



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17th September 2023

On the saints "next door".

Writing on the call to holiness in today's world Pope Francis said:

'I like to contemplate the holiness present in the patience of God's people: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick, in elderly religious who never lose their smile. In their daily perseverance I see the holiness of the Church militant. Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness".'

I mention this for a few reasons. Firstly, some 30 children of our parish begin their preparation for First Reconciliation this weekend. They will be thinking about how the journey in faith begins at baptism. That journey, which we too are on, has wholeness and holiness as its aim. God calls us to be saints, not usually in some way of life that might make headlines, but in the concrete reality of our lives – patiently co-operating with his grace to grow in our capacity to respond in love and self-giving.

Secondly, this weekend has a focus on mission at home, (and is called 'Evangelii Gaudium Sunday' after Pope Francis's letter on evangelisation.) The joy of the Gospel is the fruit and a mark of this everyday holiness. It is given to those who allow themselves to experience the real depth of God's love for them (see the parable in today's Gospel). Sometimes the words of the Psalmist, "How can we sing the Lord's song in an alien land" seem to fit more than being people of joy, but the lives of the saints teach us that it can be otherwise, that we can have true joy, even when life is tough. Their experience teaches us that the source of this joy is to be found in the daily meeting with the Lord, especially in prayer and in the sacraments.

Lastly, I will be meeting next Sunday with a range of people from our parish and from Haslemere. One of the things we will be prayerfully discerning is the everyday holiness that we see around us, so that we can rejoice in and consider how we might use the gifts and strengths that God has given our church communities to help us all grow as a community of saints. Please pray for the fruitfulness of our gathering.

Mass Responses for Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

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

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How precious is your mercy, O God! The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

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

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

First Holy Communion We welcome the FHC families to the 10.30am Mass this Sunday. We pray for the children as they start the programme with preparation for their First Reconciliation.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday The particular focus this year is on preparing for the Jubilee of 2025. www.cbcew.org.uk/evangelii-gaudium-sunday There will be a second collection this weekend to support Home Missions.

This year's theme from Pope Francis for the **Season of Creation** is 'Let justice and peace flow' – and this is also the message of the Pope's film, 'The Letter'. If you haven't had a chance to see it there will be a screening (with popcorn!) on 4th October at 7pm at Colette's at 11 Braemar Close. Please email her to reserve your seat (first come, first served!): wyngrif@tiscali.co.uk

Thanksgiving for Creation Mass Next Sunday is 'Harvest Sunday' and our Masses will have the theme of thanksgiving for creation. Please think about what aspect of creation you would like to thank God for and bring to Mass a photo or item e.g., plant/ flower to create a display which can be part of our celebration. Fr Rajesh will preside.

Blessing of New Classrooms at St Edmund's School. Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at school at 10.00am on Monday 18th September and bless the new rooms. Parishioners and parents are welcome to attend.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament There will be an hour of Adoration at St Edmund's church on Wednesday 20th from 12 noon to 1pm.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the soul of David Sapseid. His Requiem Mass will be at 10.30am on 26th September.

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.

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 this Sunday evening at 6.30pm: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/j9jyjbzl>

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

Parish Quiz Night on Saturday 14 October. We are delighted to report this is a sell out! We have a reserve list so please email Jo in case spaces become available: jolewry@aol.com

Mass with Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated on Sunday 15th October at 2pm at Ladywell Convent, and all are welcome. The sacrament of the sick is available for all whose health is 'seriously impaired by old age or sickness in mind or body'. If you are unsure about whether this sacrament is appropriate, please speak with Fr Jonathan. Please sign up on the parish calendar so we know how many to cater for, and if you need a lift or more info please contact Godalming SVP on 07379 108009.

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

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

Drivers needed for lifts to 10.30am Sunday Mass We have two parishioners who would like help with getting to Mass; one from Farncombe and another from Ockford Ridge. Please phone SVP if you can help, or the parish office.

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

Catholic Young Adults: Relationships & Dating The Diocese is running a new online course on what it means to navigate society's dating culture as a young Catholic. On four Monday evenings from 18th September. For more info email: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

The World Day of Migrants and Refugees is celebrated on 24 September. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'Free to choose whether to migrate or to stay'. There is a promising webinar on this theme and how we can help near and far. To register: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/webinar-free-to-choose-whether-to-migrate-or-to-stay/>

CTGD Churches Together 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; if you can help please contact: jamesrattue@hotmail.com. September's 'Link Up' is on our website under 'Newsletters'.

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

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

Autism and Theology is a new monthly podcast that might be of interest to those who wish to explore the interface between autism and faith.

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

Who cares? We do This monthly support group for people going through divorce and separation is a self-help group run by others who have experienced this loss and change in their lives and are on a recovery journey. Their 'Restored Lives' sessions start on 7 October at St Joseph's Dorking. More info: whocares.team@outlook.com

Celebrate Faith Parenting offers three sessions on zoom to help parents discover fresh and innovative ways to inspire their children to learn about their faith. The evening sessions are on: 28 September, 5 & 12 October. More info: <https://www.celebratetrust.org/faith-parenting>

Altar Wine we are trialling a fairtrade altar wine, Poterion, from Stellar Organics in South Africa.

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

To receive the weekly parish newsletter by email sign up at: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

August Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £7,125 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £235 for charities (£70 Peter's Pence, and £165 Stella Maris). 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 Morocco, Libya and Ukraine; migrant;, 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 for David Sapseid who died this week, and for Reginald Hurt, Lucyna Czuchnicka, Elizabeth Whitelaw, Francis Gomez, Patricia Hayes, Malachi O'Donnell, Pat Wilson and Sally Davey whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 17 September 2023

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| Saturday 16th September <i>Ss Cornelius and Cyprian</i> | 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) |
| Monday 18th September | 10.00am Mass with Bishop Richard (St Edmund's school) |
| Tuesday 19th September | 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) |
| Wednesday 20th September St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, Paul Chong Hasang & Companions, Martyrs of Korea | 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>For Vocations</i> 12pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (St Edmund's) |
| Thursday 21st September ST MATTHEW | 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Matthew & Frank Brown RIP</i> |
| Friday 22nd September | 7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Mrs Weguelin & deceased family and friends</i> |
| Saturday 23rd September <i>St Pius of Pietrelcina, 'Padre Pio'</i> | 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) |
| Sunday 24th September 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME | 8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) <i>– Tom Rogers & Robert Gilmour RIP</i> |

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 is often 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