



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*

Fourth Sunday of Advent 18th December 2022

Immanuel, a name which means "God-is-with-us"

There is a change of tone and focus as we enter the last part of Advent. 'O come, O come Emmanuel' becomes the dominant musical theme. We start reading from the Gospel passages leading up to the birth of Jesus. The preface of the Mass allows us to start to open up to a festive spirit as it proclaims "it is by his gift that already we rejoice at the mystery of his Nativity".

The three moments of God's being with us converge. Having been schooled in the yearning for and hope of his coming in glory we enter once again into the mystery of his coming in flesh. As we celebrate the liturgy, we experience his coming to us in sacrament, for what he once did in child in the manger and what he will do in power and glory at the end of ages he does now in the sacraments and especially in the Mass. He chooses to be present with us in the Eucharist, in the Word of God, in the people who gather in response to his call to join him in prayer and (rather scarily for me) in the priest who presides over the assembly in his name.

When we come together for Mass on a Sunday we might not always get a strong *feeling* of God with us. The celebration might be full of music we don't like. We might not be able to hear what is said. We might be distracted by our concerns about other things in our own lives, in the world at large or in the life of the church. But the stable in Bethlehem was not neat and tidy either. There was no heating (Bethlehem can get quite cool in winter), it probably smelled of dung, and I doubt if there was running water – hot or cold. Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, the wise men, Anna and Simeon "longed for him with love beyond all telling", were able to recognise him and their hearts were filled with joy.

It is not that God-was-with-us and that God-will-be-with-us, for it remains true that God is indeed with us. Not just in the feeling of our hearts, but in the most real sense. He calls to feed on that presence time and time again and, like the shepherds, the wise men and St Paul, being filled with the joy of the Good News, to invite others to find the same kind mercy of our God.

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son; and his name will be called Emmanuel.

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

Parish Carols at Ladywell We look forward to welcoming a good crowd to our informal parish carol service on Sunday afternoon. We are starting at the earlier time of **2.00pm** and we expect a finish around 2.45pm. With a warmer but wetter weather forecast it will be held in the Ladywell Chapel this year.

The crib collection this year is for the A&B Catholic Children's Society, which offers emergency support to families in our diocese in crisis. Donations can be made at the Carol Service, by contactless devices at Mass or via collection boxes beside the cribs.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation Fr Jonathan will be available to hear confessions from 10am at St Joseph's on Tuesday 20th and at St Edmund's on Thursday 22nd.

Ukrainian Christmas Mass in Lewes

There will be a Christmas Day Mass in Ukrainian (celebrated by Fr Maksym Krat) at 12 noon on **Saturday 7 January 2023** (Christmas Day in the Eastern Christian Calendar) at St Pancras, Lewes, followed by traditional Ukrainian food. For further details, WhatsApp Maryana on +380970343783.

Lectio Divina Fr Jonathan invites you to join him for the last session in Advent, for a prayerful reading of this Sunday's reading from Isaiah, on Wednesday 21st at 7.30pm on Zoom (ID 846 7892 5944, password 2022).

Peace Light Anyone in Scouting or Guiding (and their families) in the parish is very welcome to join Fr Jonathan at Bentley Copse 7.30-8.30pm on Monday 19th to help spread a light that has come from the grotto in Bethlehem. The Peace Light will burn in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's throughout the Christmas season and you may take a light home if you can do so safely.

Induction of Fr Rajesh Thank you to everyone who helped make this a very special Mass. Along with Bishop Richard presiding we were blessed with the presence of four priests, a deacon, and several altar servers, making this a memorable occasion.

