



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*

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 12th February 2023

A little over 20 years ago Fr Jonathan had a letter from a parishioner in Bramley asking him if he would become chaplain to a new 'Teams of our Lady' being formed in Godalming (and 'no' did not seem to be an acceptable answer!). She now lives in our parish and Fr Jonathan asked her if she would share her thoughts with us for the newsletter during this marriage week....

"Marriage is for many of us the main vocation in our lives. We may have different jobs, some which have a vocational quality, but marriage is our lifetime commitment. It is a commitment to a loving, caring relationship with a special person for life. It leads us to embrace others as our family grows, and to help build a community of love.

"For every Christian love is a way of life. To love and to be loved is what God created us for, after all, "God is love". Meeting and getting to know that special person to love and be loved by is an important part of growing up and maturing. Finding the right person to marry is the most important decision that we make in life. We need to make that choice carefully with much serious thought and prayer. We need to know what our priorities are in life, for if we can find someone who believes in the same things we believe in and has similar priorities helps to create a happy marriage. No couple agrees on everything, but it makes living together easier if we agree on the important things in life.

"It is also beneficial if we find a community which helps us to live in harmony. This is where the church and the parish can help. It can provide opportunities to meet and befriend other likeminded couples and families. It can also provide help and support in time of need. We certainly have found it so in our almost sixty years of married life. We all have to face problems and difficulties in life and to have the care and support of others who understand and have faced similar difficulties can be a great help. And when one partner is ill or dies, it is of tremendous help to have a faith community to support you.

"The church has made marriage between Christians a sacrament which gives us the grace to live out this important commitment. When we embark on our marriage journey we have a lot to learn about ourselves and our partner. Mutual giving of trust and love is not always easy, we need the help of prayer preferably together to ask for God's help. For most of us it is a way of life that brings happiness and completes our lives. Family life can bring joy and makes for a strong society."

Mass Responses for Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Be my protector, O God, a mighty stronghold to save me. For you are my rock, my stronghold! Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

PSALM RESPONSE: They are happy who follow God's law!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: They ate and had their fill, and what they craved the Lord gave them; they were not disappointed in what they craved.

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

Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal

A retiring collection is being taken this weekend to support CAFOD's work responding with medical assistance, food, water, shelter, and winter kits for survivors. If you are able to give directly it will enable CAFOD to get the money quicker and claim Gift Aid. You can do so by visiting: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

Lent begins in a couple of weeks

Now is a good time to start to think about how you might keep it this year so that it becomes a really fruitful time of growth in grace. A 'balanced diet' for Lent is made up of some self-denial, some prayer, and some almsgiving or charity. There will be some things in the parish to help us travel together through this holy season. For the moment you might like to take note of the following

Ash Wednesday Mass 9.30am @ St Joseph's and 7.30pm @ St Edmund's.
2pm Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes @ St Edmund's School.

Lent Groups on **Wednesday** evenings 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March, 8pm at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell. We will be following the '**Belong and Believe**' CaFE course which draws on the immense wisdom and inspiration of our Celtic spiritual heritage to help us to find renewed faith and vision together. Come to all/any session. Sign up if you can but feel free to just drop in too.
<https://tinyurl.com/2e8w5art>

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, and you can do your steps any way you like. 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. We hope you will sign up to join our parish team jolewry@aol.com and sponsor us if you can: <https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-edmund-godalming>

Choir for Holy Week & Easter will start rehearsing soon. New singers are always welcome. If you would like to know more or to join them please email Elizabeth Sims at: e.sims121@btinternet.com

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Nancy Drapper and Margarita Crawford who died earlier this week, fortified by the rites of the church. Nancy's funeral will take place at St Joseph's on Friday 3rd March.

Vigil for Ukraine as the anniversary of the invasion approaches please intensify your prayers for an end to the war. On the eve of the anniversary (23rd February) there will be a vigil of prayer at St Edmund's from 6pm to 7.30pm. The church will be open all day until 9.00pm if you wish to drop in at other times.

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 Monday 20th March, the Feast of St Joseph. Please sign up via the website calendar or phone office.

National Marriage Week (7-14 February) is an opportunity to reflect on marriage as a particular vocation in the church and in God's plan for the world. We give thanks and pray for those who try to answer this call in our midst and we pray too for the healing of wounds that are sometimes part of family life and that all the faithful may both discern where the Lord is calling them and have the faith, hope and courage to respond.

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. Please chat with current team members Adrian W-G and Jo Lewry, who are speaking at Masses this weekend, to find out more.

Baptism Preparation takes place on 18th & 23rd February. Contact Fr Jonathan / Sarah if you have children you wish to present for baptism between now and the summer.

Lourdes Pilgrimage The A&B Diocesan pilgrimage this summer is open for booking: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home> Please pray about whether there are people whom you might encourage to go on the pilgrimage. The second collection *next* weekend supports those who might not otherwise be able to afford to go.

Coffee after Mass next Sunday at St John's.
Children's Liturgy continues at half term.

This Saturday 11th is **The World Day for the Sick** and Pope Francis' message is here:

<https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20230110-giornata-malato.html>

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.

Receive the parish newsletter by email

Please let us know if you'd like a digital copy by emailing godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

ADoRE mini retreat online 25th February, 10am-1pm, 'Come, follow me – responding to the call of Jesus', with Michelle Moran of the Sion Community. www.altonrenewal.com

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/>

Live Simply

Please start thinking *now* about the plants you may want to grow for **Pete's Plant Sale in May** as we'll need lots of plants to sell! And join February's '**Show the Love**' campaign by sending a postcard to Jeremy Hunt MP to ask him to champion action on the climate, and to urge the Prime Minister to prioritise these issues in 2023.

<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

Gap Year opportunity with CAFOD

Are you 18-30 and wanting to develop your skills while learning about global justice and inspiring others to use their faith in action? Step into the Gap is a fully funded year of volunteering in a UK placement. To apply:

<https://cafod.org.uk/education/for-young-people/cafod-gap-year>

Save your old stamps and we will despatch to the RNIB to raise funds for the charity.

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 Mona, Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, Sylvia Reilly, Valentina Masella, Danny O'Sullivan, Ethel Stammers, Colin Humphrey, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nicolle Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Maria Lopez, Betty Matthews, 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 Nancy Drapper, Margarita Crawford, Helen Osborne, Sheelia Goodfellow and Tony Greene who died recently, and Ruth de Stefani, Kay Birbeck, Beryl Meldrum, Vince Ellul, John Keogh, Dorothy Hedley, June Hatcher, Maria Chacaltana, Joan Huber, Joao Pinheiro, Heinz Zillekens, Sarah Anderson, Desiree Cron, Sarah Street, Breda Pamment and Vernon Nantwich whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

12th February 2023

Saturday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes	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) – People of the Parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Doreen & Tom Rogers RIP
Monday 13th February	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 14th February SS Cyril & Methodius	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Barry Thorpe RIP
Wednesday 15th February	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Thursday 16th February	10.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – Maria Chacaltana RIP
Friday 17th February Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Alexander Moore RIP
Saturday 18th February	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 19th February 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the Parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Helen Osborne RIP

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.*