



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*

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 5th February 2023

In June 2016, drawing inspiration from the Gospel reading of the day, Pope Francis spoke of when Jesus told his disciples "you are the salt of the earth", "you are the light of the world". Christians, he said, must be salt and light, but never self-serving: salt must add flavour and light must illuminate the other. The Pope continued his homily with the question: "what must a Christian do in order for the salt not to run out, so that the oil to light the lamp does not come to an end?" The "battery" a Christian uses to generate light, the Pope explained, is simply prayer.

"There are many things one can do, many works of charity, many great things for the Church – a Catholic University, a college, a hospital – you may even be rewarded as a benefactor of the Church with a monument, but if you do not pray, it will be dark and dimly lit" he said. Prayer, the Pope said, is what lights up Christian life, and he highlighted the fact that prayer is a "serious" matter: "a prayer of adoration to God the Father, a prayer of praise to the Holy Trinity, a prayer of thanksgiving, a prayer to request to God... prayer must come from the heart".

As regards the salt that Christians are called to be: it becomes salt when it is given to others. This, Pope Francis explained, is another Christian attitude: "to give of oneself, to give flavour to the lives of others, to give flavour to many things with the message of the Gospel". Salt is something to be used, not to keep for oneself – Francis elaborated - but to give to others.

"It's curious – he continued - both salt and light are for others, not for oneself: salt does not give flavour to itself; light does not illuminate itself".

Of course, he noted, you may be wondering how long salt and light can last without running out if we continue to give of ourselves relentlessly. "That's where the power of God comes in, the Pope explained, because the Christian is salt given to us by God during Baptism, it's a gift that never ends".

And reflecting on the reading from Kings in which Zarephath's widow trusts the prophet Elijah and thus, her flour and her oil never run out, Pope Francis urged Christians to shine brightly and always overcome the temptation to shine light upon themselves.

And calling it 'mirror spirituality' he said, "it is a bad thing" to want to shine light onto oneself: "Be light to illuminate, be salt to give flavour and to preserve".

"May your light shine before men, the Pope concluded, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven". (Vatican Radio)

Mass Responses for Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: The good man is a light in the darkness for the upright.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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

Welcome to Jude, who is accepted into the Order of Catechumens this Sunday. Please pray for him as he prepares for his Baptism and for Siri, Nicole, Alison and Jess who will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church in the coming months.

First Confessions. Please pray for the children who are celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time this weekend and next, and for their families.

Looking to Lent

We look forward to gathering for the '**Belong and Believe**' CaFE course on **Wednesday** evenings in 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 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: 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.

The Big Lent Walk – We're gearing up for this annual fundraiser to overcome global poverty... and we're relying on your support! The challenge this year is to 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... 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. We hope you will sign up to join our parish team: jolewry@aol.com and please share / click on the link below to sponsor us: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-edmund-godalming>

New(ish) parishioners' evenings Fr Jonathan warmly invites anyone who is fairly new to the parish to join him and others for supper at the presbytery on either Friday 17th February or Monday 20th March. Please sign up via the website calendar or phone office.

Fr Rajesh returns this week from his visit home and will preside at Masses in the parish next weekend.

This Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday

On this day the church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year's theme is 'All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together', and this year's prayer is: *God of our past, present and future, You created each one of us in your image and likeness. Help us to recognise you in each person as we pray for an end to the suffering caused by racism. Lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another, and work together so that we create a future based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Parish film screening of 'The Letter' on Thursday at 7pm at Ladywell. This moving film is about the climate crisis from the point of view of four 'champions' who are invited to talk with Pope Francis and share their stories. Hosted by the Live Simply group, with refreshments from 7pm to 7.20pm, film from 7.30-8.40pm, and discussion after. There are some spaces left if you'd like to sign up.

Celebrating Baptism We're delighted to welcome families looking to celebrate this wonderful gift of God. To register for preparation in February please speak to Fr Jonathan or contact Sarah.

