



# Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



**Our Parish  
Community**

A family for all

## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 19th November 2023

*Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell.*

"Leaving it to the last minute, again?" said one lecturer to another by the photocopier one morning. "Yes" was the reply, "if it wasn't for the last minute we would never get anything done."

In the last weeks of the year the focus of the church turns towards the last things. Each week in the Creed we profess that "he will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead", yet these days we rarely talk about judgement – that each of us will be held to account for our stewardship of the life entrusted to us. In response to movements and cultural tendencies that have suggested that we should be afraid of the reality of sin in our lives and the possibility of hell, the church has rightly sought to proclaim the abundance of the love and mercy of God. Fear can paralyse us and cause us to do things that are ultimately not the best for us. Whether on the lips of Gabriel or of Jesus himself the repeated refrain of the Gospel is "Do not be afraid".

Lack of fear, however, does not mean a lack of concern or caution. When climbing or heading off into the mountains being aware of the risks and knowing that you are well-prepared and they are well managed allows you then to enjoy the day. Not managing the risks is the wide path to misery and hurt.

Our contemplation of the last things – death, judgement, heaven and hell – are offered not to scare us (for we should have confidence in the love and mercy of God, "*C'est la confiance*" declared St Therese), but to add some urgency to our conversion (our turning to God) and our search for greater holiness.

On the one hand, at the end of our lives we will be judged: "either entrance into the blessedness of heaven – through a purification or immediately, – or immediate and everlasting damnation". If we do not freely choose to love God and reflect that in our active love of him, our neighbour and ourselves (i.e. if we commit serious sin) then he will not compel us to his eternal presence. On the other hand, if we repent of our sin and accept God's merciful love, he can make us ready for him. It does not require much of us – just a grain, a small bit of desire for God to work with, but it does need something.

For those who are early in the steps of faith, the milk and honey of the unbounded love and mercy of God needs to be the focus of the Gospel. We grow in love of God by attraction not by threat. But for those of us who are advancing in the ways of faith an awareness of the reality of judgement may often be the grain of sand that forms the pearl.

### Mass Responses for Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Even if you have to die, says the Lord, keep faithful, and I will give you the crown of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: To be near God is my happiness, to place my hope in God the Lord.

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

**Feast of St Edmund, King and Martyr** This Sunday there will be 5.30pm Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Edmund's Church followed by a glass of wine in the presbytery. On Monday 20th November there is a 9.15am Feast Day Mass at St Edmund's School. All are welcome.

**First Holy Communion** We welcome First Holy Communion families to 6pm St Edmund's Mass this weekend.

**Please join us for coffee** after 8.45am Mass.

**Books of Remembrance** We have books of remembrance at St Edmund's (in the Lady chapel) and St Joseph's (by the baptistry). These include the anniversaries of parishioners who have died. We have added some blank pages for the names of other friends and family for whom you would like to pray in the Month of the Holy Souls. Please feel free to write them in.

### Invited

The Diocesan Mission "**Invited**" takes place this year in Advent with four sessions reflecting on the Sunday readings and the Christmas message. Each session features a film and a discussion.

Invited is accessible to everyone no matter where you are in your faith journey, so we look forward to welcoming you because in the Kingdom of God, we are all Invited!

***Do have a think about inviting a friend.***

There are lots of ways of taking part:

- 7.30pm Thursday evenings at Ladywell
- 7.30pm Tuesday home group in Farncombe
- 2.30pm Tuesday home group in Elstead
- Thursday evening online with the Diocese (See <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>)

There are sign up links on the parish calendar, or you can just contact the parish office and ask to be added to the list. The first sessions are in the w/c Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November.

**Next weekend** Fr Rajesh will preside in Godalming and Fr Jonathan in Haslemere. Fr Jonathan is taking a few days holiday this week.

**Immaculate Conception – 8 December** There will be an evening Mass on this Friday, at which two of our adult parishioners will be confirmed.

**Confirmation** preparation begins in the New Year for young people in Year 10. Sign up at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/j9jyjbzl>

**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.

### Advent

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

**Parish Advent Carol Service at Ladywell** This enjoyable parish get together at 2pm (exact time tbc) on Sunday 17 December takes place in the chapel at Ladywell convent. As last year, the Sisters will be handing out bags of homemade mince pies at the end of the Service!

The carol service at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere will be at 4pm on the same day.

**Advent Introductions to Benedictine Spirituality** at Worth Abbey, 25 November & 2 December, 10.15am-2.30pm. Two Advent talks delivered by the Abbot of Worth which explore the Benedictine tradition of silent, personal prayer. <https://worthabbey.net/mission/pilgrims/>

**Worth Abbey Retreat** 4-6 Dec, & Quiet Friday on 8 December. E: [retreats@worth.org.uk](mailto:retreats@worth.org.uk)

**Franciscan Centre Advent Retreat** 1st-3rd December <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/>

**St Augustine's Abbey Advent Carol Service** is on Sunday 10 December at 3.30pm. Advent carols, Scripture readings, Gregorian Chant by the monks, poetry and solo organ pieces, followed by mulled wine after the service.

