



# 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 Baptism of the Lord – Sunday 8th January 2023**

With today's Feast of Jesus' Baptism the liturgical Season of Christmas concludes. The Child, who the Magi from the East came to adore at Bethlehem offering their symbolic gifts, we now find an adult, at the time when he is baptized in the Jordan River by the great Prophet John.

The Gospel notes that after Jesus had received baptism and left the water, the heavens opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove. Then a voice was heard from heaven that said: "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased". This was his first public manifestation after approximately 30 years of hidden life at Nazareth. Besides the Baptist, eyewitnesses of the singular event were the Baptist's disciples, some of whom then became Christ's followers (see Jn 1: 35-40). It is both a christophany and a theophany: first of all, Jesus manifests himself as the Christ, a Greek translation of the Hebrew Messiah, which means "anointed". He was not anointed with oil as were Israel's kings and high priests, but rather with the Holy Spirit. At the same time, together with the Son of God appeared signs of the Holy Spirit and the heavenly Father.

What is the meaning of this act that Jesus wishes to fulfill - overcoming the Baptist's resistance - in order to obey the Father's will? The profound sense emerges only at the end of Christ's earthly existence, in his death and Resurrection. Being baptized by John together with sinners, Jesus began to take upon himself the weight of all of humanity's sin, like the Lamb of God who "takes away" the sin of the world: an act which he brought to fulfilment on the Cross when he also received his "baptism". In fact, by dying he is "immersed" in the Father's love and the Holy Spirit comes forth, so that those who believe in him could be reborn by that inexhaustible font of new and eternal life. **Christ's entire mission is summed up in this: to baptize us in the Holy Spirit, to free us from the slavery of death and "to open heaven to us", that is, access to the true and full life that will be "a plunging ever anew into the vastness of being, in which we are simply overwhelmed with joy"**.

Pope Benedict XVI, 2008

### **Mass Responses for The Baptism of the Lord**

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

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

## Thank you!

From Fr Jonathan and Fr Rajesh for the generous contributions to the Christmas offering and for the many cards and gifts received. The little words of encouragement have been particularly appreciated.

To everyone who contributed to our parish Christmas Appeal for St Mark's Foodbank...we had an incredibly generous amount of donations!

For your Crib Offerings for the Catholic Children's Society A&B Crisis Fund. Offerings are still welcome this weekend.

**Confirmation Preparation** for 2023 begins this Sunday evening. To find out more and for a link to register please visit the parish website at <https://stedsgod.com/confirmation>

**Welcoming Workshop at Ladywell** 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 7.30pm**. 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.

**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 tells the story of four 'champions' who each receive an invitation from Pope Francis to come to Rome to talk with him about the climate crisis. Hosted by the Livesimply group, with refreshments from 7pm to 7.20pm, film from 7.30pm, and discussion afterwards. Please sign up by 31<sup>st</sup> January; click link on 9<sup>th</sup> February on website calendar.

**SVP Afternoon Tea** is on Wednesday 11th at 2.30pm in Elstead. If you need a lift please contact the SVP: 07379 108009.

**Churches Together January Link-Up** is available on our website with Newsletters.

## Spreading the message of peace in our world

Next Sunday is 'Peace Sunday' and you can read Pope Francis' special message [here](#). 2022 has been a year of war, causing untold human suffering and contributing to further destruction of the environment, but the constant and faithful voice of Pope Francis urges us to keep going, to say 'no' to war and to open up the way of peace: 'Only by responding generously to these situations, with an altruism inspired by God's infinite and merciful love, will we be able to build a new world and contribute to the extension of his kingdom, which is a kingdom of love, justice and peace'. The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on peace, to proclaim Jesus Christ as Prince of Peace and to entrust our world to his mercy, and to reflect on Pope Francis's question: 'What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?' Let us pray every day for peace for our families, our friends and ourselves.

**Stewardship** In the next few weeks we will be responding to all who kindly returned the recent forms - Time, Talents and Treasure, and My Parish Commitment - and meanwhile offer thanks to everyone for their generosity and support for the parish. There is still time to send in your forms; the online form is at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/rgrm97bf>

**Hungry for Change** The annual Diocesan Justice and Peace Assembly is on Saturday 28th January 9.30am-1.30pm in Crawley, and will explore food and conflict and the positive steps we can take towards a fairer, more peaceful world. Contact Jo: [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Days of Reflection** with Bishop Richard **for Ministers of the Word** Saturday 21st January 11am-4pm, in Crawley and **for Ministers of the Eucharist** Saturday 18th February 11am-4pm, in Weybridge. Both include a mix of spiritual and practical input. For more information or to book: [Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Diocesan 2023 Directories** A few of these are available from the parish office, £5 each.

**Fr Rajesh** will be visiting India until early next month. We wish him a good trip home.

## Looking into 2023

**Wednesday Evenings in Lent** We look forward to gathering for the '**Belong and Believe**' CaFE course during Lent, which draws on the immense wisdom and inspiration from our Celtic spiritual heritage to help us to find renewed faith and vision together. The evening sessions will be at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell, with enough space for us to gather in small groups as well as pray and share together as a group. The dates for your diary are Wednesdays 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Parish Family Groups** offer an informal and friendly way of coming together on a regular basis and are working well in several parishes around the diocese. We are looking to launch them here in the Spring. Watch this space!

**Invited – Season 3** the next phase of the Diocesan mission will take place in Advent.

**Bible in One Year App** If you haven't tried it yet you may like to download this App (it's free) and listen to the daily selection of three excerpts from the New and Old Testaments and the Psalms. By the end of the year you may find you have succeeded in reading the entire Bible! <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>

**Chilworth Abbey study day** Episode 5 of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' series, on Saints Peter and Paul, led by Fr John Seddon. 10.15am-3.30pm on 14<sup>th</sup> January. More info at: <https://www.chilworthbenedictines.com/>

**Godalming Community Gospel Choir** Have you ever wanted to try singing authentic Gospel music? GCGC invites you to a free taster session on 16<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. More info from: [info@gcgc.org.uk](mailto:info@gcgc.org.uk)

**Churches Together Prayer Breakfast** is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 8.30-10am at St Marks.

**Individually Guided Retreats at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell** coming up on 5-12 February; 5-12 March; £520 for 6 days.

**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)

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** starts on 18<sup>th</sup> January. On Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> there is a United (Anglican/Reformed) Eucharist on behalf of CTGD at 10.30am at St John's.

### 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 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 & most vulnerable above all.

**The sick and those who care for them** Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, 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, 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 Emeritus Pope Benedict and Helen Holmes who died recently, and Vera Bowens, Irene Routledge, Barbara Selley, Grace Coulber, Dorothy Lacey-Smith, Peter Clark, Jean Barnes, Teresa Bontoft, Sidney Gale, James McGrath, Bill Frayne, Winifrid de Guignand, Josefa Iwanohkiw, Anna Hunt, Eric Frei, David Goodfellow and Helen Gatford whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses  
The Baptism of the Lord  
First Week in Ordinary Time**

**8th January 2023**

<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> – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i> 12.15pm Baptism - Ruby Jones (St Edmund's)
<b>Monday 9th January</b>	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 10th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Wednesday 11th January</b>	<b>5.30pm Mass in Elstead</b> (The Old Farmhouse, GU8 6BD)
<b>Thursday 12th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
<b>Friday 13th January</b>	<b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Saturday 14th January</b>	<b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Sunday 15th January</b> 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b>

Sunday Cycle Year A / Weekday Cycle Year 1

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

[www.stedsgod.com](http://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*