Parenting for Faith Would you like help to share your faith with your baby or toddler? Join an online course for five weeks from 23rd February, Thursday evenings 8pm, with bitesize sessions lasting 45 minutes. The goal of the course is to help you discover that as parents you are perfectly positioned to show your children the reality of a life with God, and through the easily accessible and relaxed input you will receive help to introduce faith in simple steps. More info at: www.celebratetrust.org/parentingforfaith

Teams of Our Lady are small groups of four married couples with a chaplain who usually meet monthly for supper, prayer and mutual support in their married vocation. We are looking to start new teams in the parish so please speak to current team members Adrian W-G or Jo Lewry, or to Fr Jonathan, if you'd like to find out about what's involved.

Lourdes Pilgrimage The A&B Diocesan pilgrimage this summer is open for booking: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>
There will be a retiring collection to support pilgrims on weekend of 18th/19th February.

Communion at home for the sick and elderly We have many parishioners who are unable to get out and about or join us for Mass and for them to be able to receive Communion at home is a great blessing, and so valuable both spiritually and pastorally. If you know of someone who is unable to get to Mass regularly, please get in touch with the SVP: 07379 108009 or speak to Fr Jonathan.

The parish newsletter is going digital If you would like to receive the newsletter by email, please let us know by emailing the parish office. We will continue to print a few copies for those who prefer a paper copy.

Chilworth Abbey Study Day 'The Mystical Union of Christ and the Church', Episode 6 of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism' series, is on Saturday 11th led by Fr John Seddon OSB. <https://www.chilworthbenedictines.com/>

Retreats at the House of Prayer in East Molesey Details of their retreats are available at: www.christian-retreat.org
Information on **Retreats at Worth Abbey** is at: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/>

World Day of Prayer on Friday 3 March
The planning meeting for this is on Thursday 9th at 1 pm at the Godalming United Church on Bridge St. Please come along to find out how you can be part of the team for WDP.

Shooting Star Children's Hospice in memory of Maria Chacaltana Ashley Gordon is running in the London Marathon to raise funds for our local hospice which supports young people with life-limiting conditions, and their families. To find out more or sponsor: <https://tinyurl.com/mtees3ac>

Two vacancies at St Edmund's Catholic Primary School After School Club Supervisor; and School Admin/Finance Assistant. Part-time and Term time only. More information: <https://www.eteach.com/>

Latest newsletters for Live Simply/Link Up are posted to our website in 'Newsletters'.

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 with volunteer drivers to help with transport to appointments, shopping, befriending etc: **Farncombe & Binscombe:** 07531 888398; **Godalming:** 07943 274461; **Witley & Milford:** 07871 570160.

Mental Health support Local mental health crisis helpline is 0800 915 4644, open 24/7 for support for adults and CYP. If you're worried about yourself/young person, there's face-to-face support and assessment at 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 February is for Parishes. We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

The sick and those who care for them
Margarita Crawford, Mona, Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, 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 Rheen and Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals and care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Helen Osborne, Sheelia Goodfellow, Louis McCabe and Tony Greene who died recently, and Alice Gotts, Salvatore Ferrucci, Joseph Bohan, Patricia Callaghan, Fr Jim McGuire, Paula Butcher, Margarita Nelson, Patricia Dean, Ella Doughton, Patrick McDermott, Pasqualino Landino and David Bleddyn whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

5th February 2023

Saturday 4th February	1.30-4.30pm First Reconciliation (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 5th February 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY</i>	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Norah Lewry RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Matthew & Frank Brown RIP</i> 12 noon Baptism – Rufus Abthorpe (St Joseph's)
Monday 6th February St Paul Miki and Companions	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 7th February	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Jo & Steve Taylor</i>
Wednesday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jim Stanton RIP</i>
Thursday 9th February	8.00am Mass with Bishop Richard at Ladywell Convent (Ashtead Lane, GU7 1ST)
Friday 10th February St Scholastica	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Saturday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes	8.00am Rosary & Mass in Polish (St Joseph's) 1.30-3.30pm First Reconciliation (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) –
Sunday 12th February 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Doreen & Tom Rogers RIP</i>

Sunday Cycle Year A / Weekday Cycle Year 1

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 5pm
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.