



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



**Our Parish
Community**

A family for all

Second and Third Sundays of Advent 10th December & 17th December 2023

The focus for the middle two Sundays of Advent is always on St John the Baptist, his ministry and mission. He provides a powerful model for us in our day:

- John is the voice "crying in wilderness" – often it can feel like our proclamation of God's love and our call to worship is falling on deaf ears and on hardened hearts, but John reminds us that this is the lot of prophets in every age.
- John is the one who points to the Lamb of God – in the *Invited* video this week Sr Cooie talked about how a friend of hers persistently and patiently invited her to come to a prayer group and how once there the Lord Jesus started to really make his love clear to her. "When we provide an opportunity for an encounter face to face with the living God, hearts and souls can't not be transformed."
- John is the one who "prepares a way for the Lord" – rather like those TV shows which encourage us to declutter to be happy, John's mission urges us to declutter our lives to make room for the coming of the Lord.
- John is the one who bears witness, ultimately by his martyrdom – and we are called to bear witness by living a clearly Christian life. In Sr Cooie's words, "We have a shared responsibility for speaking the Truths of our faith when opportunities present themselves, passing on the faith through word and example, correcting error when we hear it, becoming people of prayer at home, actively participating in our parish life and worship and living by example so that those in the culture around us can noticeably acclaim 'see how they love one another.' Be like St John the Baptist in this Sunday's Gospel, proclaiming, both subtly and directly as prudence dictates, the mysteries of our faith in the wilderness of a culture barren and thirsting for God."

Mass Responses for Second Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy, and give us your saving help.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Mass Responses for Third Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: My soul rejoices in my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

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St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.25287

Ladywell Crib Building Service is at 5pm on 14 December in the Chapel. All are warmly welcome for this beautiful interactive children's Christmas service.

Parish Advent Carol Service is at Ladywell convent at 2pm on Sunday 17 December in the main chapel. As last year, the Sisters will be handing out bags of homemade mince pies at the end of the Service!

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Joseph's)
Children are invited to wear nativity themed fancy dress if they would like to.

7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Edmund's)

10pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's)

Christmas Day

8.45am Dawn Mass at St John's

10.30am Day Mass at St Joseph's

New Year's Eve

Midnight at St Joseph's *in Polish*

New Year's Day

11.00am Mass at Ladywell on their titular feast.

"Open Adore" is the Advent Misson at St Joseph's Church, Guildford, on Saturday 16th, which includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, music, prayer, reflection and festive refreshments from 12pm to 4pm. Confession will be available from 8am to 5pm. Do call in for a moment of Advent prayer if you are in town for some Christmas shopping or just meeting friends.

Children's Liturgy The last session is at 8.45am Mass on Sunday 17 December, and sessions start again on Sunday 14 January. There is **Coffee after Mass** on 17th – please come and join us.

Tree cutting at St Joseph's The trees will be getting a long overdue trim w/c 18 December. Please keep away on Monday, Thursday and Friday when work will be done at the front and avoid the back car park all week.

Baptism Preparation Please get in touch with Fr Jonathan or Sarah if you would like to attend the next preparation sessions in mid-January.

Confirmation preparation begins in the New Year for young people in Year 10. Sign up at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/j9iyjbzl>

SVP Afternoon Tea Wednesday 13th, 2.30pm, URC in Elstead. If you need a lift contact SVP.

Bumps & Babes the last session of the year is on Monday 11th December, and the group starts in the New Year on Monday 8th January.

Invited, our Advent reflections, are offered to help us grow in faith, whether new to the church, a practising Catholic for decades, or on the edge of church life and trying to follow where God is leading us now. You're welcome to join any of the three small groups in our parish:

7.30pm Thursdays (14, 21 Dec) **Ladywell** – sign up online or just come!

7.30pm Tuesdays (12, 19 Dec) **Farncombe home group** - phone Jo on 07836 202588

2.30pm Tuesdays (12, 19 Dec) **Elstead home group** - phone Sheila on 01252 702366

Thursday @ 7pm online (14, 21 Dec)

To register for the online session or watch the films visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

St Edmund's School Admissions 2024 Please contact the parish office if you need Fr Jonathan to sign a supplementary information form for applications to St Edmund's School in Sept 2024.

The proposed admissions arrangements for 2025 can be viewed under "Admissions" at <https://www.stedmundsschool.co.uk/>

Bethlehem Peace Light Fr Jonathan will lead the Surrey Scout Peace light service at Bentley Copse, Shere, at 7.45pm on 20 December. If you would like to come please let him know.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

There will be no Christmas tree or traditional festivities this year in Bethlehem, the place of Jesus Christ's birth, in response to the thousands killed in the conflict in the Holy Land. Instead, the focus will be on praying for peace. We pray with them that '... Christ the Prince of Peace will guide all devastated by this conflict into the ways of truth, reconciliation, and respectful co-existence.' Please support the appeal if you can. Donations can be made directly: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

Supporting our local foodbanks During the Christmas season we tend to treat ourselves to goodies - but perhaps we can also take a moment to think of those in our community who are struggling with the cost-of-living crisis? It's easy to add some extra items to your shopping trolley and foodbanks depend on our support.

