



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 14th January 2024

What are you looking for?... Come and see.

As we hear the call of the first disciples and the call of Samuel this Sunday we might reflect on our own call to discipleship. Perhaps the first thing to notice is that becoming a disciple does not begin with our own initiative. Despite Andrew's bold proclamation that "we have found the Messiah", their following begins at God's initiative. Yes, they have to respond and be active in their following, but it comes from the gracious and free act of God in choosing them. We might call this the mystery of being chosen.

A second thing to notice is that Jesus starts by engaging with their need. He doesn't say (yet), I have come that you may have life and have it abundantly, instead he asks them what they are looking for. (The Jerusalem Bible translates it as "What do you want", but the underlying text alerts us to something more active, not simply wanting but part of an active response.) In the rite of baptism, echoing this first meeting with Jesus, candidates or their parents are asked what they ask of God's church. Many struggle to find how to put it, and we see this in these disciples too. Granted an opportunity to say something profound the best they can do is ask "where are you staying". Fr Tony Ford, who taught us some basic pastoral skills at the seminary used to say, "feelings are the royal road to needs". At the start of 2024, and with the exciting prospect of the intense discipleship of Lent rapidly approaching, we might listen to that question of Jesus, "What are you looking for?"

A third thing to notice is the invitation to "Come and see" where Jesus is staying. Later on in St John's Gospel the disciples will be invited to "abide" or "remain" in Jesus. Perhaps the best way of understanding this, and of understanding the basic work of discipleship, is as hanging out with Jesus, simply spending a lot of time with him. I often see in married couples how, after 50 years or more together they have become inseparable. After a lifetime with Jesus we become inseparable from him.

Lastly, notice how the disciples have a long way to go. We, the readers, have just heard Jesus proclaimed as the Word who was with God in the beginning. The disciples miss this and see just a messiah, good news certainly, but way short of who Jesus really is. They will only see and understand the full glory of Jesus after his resurrection, when they see and believe. Let's not be discouraged then by only having a very sketchy understanding. Rather let's use it as a spur to spend time with the Lord this year and enter more deeply into the mystery of his life.

Mass Responses for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: Here I am, Lord! I come to do your will.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.

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

Thank you! ...from Fr Jonathan and Fr Rajesh for the generous contributions to the Christmas offering and the many cards and gifts received.

Fr Rajesh is visiting India until early next month. We wish him a good trip home.

Children's Liturgy starts on Sunday at St John's during 8.45 Mass; new families are very welcome.

Prayer and Pub Aged 18 to 40 or studying at university? Join Fr Tristan and others for prayer, catechesis and good times each month. Next meeting is at St Joseph's Church, Guildford on 17th January at 7pm. (Adoration 7pm, talk 8pm, pub 9pm). Next meeting 21st February.

Confirmation preparation begins this weekend for young people in Year 10. Sign up at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/wwwsvdexg>
Dates and details are on the parish website.

This Sunday is Peace Sunday and the Second Collection offers an opportunity to support the work of Pax Christi, an international Catholic Movement for Peace which advocates for a just peace in Palestine and Israel, alongside their ongoing work to build a culture of nonviolence.

Latin Patriarch's Appeal Thank you for your contributions last week to the relief work of the Catholic parishes in Gaza and the West Bank. Offerings can also be made this weekend. Please use the contactless/QR code or place in an envelope and mark Patriarch or Gaza. The Peacelight from Bethlehem remains alight in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's Church.

Coffee after 8.45am Mass Last year £350+ was raised for our parish SVP group through donations for coffee. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with others in our parish family so please come when you can and get in touch with Jo Lewry if you can help with serving coffee.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18th-25th January, and this year the theme 'You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself' (Luke 10:27) has come from Burkina Faso, facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community, with reflections on the story of the Good Samaritan, which encourages us all to 'go and do likewise', and draws our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity local churches come together in prayer, and host joint services, and locally our main opportunity to participate is **Evening Prayer on Sunday 21st January at 5.30pm at St John's**. The reformed churches will gather for a joint Eucharist that morning at 10.30am at St Peter & St Paul's.

The next **CTGD Prayer Breakfast** is on 27th January, 8.30-10am at St Marks, Ockford Ridge.

Looking to 2024 and beyond

The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission

The updated Pastoral Plan was published last week and is available online and at the back of church. It stresses the need to keep our minds fixed on Christ, whom we encounter in the Eucharist, which forms us in his likeness. It reaffirms the significance of prayer and formation underpinning the great work of mission.

