



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time – 10th September 2023

Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, ...

The created world is integral to the Christian faith. Our ethical responsibility for creation is not the conclusion of a utilitarian calculus but deeply embedded in the Christian understanding of who we are.

We recognise the Father as the creator of all things, and not an absentee landlord, and as one who sustains his creation in being and bestows his providence upon it. In his wisdom he created women and men and made them stewards of his creation and gave them the dignity of becoming co-creators with him through their work. We see that human sin has broken our relationship with God and is the root cause of the brokenness of our world. Jesus, the Word through whom all things were made, took flesh to share in creation, uniting heaven and earth in his very body. By his saving work he, the new Adam, restores all creation.

The post-communion prayer today draws our attention to the way in which God's grace – the help he gives us – is mediated through created things. As Pope Francis said "The Sacraments are a privileged way in which nature is taken up by God to become a means of mediating supernatural life. Through our worship of God, we are invited to embrace the world on a different plane. Water, oil, fire and colours are taken up in all their symbolic power and incorporated in our act of praise. The hand that blesses is an instrument of God's love and a reflection of the closeness of Jesus Christ, who came to accompany us on the journey of life. Water poured over the body of a child in Baptism is a sign of new life..." (*Laudato Si*, 235).

Next month we will gather as a parish to celebrate the centenary of the dedication of St Edmund's Church. It is an outward and visible sign of the church that we are and of God's presence among us, a place of encounter and meeting, a place set apart that mirrors our being set apart. It is a place in which prayer is heard and the sacraments of salvation are celebrated; in which we are reborn in Baptism, new families are formed in marriage and the sacrifice of the Mass is offered for the living and the dead.

To have a church (indeed two) is a great blessing and privilege for us. It is part of the way in which God nourishes and supports us in his created world. As we prepare to celebrate the centenary of the consecration of our oldest church let us give thanks for the blessings received and rededicate ourselves to being living stones in the temple of the Lord.

Mass Responses for Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord: consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

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

Blessing of Students and Teachers This Sunday is **Education Sunday** and there will be a special blessing at all our parish Masses at this time of year when schools, colleges and universities reopen after the summer; and there will be a special collection for Catholic Education.

Over the weekend of 23rd & 24th September our Masses will be of **thanksgiving for creation**. Please think about what aspect of creation you would like to thank God for and bring to Mass a photo, picture or example e.g., plant/ flower to create a display which can be part of our celebration that weekend.

The **Season of Creation** (September 1st to October 4th) is a time to reflect on God's gift of creation, to pray for its protection and for 'Live Simply' actions that show how much we care about it; for example we can choose to walk, cycle or take public transport; to encourage biodiversity in the garden and plant a tree; and make extra efforts to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Coffee after 8.45am Mass Please join us!

Children's Liturgy starts back at 8.45am Mass this Sunday at St John's. For more info contact Eleanor: eleanor.streatfield@gmail.com

First Holy Communion 2024 There will be a follow-up meeting on Tuesday 12th for parents wishing to prepare their children (Year 4 or above) for First Holy Communion next year but who were unable to attend the first meeting earlier this month. Please register for this via: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/yy3fvafx> Registration for the programme is now open at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/yy3fvafx> If you would be interested in joining a small 'band' at the FHC Masses, please email Frances at communionatsteds@gmail.com

Communion under both kinds will resume at Sunday Masses at Milford from September. Children who missed out on preparation for this are invited to see Fr Jonathan after one of the Sunday Masses at St Edmund's or St Joseph's.

Bumps & Babes re-starts on Monday 11th at 10.30am to 12 noon at St John's; for more info contact Eileen: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Altar Servers Any young people, or adults, who would like to try out serving at Mass are invited to make contact with Fr Jonathan.

SVP Afternoon Tea is on Wednesday 13th and all are welcome; 2.30pm, United Reformed Church, Elstead. To arrange a lift: 07379 108009.

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

Fr Michael Perry's first anniversary is on 1st October. The 10.30am Mass will be offered for him, with the blessing of his grave afterwards.

Parish Community Groups So far 80+ parishioners have joined one of the 'PCGs', and the groups have great plans in place for the autumn. If you would like to register go to: <https://stedsgod.com/our-parish-community>

Confirmation preparation for next year will begin with Pizza & Prayer at the presbytery on Sunday evenings, and you can sign up now for the first session on 17th September: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/j9jyjbzl>

Sacraments for Adults The next group for adults wishing to be Baptised, received into full communion (to become Catholic) or who wish to be Confirmed starts in the autumn. If you are interested in exploring this, please speak with Fr Jonathan or Ian Honeysett.

