



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 Sunday in Ordinary Time – 22nd January 2023 Sunday of the Word of God

When I was teaching at the Seminary I would often take those preparing to be formally instituted as readers to the large Gurdwara in Southall. One of my Sikh scouting friends would show us around and explain the significance of what we saw and answer our questions. The trip would always finish with *langar* in the community kitchen. On other occasions we would head to an orthodox synagogue for the Sabbath service. One of the reasons for these trips was to see how reverence for written texts played out in other religions. One of the fruits of this dialogue was a reflection on our own reverence for scripture and the objects on which they are written.

You may notice some of the ways in which we treat of the scriptures in the liturgy: reading from well-presented books, the kissing of the Gospel and so on. These outward signs invite us to see the Word of God as person, Jesus Christ, and not simply helpful and inspired words on a page. And here lies the main point this week: **the Word of God, the scriptures, are one of the most important ways in which Jesus comes to meet us and accompany us on our journey of life.**

In his letter instituting this day Pope Francis writes, 'When sacred Scripture is read in the light of the same Spirit by whom it was written, it remains ever new.... The sacred text as a whole serves a prophetic function regarding not the future but the present of whoever is nourished by this word. Jesus himself clearly stated this at the beginning of his ministry: "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". Those who draw daily nourishment from God's word become, like Jesus, a contemporary of all those whom they encounter: they are not tempted to fall into sterile nostalgia for the past, or to dream of ethereal utopias yet to come.

'Sacred Scripture accomplishes its prophetic work above all in those who listen to it. It proves both sweet and bitter. We are reminded of the words of the prophet Ezekiel when, commanded by the Lord to eat the scroll of the book, he tells us: "It was in my mouth as sweet as honey". John the Evangelist too, on the island of Patmos, echoes Ezekiel's experience of eating the scroll, but goes on to add: "It was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it my stomach was made bitter".

'The sweetness of God's word leads us to share it with all those whom we encounter in this life and to proclaim the sure hope that it contains. Its bitterness, in turn, often comes from our realization of how difficult it is to live that word consistently, or our personal experience of seeing it rejected as meaningless for life. We should never take God's word for granted, but instead let ourselves be nourished by it, in order to acknowledge and live fully our relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters.' (Pope Francis)

Mass Responses for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my light and my help.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom and cured all kinds of sickness among the people. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

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Three Resources for the Word of God

Bible Alive offers a reflection on the scripture reading for each day. It comes in a small, printed format and also on Kindle. Some parishioners have been subscribers for a long time and really love it. There are some free copies of the February edition at the back of our churches if you would like to try it out for a month.

Pray As You Go Offers a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time, but particularly whilst travelling to and from work, study, etc. Each prayer session lasts around 10 minutes, and combines music, scripture and reflection. You can download this free App to your phone or PC. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Magnificat is another popular printed resource, usually obtained by subscription, which includes the readings for Mass each day, a reflection and shorter Morning and Evening Prayer. <https://uk.magnificat.net/>

www.esv.org is a website and App with the English Standard Version of the bible. We can expect to start using the Catholic Edition of the ESV in the liturgy either later this year or in 2024, so please think twice before buying a new Sunday or Weekday Missal.

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

Praying for Christian Unity This week of prayer runs until Wednesday 25th, the feast of the conversion of St Paul. The theme this year is 'Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice' with a focus on how the work of Christian unity can contribute to racial justice. Please 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.

The annual **Churches Together (CTGD) United Service** is this Sunday at 10.30am at St John's, and the next **CTGD Prayer Breakfast** is on 28th at 8.30am at St Mark's.

Coffee after Mass at St John's Many thanks to everyone who came to coffee last Sunday to celebrate the wedding of Joanna and Marek and enjoy the delicious cake they had made for us. Thank you so much! It's now nearly a year since we resumed coffee after Mass and thanks are offered to everyone who helps on the rota. We have a great team and it be wonderful to have a few more people to help every couple of months so please get in touch with Jo Lewry. Many thanks also to all who support the coffee and donate each week; we have made a profit of £100 this year which we will donate to the parish SVP group. Thank you for your generosity. Next coffee is on Sunday 5th February, along with a Fairtrade sale so please do join us - we'd love to meet you!

Movie night Please come and join us for a film screening of 'The Letter' on **Thursday 9th February** at 7pm at Ladywell. This powerful and moving film, described as a 'Message for our Earth', tells the story of four 'champions' who are invited by Pope Francis to come to Rome to talk with him about the climate crisis. Hosted by the Live Simply group, with refreshments from 7pm to 7.20pm, film from 7.30pm, and discussion afterwards. **Please sign up by 31st January** by clicking the link on the calendar for 9th February at: <https://stedsgod.com/>

The Big Lent Walk - take on the challenge! For Lent this year CAFOD is asking us to fundraise to help overcome global poverty, with a particular focus on the struggles of people in Bangladesh, one of the most at-risk countries from the effects of climate change. As well as raising money we'll be arranging a group walk and afternoon tea at Hectors on the Wey; and we'll be matching our actual steps to a virtual walk to the shrine of St Columba on Iona, in the Inner Hebrides. So, this Lent please support this cause and sign up and commit to 200K (5K daily) for 40 days, alone or with friends – you can do your steps any way you like, walking, running or even on a rowing machine! To join our parish group email please Jo: Jolewry@aol.com and share or click on the link below to sponsor the parish team: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-edmund-godalming>

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 8pm 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 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March. Come to all/any session. It will help if you can sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/2e8w5art> , but feel free to just drop in too.

Celebrating Baptism This is a joy for families, and for the parish family, and we're delighted to welcome families looking to celebrate this wonderful gift of God. To register for the next preparation course please speak to Fr Jonathan or contact Sarah in the parish office.

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 provide a few copies for those who prefer a printed copy.

Individually Guided Retreats At the Franciscan Centre Ladywell, in February and March: <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/> and 'Longing for God' individually guided retreat weekends at the House of Prayer <https://www.christian-retreat.org/our-programme/>

Sharing the Church's Story This one-day conference with great 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 for despatch to charities such as RNIB.

December Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £10,051 from offertory and standing orders, including the Christmas Offering to our parish priests; and a further £93 for charities (Catholic Children's Society crib offering and foodbank).

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.
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 Helen Holmes, Louis McCabe and Tony Greene who died recently, and Jean Humphrey, Jean Barnes, Elizabeth Brewer, Alan Batchelor, Molly Cliff, Carmine Barbato, Freda Etsel, Jean Cox, Peter Ellis, David Little, Leonard Bryant and Marie Batty whose anniversaries occur at this time.

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

22nd January 2023

Saturday 21st January St Agnes	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the people of the parish</i>
Sunday 22nd January 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD</i>	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>For the Unity of Christians</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) - <i>Ciara White's Intentions</i>
Monday 23rd January	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 24th January St Frances de Sales	10.30am Requiem Mass Helen Holmes RIP (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 25th January CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>For the Unity of Christians</i> <i>Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends</i>
Thursday 26th January SS Timothy and Titus	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Howard Park's Intentions</i>
Friday 27th January	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Saturday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 29th January 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) 12 noon Baptism – Edward Hollis (St Joseph's)

Sunday Cycle Year A / Weekday Cycle Year 1

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation by arrangement.

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