



# **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*

## **The Season of Christmas 2022**



I have to confess that I cry easily. When I was much younger it was a mark of being upset about something. These days it happens when I am moved – when something breaks through and touches my heart. One of the lovely customs at St Edmund's school is the gathering of the children on the last afternoon before Christmas around a candle-lit crib to tell the Christmas story and gently sing a few carols. It has a simplicity and matter-of-(wonderful)-factness about it.

Christmas is always a challenge for a preacher – the hope of being able to find the “true message of Christmas” and then to communicate it clearly. I've wondered this year about how I might talk about the “joy of Christmas” when so many are having a hard time: with making ends meet, with sadness over those they have lost or with unanswered prayer. I could say a lot about God, in Jesus, sharing our humanity so that we might share his divinity. I could talk about the mystery of Emmanuel – God with us. I did think of talking about how God comes to us not in an idealised setting but in the grittiness of everyday living. But this year I suspect I shall refrain, because I think that God has something very personal that he wishes to reveal to each one of us this year.

The rites of Christmas – the crib, the scriptures, carols, and especially Christmas Mass in which Christ becomes present in the Eucharist – are special tools which God can use to break through our defences and transform us and our understanding from within. If they are to work as they should then we need to allow ourselves just a little bit of space, perhaps in the silence of the night, to just wonder at the story being re-lived – of the Word of God being born of Mary in order to come close to us and bring us closer to him. We may not be able to describe what happens to us when God touches our hearts, but its effects will often be seen in our lives – in our capacity for love, in our perseverance in adversity and in our ability to trust in God, and maybe even in the eruption of unexpected joy.

19 Croft Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DB t: 01483 416880 w: [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

Parish Priests: Fr Jonathan How e: [pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Rajesh Minz e: [rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk) t: 01428 643877

Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Safeguarding phonenumber: 07534 146908

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

**Welcome to all** who are visiting our parish over Christmas and wishing a peaceful Christmas and New Year to everyone.

**A word of thanks** to all those who have helped to prepare our churches and the liturgies for Christmas.

**In the New Year** – we start on January 1<sup>st</sup> with **Coffee after 8.45am Mass; Children's Liturgy** from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.45am at St John's; **Bumps & Babes** from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am at St John's; and the **SVP Afternoon Tea** is on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

**Feast of the Epiphany** on 6<sup>th</sup> January is a holiday of obligation and there will be Mass at 10am at St Joseph's followed by coffee and cake at Squires, and at 7.30pm at St Edmund's, followed by a pint at The Star pub on Church Street, Godalming.

#### **Ukrainian Christmas Mass in Lewes**

There will be a Christmas Mass in Ukrainian (celebrated by Fr Maksym Krat, a priest from Odessa working in our diocese) at 12 noon on **Saturday 7 January 2023** at St Pancras, Lewes, followed by traditional Ukrainian food. For further details, WhatsApp Maryana on +380970343783.

**Christmas Offering** Over the Christmas weekend offerings go to support our priests. You can Gift Aid your offering allowing us to claim 25% of the value of your donation from HMRC. To keep things simple there are some envelopes at the back of church that can be used to do this: if you have a current Gift Aid declaration just fill in your name, and if not please complete all the details on the envelope. If you have a box of numbered Gift Aid envelopes these also include one that can be used at Christmas. If using the contactless device, select 'Christmas Offering' and please enter your details to sign up for Gift Aid (if you haven't already done so on the device). You can also leave cash in the offertory basket; these contributions are currently tax rebated. If you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope and not one for St John's!

**The Parish Office is closed** until 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Fr Jonathan will be away for a few days between Christmas and the New Year.

**Confirmation Preparation** for 2023 begins on 8<sup>th</sup> January. To find out more and for a link to register please visit the parish website at <https://stedsgod.com/confirmation>

**Carol Singing at Ladywell** There was a good crowd in the beautiful and warm chapel last Sunday, and it was nice to welcome a few friends and neighbours too. Theo Frazer did a great job on the organ, the choir threw in some descants and there were some mince pies to take away too. We wish the sisters and their mission partners a very happy Christmas and thank them for their hospitality and welcome. (It was so nice inside that I suspect we will plan for it next year.)