Fr Rajesh's contact details are on the front page of this newsletter, and his message to the parish: *'I look forward to working together with Fr Jonathan and all of you. I also look forward to getting to know you all. You are very much in my prayers, and I would ask you to keep me in your prayers. I can only promise you that I will do my best to serve you as your Priest. Please make a place for me in your prayers. With my love and prayers for each of you, Fr Rajesh Minz'*

Confirmation Preparation for 2023 begins on 8th 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/rqrm97bf>

Hungry for Change The annual Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly is on Saturday 28th January 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. To book a place join a group going from our parish, please get in touch with Jo: jolewry@aol.com

New Parliamentary inquiry into assisted dying/assisted suicide announced this week by the House of Commons Health and Care Committee. The arguments against assisted suicide are as strong as ever, and we can help make sure they are heard loudly and clearly by decision makers to ensure the law is not changed. Please take a few minutes to complete the Catholic Union's survey to help strengthen their response to the inquiry: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/category/news/>

Dates for your 2023 Diary

Welcoming Workshop at Ladywell Convent

As a parish we want to make sure all our visitors feel warmly welcomed - as we know how touching it is when we are met with a smile and a friendly word. To reflect on the importance of the Welcoming ministry we invite our Welcomers to join a workshop on **Thursday 19th January at 7pm**. So please save the date and we look forward to greeting and meeting you! And if you are not already on the Welcomers rota and are thinking about volunteering for this ministry, please contact Sarah in the parish office.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

with Bishop Richard in Crawley on Saturday 21 January 11am-4pm. For more details/to book: <https://tinyurl.com/5c9ctxvk>

Invitation to the film screening of 'The Letter'

on **Thursday 9th February** at 7pm at Ladywell. Described as a 'Message for our Earth', this is a powerful and moving film which features Pope Francis and tells the story of four 'champions' who each receive an invitation from the Pope to come to Rome to talk with him about the climate crisis. The evening will be hosted by the Livesimply group, with refreshments from 7pm to 7.20pm, the film from 7.30pm, and time for discussion afterwards. You can reserve your seat by clicking onto the link on the website calendar for 9th February, or email: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist

with Bishop Richard in Weybridge on Saturday 18 February 11am-4pm. For details/to book: <https://tinyurl.com/3wj3jb9>

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

Save your used stamps to support charities

Please drop them off at the parish office and the Live Simply group will despatch on your behalf to charities such as RNIB.

Supporting the Foodbank & Community Store

Please keep up your donations at our Mass centres and at local supermarkets as many local families are in real need.

November Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £6,364 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £163 for charities. Thank you!

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 or to sign up for Gift Aid, please 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. 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 can help with transport to medical appointments 07531 888398.

Godalming Good Neighbours Volunteer drivers can help with shopping, transport to medical appointments etc. 07943 274461.

Witley & Milford Village Care Help with transport to medical & vaccination appointments, prescription collection, befriending 07871 570160.

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.

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 Nigel Ambrose, 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 Rheenand and Josie Whittle, and those in our hospitals and care homes, and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Egidia Ferrucci, Joe Vaz and Victor Lee-Son who died recently, and Millicent Punter, Bridie Brown, Malachi Fleming, Ana Maria Lopez, Tom O'Kelly, Arthur (Bill) Bowles, Antony Monje, Julia Gomez, Veneta Ann Wells, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies
Fourth Sunday of Advent
18th December 2022**

Saturday 17th December	10-10.30am Confessions (St Joseph's) 8am-7pm Confessions & Prayer @ St Joseph's, Guildford 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> 2pm Parish Carol Service (Ladywell Convent Chapel, Ashtead Lane, Godalming GU7 1ST)
Monday 19th December	<i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 20th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Tom & Helen Kelly RIP</i> <i>followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
Wednesday 21st December	9.45am Requiem Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Joe Vaz RIP</i> 7.30pm Lectio Divina (Zoom 846 7892 5944; pwd 2022)
Thursday 22nd December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Michael Burnford RIP</i> <i>followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation</i>
Friday 23rd December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Guy Wright RIP</i>
Saturday 24th December	5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Joseph's) 7.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Edmund's) 10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's)
Sunday 25th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)

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