New to the plan is that those parishes (including Godalming) which make up Guildford deanery will become a single parish, cooperating much more closely, to serve the sacramental and formation needs of the communities in a flexible way and freed to bring their gifts to the service of the church in mission. How this will look in practice will need to be shaped in prayerful discernment through the coming year. The plan can be read and/or downloaded at:

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/bishop-richards-new-pastoral-plan>.

Our Churches

The publication of the Pastoral Plan will enable us to further our discernment on the future of our churches in Godalming. We will be seeking to hear the voice of parishioners on the options before us after the Building Review Group reports to the parish late January/early February.

This year will provide an important time for our parish to plan its mission for the years ahead. Bishop Richard has asked each parish to arrange **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** monthly specifically to support this work. The first of these will be 10am on 27th January at St Edmund's.

Sunday of the Word of God is on 21st January this year and there will be a blessing for all readers at Masses next weekend. If you are interested in this important ministry do have a think about attending the Day of Reflection on 20th January with Bishop Richard (see below) and have a chat with Fr Jonathan.

Thursday Evenings in Lent 'Invited' is back! Season IV is for Lent, offering us a deeper dive into our faith and helping us grow as disciples of Jesus and find ways to conform our lives more closely to Christ. The evening sessions will be at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell, with space for us to gather in small groups as well as pray and share together as a larger group. The dates for your diary are Thursdays 15th, 22nd, 29th February; and 7th, 14th March. Please sign up via the website calendar.

Faith as Turning Point in Prison Marie Norbury from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) is speaking at St Dunstan's Church in Woking, GU22 7DT, on 17th January at 7pm. To register: guildfordknightsofstcolumba@gmail.com

Chilworth Abbey Study Morning Saturday 20 January, led by Fr John Seddon OSB, on Part 5 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible'. Mass 9.00am, talks 10.30am-12.15pm: chilworthbenedictines.com for more details.

Overwhelmed - Finding balance in a fast-paced world 27 January, 9.30am, at Godalming Baptist Church. What makes us overwhelmed and how do we respond? Learn from what Jesus modelled and taught His followers. For more info: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Some Diocesan Events in 2024

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word with Bishop Richard in Cobham on Saturday 20th January 11am-4pm. For more details/to book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/9vii0inm>

Annual Justice & Peace Assembly Saturday 27th January, 10-1.30pm at St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, with speakers from Restored, Lifecentre and Pax Christi. For more info contact Tessa Ricketts: Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist with Bishop Richard in Worthing on Saturday 10th February. For more info/to book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/digacwqg>

Trinity Trust Team Youth Groups If you have children or grandchildren looking to join a local Christian based youth group, there are two TTT groups on Wednesday evenings at Godalming Baptist Church which may be of interest: **Fusion** 6-7.15pm (primary & junior school age) with games, craft, bible stories, songs, and snacks; and **FUSE** 7.30-9pm (secondary-school age), with sessions on contemporary themes and issues and how the bible speaks into these. More info at: <https://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk/>

Franciscan Centre Administrator New job opportunity at Ladywell working in a key role within the Franciscan Centre team providing administrative support to the Director. £29k+, FT. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/about/vacancies/>

Congratulations to Doreen Denyer who celebrates her 100th birthday this week.

Cellar Camino Café Open daily (except Sunday) opposite Waitrose, please support this amazing place which is a lifeline to so many – and serves the best cup of coffee and nicest cakes in town! More info at www.thecellarcafe.co.uk

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 to pray for Peace on earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity.

The Holy Father's Intention for January For the gift of diversity in the church, that the Spirit may help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

The sick and those who care for them Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret & Terry Punter, Freda Aparak, Philip Doyle, Alex Jolliffe, 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 Rosaria Di Mantio, John Higgins, Antonio Barbato, Gabrielle Dumble and Joan Buckley who died recently, and for Eric Frei, Davis Goodfellow, Helen Gatford,, Halina Lada-Walicki, Cyril Whitworth, Canon Denis Hawkins, Barbara Hutchinson, Ellen Simpson, Maria Sheehan, Trixie Moore, Denis Flanagan, Margarita Jackson and Thomas Coleman, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 13th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 14th January 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Graziella Branduardi Raymont RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Monday 15th January	<i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 16th January	9.00am Adoration (St Joseph's) 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Rudolph Dorrepaal</i>
Wednesday 17th January St Antony of Egypt	11.00am Requiem Mass Antonio Barbato RIP (St Joseph's)
Thursday 18th January	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 19th January	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) –
Saturday 20th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the Unity of Christians</i>
Sunday 21st January 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i> 5.30pm Evening Prayer (St John's)

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year 1I

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

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*