**Advent Prayer Group** at St Augustine's Abbey on Thursday evenings 7.30-8.30pm, from 30 Nov.

**Christmas Fete at St Edmund's School** All parishioners are warmly invited to come for Christmas shopping, meet Fr Christmas in his Grotto, and enjoy mulled wine and minced pies! Saturday 2 December, 10am-1pm, £2 per family.

**Bethlehem Peace Light** Fr Jonathan will lead the Surrey Scout Peace light service at Bentley Copse, Shere, at 7.45pm on 20 December. If any parishioners would like to come, please let him know. The peace light will burn in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's over Christmas.

**Wintershall Nativity** 13-18 December, booking now open at <https://www.wintershall.org.uk>

**Chilworth Abbey Study Morning** November 25<sup>th</sup>, led by Fr John Seddon OSB, Part 3 of Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible', on Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Israel's arrival in Egypt. Info from: [www.chilworthbenedictines.com](http://www.chilworthbenedictines.com)

**The next Churches Together in Godalming prayer breakfast** is on Saturday 25 November, 8.30-10.00am, at St Johns, Farncombe.

## Day of Adoration and Prayer for Peace

**Saturday 9th December**

**St Edmund's Church, Godalming 11am to 1pm**

**St Joseph's Church, Milford 1pm to 3pm**

**Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere 3pm to 5pm**

Please come and pray for as long as you wish, or just pop in to light a candle and pray; but best of all please sign up on the prayer rota and make a commitment to a 15–30 minute slot. The sign-up sheets are available at Sunday Mass.

*Fr Jonathan will be available for Advent confessions for the first hour at each church in Godalming and the second hour in Haslemere.*

**CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal** to provide urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. There will be a second collection for this alongside our day of prayer on 9th and 10th December. Donations can also be made directly: <https://cafod.org.uk/give> or by contactless device

**Warm Clothes and Blankets for Ukraine** A van will be going out soon. Contact Chris Harding: [cgmharding@gmail.com](mailto:cgmharding@gmail.com) if you have items for collection & leave them at the back of St Edmund's church by this Sunday evening.

**COP28** is in Dubai from 30 November for two weeks of critical talks with world leaders about tackling climate change. Please pray that world leaders will take the urgent action that is needed as urged by Pope Francis in his 'Laudate Deum'.

**CAFOD World Gifts** - a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families experiencing poverty. Please take a catalogue after Mass or visit <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

**Final call for Clothing for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group** If you haven't yet got round to dropping off please do so asap to the parish office or at church, and the Live Simply group will arrange delivery. (Jeans, T-shirts, jogging bottoms, coats, jumpers, belts (all sizes); trainers (sizes 6–13). No women's clothes. Thank you.

The **Churches Together Christmas Lunch** is at Godalming Baptist church and is for anyone who would otherwise be on their own. Please email Carole: [shosholozo@hotmail.com](mailto:shosholozo@hotmail.com) if you know of someone to invite, or if you can help with the lunch on Christmas Day email Gillian: [gmartin1502@outlook.com](mailto:gmartin1502@outlook.com)

**Accommodation wanted** Leyla is looking for a room to rent. If you can help she'd be grateful to hear from you by email: [vferreyros@hotmail.com](mailto:vferreyros@hotmail.com)

**Special Collection this week** is for Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund, and is Gift Aided.

**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](mailto:ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

### Some sources of practical support

**Bereavement support** The parish team can be contacted via: [bereavementatsteds@gmail.com](mailto: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 November** We pray for the Pope as he fulfils his mission, may he continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

**The sick and those who care for them** David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Rosaria Mantio, Gabrielle Dumble, 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 Ernoult, 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 those whose names are recorded in our book of remembrance, for Alfreda Wesolowska and Angie Crisell and John Wagstaff who died recently and for Marjorie Jones, Tony Burke, Aileen Mayfield, Lucia Mintern, Ken Dunn, Jose Vaz, Mary White, Philip Yond and Sheila Burger, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies  
Thirty-Third Week in Ordinary Time  
19 November 2023**

<b>Saturday 18th November</b>	<b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 19th November</b> 33RD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>Neil Marshall RIP</i>  <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Deceased Relatives and friends of Ursula Waight</i>  12pm Baptism (St Joseph's) - Jude Gibbs  <b>5.30pm First Evening Prayer of St Edmund, King and Martyr with Benediction (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Monday 20th November</b> ST EDMUND, KING AND MARTYR	<b>9.15am Mass (St Edmund's School)</b>
<b>Tuesday 21st November</b> Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Wednesday 22nd November</b> St Cecilia	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Thursday 23rd November</b>	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Friday 24th November</b> St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps.	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
<b>Saturday 25th November</b>	<b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Josie Mathieson RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 26th November</b> OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i>  <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Jim &amp; Norah Flynn RIP</i>

Sunday Readings Year A. Weekday Readings Cycle I.

**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)  
Advent Confessions in Godalming on Saturday 9th December.

[www.stedsgod.com](http://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*