Old Testament foreshadow Jesus – they give a glimpse of what was and is to come such that we say that Jesus fulfils and completes them. Do join us for Lectio Divina at 7.30pm on Wednesday evening as we continue to pray through the writings of the Prophet Isaiah.

Mass Responses for Third Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: Come, Lord, and save us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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www.stedsqod.com

This **Third Sunday in Advent** is '**Gaudete Sunday**' when the rose-coloured candle on the Advent wreath and rose-pink vestments represent the warmth of joy we feel in our hearts at the imminent coming of Christ.

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 during Advent 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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation Fr Jonathan and/or another priest will be available on Saturday mornings to hear confessions at St Joseph's from 10am until finished. Fr Rajesh will be available at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere at 11am each Saturday.

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.

Daily Advent reflection You can sign up to receive a daily reflection from CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar>

Crib Building Families are invited by the Sisters at Ladywell to help them build the Christmas crib in the Ladywell chapel, on Thursday 15th 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 Carol Service at Ladywell We look forward to welcoming a good crowd to our parish carols, which is taking place at the earlier time of **2.00pm on Sunday 18th December** (to avoid the football, and we expect a finish around 2.45pm). There will be a collection for the Catholic Children's Society

Induction Masses with Bishop Richard We welcome Bishop Richard to 6pm Mass this Saturday to induct Fr Rajesh as one of our parish priests. On Sunday Bishop Richard will celebrate the 11am Mass at Haslemere to induct Fr Rajesh and Fr Jonathan as parish priests of Haslemere, Hindhead and Chiddingfold. Fr Tony Furlong will preside at the 10.30am Mass this Sunday.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Joseph's) Children are invited to wear nativity themed fancy dress if they would like.

7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Ed's)

10pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Ed's)

Christmas Day

8.45am Dawn Mass at St John's

10.30am Day Mass at St Joseph's

Final call! Live Simply Christmas Appeal for St Mark's Foodbank

Seasonal food items are needed to help with special Christmas food parcels for families at four local schools. Please drop off your items this weekend to the collection boxes at church.

Peace Light Anyone in Scouting or Guiding (and their families) in the parish would be very welcome to join Fr Jonathan at Bentley Copse on Monday 19th December to help spread a light has come from the grotto in Bethlehem. Refreshments from 7.15pm and short ceremony at 8pm. If you would like to collect it in Godalming, the Peace Light will burn in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's throughout the Christmas season.

SVP Afternoon Christmas Tea On Wednesday 14th December 2.30-4pm, at United Reformed Church, Elstead. For a lift please contact Janet on 01252 702156.

Contemplative Prayer The next Julian Meeting is at St John's on Tuesday at 8pm.

Wintershall Nativity Journey Performed locally in Bramley, and an unforgettable experience which brings the meaning of Christmas to life: www.wintershall.org.uk

ADoRE Online Christmas Worship On Saturday 17 December 11am on the theme 'O come, let us adore Him', For Zoom link: <https://www.altonrenewal.com/>

St Peter's Catholic School, Merrow has been named by *The Times* as the No1 non-selective comprehensive school in the country. Many congratulations to all the students and staff at our secondary school.

CTGD Link-Up Newsletter The December edition is on our website under 'Newsletters'.

EdKnitters are meeting on Monday at 2pm.

Support charities with your used stamps

There are several charities, such as the RNIB, which raise useful funds from donations of used stamps, so if you are saving yours, please drop them off to the parish office and the Live Simply group will send to charities.

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

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>

Stewardship A big thank you to all who have kindly returned the two leaflets - Time, Talents and Treasure, and My Parish Commitment. If you would like copies, please ask at Mass or check our website. You can find out more about how to share your Time and Talents at <https://stedsgod.com/time-and-talents> and, there's an online form at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/rgrm97bf>

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.

Hungry for Change Our annual Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly takes place on Saturday 28th January from 9.30am-1.30pm in Crawley. It will explore food and conflict and the positive steps we can take towards a fairer, more peaceful world. With Bishop Richard and speakers from CAFOD and Pax Christi. To book a place, and if you might like to join a group going from our parish, please get in touch with Sarah in the parish office.

Looking ahead

North Wales 2023 If you might be interested in a family walking trip to North Wales next year please get in touch with Fr Jonathan.

Rome in Holy Year 2025 Fr Jonathan would also be glad to know if anyone might be considering a visit to Rome for Holy Year, as he can start to plan something that might work best for a group in terms of timing, cost and programme. Please speak to him asap!

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.

Farncombe & Binscombe Good Neighbours Volunteer drivers available to help with transport to medical appointments 07531 888398.

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 Tony McDonald, Albie Noble, Helen Osborne, 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 Rheenan and Josie Whittle, and those in our hospitals and care homes, and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Jose Vaz and Victor Lee-Son who died recently, and Michael Quill, Peter Farrelly, Doris Kilsby, Pat Marsh, John Hawkins, Thomas McNamee and Barbara Czerkiewiez, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies
Third Sunday of Advent
11th December 2022**

Saturday 10th December Our Lady of Loreto	10-10.30am Confessions (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Induction Mass with Bishop Richard (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 11th December THIRD 'GAUDETE' SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) - <i>Jack & Kathleen Lewis RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Bernard William Rafferty RIP</i> 1.30pm Baptism – Orla McLaughlin (St Joseph's)
Monday 12th December Our Lady of Guadalupe	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 13th December St Lucy	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
Wednesday 14th December St John of the Cross	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Former Staff & Students of St John's Seminary. In thanksgiving.</i> 7.30pm Lectio Divina (Zoom 846 7892 5944; pwd 2022)
Thursday 15th December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Josie Charlton RIP</i>
Friday 16th December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) –
Saturday 17th December	10-10.30am Confessions (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Vigil Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Sherry Crompton RIP</i>
Sunday 18th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Victor Lee-Son RIP</i>

Sunday Year A

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

www.stedsqod.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