Mass and Lunch for Centenary of Consecration of St Edmund's Church

At 10.30am on Sunday 8th October Bishop Richard will preside at Mass at St Edmund's Church to mark the centenary of its consecration. This is a great opportunity to gather as many of the parish as possible to give thanks to God for how he has brought us together as living stones. We know that not everyone can make the steps at St Edmund's, but hope that everyone might wish to join us for lunch after, from 12 noon in the Main Hall at Godalming College. To keep things easy we are looking for contributions to a cold buffet lunch, and to help with planning please sign up via the website or at <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/yh2nf3zo> There is good access to the hall (including disabled access) and plenty of parking.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Lunch on Sunday, and to help set up from 9am-12 noon on Saturday 7th. Please let Sarah know asap if you can help godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Mass with Anointing of the Sick is on Sunday 15th October at 2pm at Ladywell Convent. Please sign up on the parish calendar. If you need a lift or info contact Godalming SVP on 07379 108009.

Catholic Young Adults: Dating & Relationships Whether you are happily single, in a relationship or looking for love please join this new online course on the Theology of the Body and explore what it means to navigate society's dating culture as a young Catholic. Led by the Diocesan Youth Adviser, Lizzie, on four Monday evenings from 18 September. For more info: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

A Day of Reflection for Grandparents on 26 September 11am-3.30pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley with Fr Stephen Ortiger. A day to explore the joys and sorrows and how we can see the hand of God in our lives. More info from: Katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

Chilworth Abbey Study Mornings A new series starts on 23 September led by Fr John Seddon OSB, on Part 1 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible'. For more details www.chilworthbenedictines.com

Supporting the local Foodbanks If you have surplus fresh produce – fruit, veg, eggs, bread – you can drop off at the foodbank in Farncombe, (in the grounds of Farncombe Cricket Club, Summers Rd, Farncombe GU7 3BE) on the open shelves by the door. For donations, there are boxes at St Joseph's and St Edmund's, and at supermarkets. Financial donations also welcome.

FMDM Ladywell Convent Recruitment for Head of Congregational Administration & Communications - a new full-time role. Apply by 14/9; more info: recruitment@ladywell.org.uk

CTGD Churches Together September's 'Link Up' is available on our website under 'Newsletters'. The next prayer breakfast is at Godalming United Church at 8.30am on Saturday 23rd. For the very popular Christmas Lunch to run on Christmas Day this year a cook is needed. For more info contact: jamesrattue@hotmail.com

'Life Issue' talk on Anxiety, Fear and Panic is on Saturday 23 at 10am with Dr Martin Brunet at Godalming Baptist Church. To book: phone Sally on 01483 428646 or pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

ADoRE mini-retreat 23 September 10-3.30pm live at St Joan of Arc, Farnham, with guest speaker Geoff Poulter. www.altonrenewal.com

Macmillan Coffee morning on Friday 29th at Ali's home at 122 Busbridge Lane. 9am-1pm. All welcome. Cake, cuppa and artisanal gifts/treats.

Radio Maria Offers a wide range of programmes and Christian music; you can listen on normal DAB Radio or at: <https://radiomariaengland.uk/>

Beginning Experience Weekend If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your spouse, this residential weekend on 13-15 October at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex aims to help you to heal. Contact Maura: 07795 498445 or besouthofengland@gmail.com

Safeguarding The parish has a confidential safeguarding phone line (see front page). If you have any concerns speak to Fr Jonathan or Sarah.

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 Ukraine, migrants, those who work in education and those who encourage us to care for our common home.

The Holy Father's Intention for September We pray for people living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

The sick and those who care for them John McCarthy, Rosaria Mantio, Gabrielle Dumble, David Sapseid, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret & Terry Punter, Freda Aparak, 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 Catherine Owen, Joan Nentwich, Mary Rad, Anthony Wallerstein, John Gibbs, Lorna Henry, Thomas Brenninkmeijer, Margaret Monk, Violet Wright, Salvatore Barbato, Patrick McElroy, and Jean Sandford whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time 10 September 2023

Saturday 9th September	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– For Vocations to Catholic Education</i>
Sunday 10th September 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>John Hookham RIP</i> 1.15pm Baptisms – Isla McIntyre & Robin Bellairs (St Joseph's)
Monday 11th September	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 12th September The Most Holy Name of Mary	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i>
Wednesday 13th September St John Chrysostom	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Thursday 14th September Exaltation of the Holy Cross	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Florence Lydia Shearman RIP</i>
Friday 15th September Our Lady of Sorrows	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Laura Fisher RIP</i>
Saturday 16th September Ss Cornelius and Cyprian	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Elizabeth Whitelaw RIP</i>
Sunday 17th September 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i> 12.15pm Baptism – George Gane (St Edmund's)

Sunday Readings Year A. Weekday Readings Cycle I.

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 5pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation in Guildford each Saturday morning and
with Fr Jonathan by arrangement (after Mass can often be a good time).

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.
find one.