COP28 concludes on December 12th, but the climate crisis continues: "May COP28 represent a historic step forward in responding with wisdom and foresight to the clear and present threats to the universal common good", says Pope Francis, reaffirming that "the future of us all depends on the present that we now choose".

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for helping raise a terrific **£881.72** - which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 46 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of our support. Their latest campaign 'double the love' doubles donations: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

CAFOD World Gifts - a range of virtual charity gifts. Please take a catalogue after Mass or visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

Chilworth Abbey Study Morning Saturday 16th December, 9am-12.15pm, led by Fr John Seddon OSB, Part 4 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible': Egypt, Exodus and Desert Wanderings. chilworthbenedictines.com

Wintershall Nativity Tickets are still available for some performances on 14, 16, 17 & 18th. Book tickets asap: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk>

CTGD Christmas Lunch If you know of anyone who might like to attend this lunch at the Baptist Church on Christmas Day, or if you would like to help, email Gillian: gmartin1502@outlook.com

CTGD December Newsletter is available on our website under 'Newsletters'.

If you are struggling in your marriage Retrouvaille offers help and hope to couples - of any faith or none - wanting to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage. Many couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work, and a priest is present for the course. For a confidential chat phone: 07887 296983 and info on 2024 programmes: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Christmas Offering This goes to support the priests of our parish. Gift Aid allows us to claim 25% of the value of your donation and there are envelopes at the back of church that can be used to do this: if you have a current Gift Aid declaration just fill in your name, and if not please complete all the details on the envelope. If you have a box of numbered Gift Aid envelopes these also include one that can be used at Christmas. If using the contactless device, select 'Christmas Offering' and please enter your details to sign up for Gift Aid (if you haven't already done so on the device). Or donate cash in a named envelope via the offertory collection; these contributions are also currently tax rebated. If you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope, not a St John's one!

November Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £7,806 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £586 for charities. Thank you all for your generosity.

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

Bereavement support The parish team can be contacted via: bereavementatsteds@gmail.com

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; **Elstead:** 01252 702702.

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 Israel, Gaza & Ukraine; for peace in our world; COP28.

The Holy Father's Intention for December We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

The sick and those who care for them Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Rosaria Mantio, Gabrielle Dumble, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret & Terry Punter, Freda Apark, Philip Doyle, Alex Jolliffe, David Kennealy, Mona, Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, Sylvia Reilly, Valentina Masella, Danny O'Sullivan, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nicolle Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Betty Matthews, Gerry Newell, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Anne Stephens, Anita van Rheenan & Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals & care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed in particular for Peter Hutley who died recently and for Margaret Bohan, George Wright, John Foster, Michael Quill, Peter Farrelly, Doris Kilsby, Pat Marsh, John Hawkins, Thomas McNamee, Barbara Czerkiewicz, Millicent Punter, Bridie Brown, Malachi Fleming, Ana Maria Lopez, Tom O'Kelly, Bill Bowles, Antony Monje and Julia Gomez whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses & Liturgies Second and Third Week of Advent 2023

Saturday 9th December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For Peace</i>
Sunday 10th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Chris & Andrew Mooney RIP</i> 12.15pm Baptism (St Edmund's) – Bertie Warnes & Arthur Molony
Monday 11th December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Laura Fisher RIP</i>
Tuesday 12th December <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Gisela Radu RIP</i>
Wednesday 13th December St Lucy	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alfreda Wesolowska RIP</i>
Thursday 14th December St John of the Cross	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For Vocations</i> 5.00pm Crib Building Service (Ladywell Convent)
Friday 15th December	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Saturday 16th December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 17th December THIRD 'GAUDETE' SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>John Wagstaff RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Damien Lazell RIP</i> 2.00pm Parish Carols (Ladywell Convent)
Monday 18th December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Tuesday 19th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 20th December	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Connie & Bernard Edgar RIP</i>
Thursday 21st December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Deceased members Fellowes family</i>
Friday 22nd December	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Saturday 23rd December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 24th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Please note - no 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's</i> <i>Christmas Masses will be at 5pm (St Joseph's), 7pm (St Edmund's), 10pm (St Edmund's), 8.45am (St John's) & 10.30am (St Joseph's)</i>

Sunday Readings Year B.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation in Guildford each Saturday morning
and with Fr Jonathan by arrangement (after Mass is often a good time)

www.stedsgod.com