



# 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*

## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - 15th January 2023

*I have seen and I am the witness*

Seeing and bearing witness form a repeated pattern in St John's Gospel. We find it here in the opening passages. We will hear of it in the great dialogues which will be read in Lent this year and in the words of the Evangelist himself. He tells us so that the same joy may be in us and his joy be complete.

This last week I have been watching one of the Sycamore films that touches on the theme of mission with some of the First Holy Communion parents. In it Fr Stephen Wang invites us to imagine being marooned on an island with a large group of people. A boat comes along while they are asleep. Do we climb aboard and sail off without telling them? Of course not!

So why is it that we shy away from bearing witness? Sometimes, of course, it might not be the right time, but I wonder if it is also that we are a bit uncertain ourselves. While I was away on retreat before Christmas I found myself praying about this. I noticed that I had become a bit flat and weary in my own life of faith and preoccupied by the challenges of life and ministry in a post-covid context. I prayed for the gift of a new joy and resolved to both attend a bit more to my spiritual life and growth (because those are the things that will deepen my friendship with Jesus and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit) and to keep an eye out for opportunities for a bit of fun. After all, if I don't have a strong sense that my life as a priest is truly life-giving why would anyone else want to follow.

Pope St Paul VI spoke of the need for us to be proactive in the life of faith – that the gifts of new and abundant life, summed up in Jesus's ministry in the key words of kingdom and salvation "are available to every human being as grace and mercy, and yet at the same time each individual must gain them by force - they belong to the violent, says the Lord, through toil and suffering, through a life lived according to the Gospel, through abnegation and the cross, through the spirit of the beatitudes. But above all each individual gains them through a total interior renewal which the Gospel calls *metanoia*; it is a radical conversion, a profound change of mind and heart." (*Evangelii Nuntiandi*, 10)

The Lord Jesus invites us to friendship with him, to experience the real joy of the Gospel (see Pope Francis *Evangelii Gaudium*). When God calls us to be saints and invites us to be Christians, he offers us not a set of values or ideals but a pathway that leads to lasting joy and fullness of life, almost certainly beyond anything we have ever experienced or could indeed imagine. At the start of this year, the question for us is do we really want what he is offering, and are we prepared to pursue it and support and accompany one another as we set out in search of it?

### Mass Responses for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord!  
Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

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

**We welcome our First Holy Communion families** to 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's this Sunday, and ask for your prayers for them as the children prepare themselves for the Sacrament of Reconciliation in February.

**Next Sunday** is Sunday of the Word of God, and there will be a blessing at each Mass for those who exercise the ministry of reader in the parish.

**This Sunday is 'Peace Sunday'** 2022 has been a year of war, causing untold human suffering, 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... What signs of life and hope can we see, to help us move forward and try to make our world a better place?

Visit <https://paxchristi.org.uk/> to find out more about Pax Christi, the international Catholic movement for peace.

**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 at 7.30pm**, and we look forward to greeting and meeting you! And if you'd like to join us to find out more about welcoming, please contact Sarah in the parish office.

**Movie night!** Please come and join us for a 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** by clicking the link on the calendar for 9<sup>th</sup> February on the parish website: <https://stedsgod.com/>

### **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.

**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 11<sup>th</sup> March 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)

**Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice** The week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts on Wednesday and is traditionally observed from 18<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January, concluding with the feast of the conversion of St Paul. The focus this year is on exploring how the work of Christian unity can contribute to racial justice. We are asked to join with other Christians around the world to pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

**Churches Together (CTGD) Annual United Service** takes place next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30am at St John's Farncombe.

The next **CTGD Prayer Breakfast** is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 8.30-10am at St Marks and **January's Link-Up** is available on our website with Newsletters.

### **The parish newsletter is going digital!**

Later this month we will start sending out copies of the weekly newsletter by email. If you would like to receive it this way please email the parish office and we will add you to the list. We will continue to print some copies for those who prefer it in hard copy.

**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.

**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.

**Hungry for Change** Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly in Crawley, Saturday 28th 9.30am-1.30pm. Guest speakers explore food and conflict and the steps needed for a fairer and more peaceful world. [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Bible in One Year App** This is a free App, which you can download to your phone or PC with a daily selection of three excerpts from the New and Old Testaments and Psalms. By the end of 2023 you may find you've read the entire Bible! <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>

**Retreats at Worth Abbey** 'Time Out' self-guided retreats, and 'Finding Stillness' retreats are available each month. For more details: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme/>

**ADoRE mini retreat** online on 28<sup>th</sup> January, 10am-1pm, 'Called to be missionary disciples' with Charles Whitehead. [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

**Sharing the Church's Story** This one-day conference with dynamic speakers including Bishop Robert Barron will boost your faith life! Saturday 11th February, 10am-5pm, QEII Centre, London SW1P 3EE. More info: <https://www.sharingthechurchsstory.com/>

**Save your used stamps to support charities** Drop off at the parish office and the Live Simply group will despatch on your behalf to charities such as RNIB.

**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 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, 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 Pope Benedict XVI, Helen Holmes and Louis McCabe who died recently, and Halina Lada-Walicki Cyril Whitworth, Barbara Hutchinson, Ellen Simpson, Maria Sheehan, Trixie Moore, Denis Flanagan, Margarita Jackson and Thomas Coleman whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**15th January 2023**

<b>Saturday 14th January</b>	<b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Marie O'Donnell</i>
<b>Sunday 15th January</b> 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Lystra Hitchings RIP</i>
<b>Monday 16th January</b>	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 17th January</b> St Anthony of Egypt	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Sr Raphael of the Divine Providence Intentions</i>  12pm-1pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (St Edmund's)
<b>Wednesday 18th January</b>	<b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Justine Batty RIP</i>  <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity begins</i>
<b>Thursday 19th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Nigel Hill</i>
<b>Friday 20th January</b>	<b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>For the unity of Christians</i>
<b>Saturday 21st January</b> St Agnes	<b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>For the people of the parish</i>
<b>Sunday 22nd January</b> 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD</i>	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>For the Unity of Christians</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Ciara White's Intentions</i>

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*