**Crib Offering for the Catholic Children's Society** Our cribs will remain in place until the end of the Christmas season. (Some keep theirs up to 2<sup>nd</sup> February) Your offerings support the A&B crisis fund, which provides emergency support for vulnerable children and families in our diocese.

**Peace Light** The scouts and guides have spread a light which has come from the grotto in Bethlehem to all parts of the world. Our local 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.

**Mass in Latin** at 9.30am at St Joseph's on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

**Wintershall Stations of the Cross** are on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 7am; all welcome.

**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>

**New Parliamentary inquiry into assisted dying/assisted suicide** The arguments against assisted suicide are as strong as ever. To make your voice heard and help to ensure the law is not changed you can complete this survey from the Catholic Union: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2022/12/assisted-suicide-survey/>

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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>

**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 from our parish, contact Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Invitation to the film screening of 'The Letter'** on **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup> February, or email: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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/3wjp3jb9>

**Wednesday Evenings in Lent – Belong and Believe** Five sessions of presentations and discussion to explore how our Celtic spiritual heritage can help us to find renewed faith and vision together. Make a note in your diaries and more details in the New Year.

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

**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](mailto: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.

**Good Neighbour schemes** If you need help with shopping, transport to medical appointments, prescription collection, befriending etc there are local schemes with volunteer drivers: **Farncombe & Binscombe:** 07531 888398; **Godalming:** 07943 274461; **Witley & Milford:** 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 January** We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition, and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

**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 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 Egidia Ferrucci who died recently, and Roisin Chowney, Tim Barraud, May Larby, Jean Martin, Bernard Laverty, Mary Brister, Kas Kuhlman, Edward Jazwinski, Joan Etsell, Margaret Beagley, May Real, Michael Dolan, Nora Denyer, Anna Clark, Harry Pullen, Antony Sweatman, Danny Furlong, Catherine Breen, Robert Wilson, Andrew Barnard, Lilian Legg, Jane Kelly, Jan Heksel, Kathleen Wheeler, Malcolm Ogilvie Forbes, John Bunting, Jean Humphrey, Altons Peterson and Jesu Lopez, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Masses for the Christmas Season 24<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 8th January 2023

<b>Saturday 24th December</b>	<b>5.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Joseph's)</b> <b>7.00pm Vigil Mass of the Nativity (St Edmund's)</b> <b>10.00pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's)</b> <i>– People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 25th December</b> THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	<b>8.45am Dawn Mass of Christmas (St John's)</b> <i>– For Ukraine</i> <b>10.30am Mass of Christmas Day (St Joseph's)</b> <i>– Frank &amp; Matthew Brown RIP</i>
<b>Monday 26th December</b> St Stephen	11.00am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere)
<b>Tuesday 27th December</b> St John	<b>10.00am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Mr &amp; Mrs Sherry's Intentions</i>
<b>Wednesday 28th December</b> The Holy Innocents	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Susu &amp; Chris Ures Intentions</i>
<b>Thursday 29th December</b> St Thomas Becket	<i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Friday 30th December</b> The Holy Family	<b>12.00pm Requiem Mass – Egidia Ferrucci RIP (St Joseph's)</b>
<b>Saturday 31st December</b>	1.30pm Wedding – Sophie Verlaan & Nick Krzywkowski (St Edmund's) <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Those who died in 2022</i>
<b>Sunday 1st January 2023</b> MARY THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Bernard &amp; Connie Edgar RIP</i>
<b>Monday 2nd January</b> SS Basil & Gregory	<i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 3rd January</b> The Most Holy Name of Jesus	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Tim Stratford RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 4th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass in Latin (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Owain Williams RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 5th January</b>	<i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Friday 6th January</b> EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	<b>10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i> <b>7.30pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Tim Green RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 7th January</b>	<b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 8th January</b> Baptism of the Lord	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> 12.15pm Baptism - Ruby Jones (St Edmund's)

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)