



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Solemnity of Christ the King – 26th November 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. As we proclaim our faith in the words of Creed, we acclaim Jesus 'consubstantial with the Father.' These words come from the Council of Nicaea which took place in the year 325 - the Council that gave its name to the text of the Creed that we customarily use at Mass on Sundays - the Nicene Creed. It was in 1925 that Pope Pius XI instituted this to mark the 1600th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea.

We place our whole lives before the person of Jesus Christ our King, and it is this relationship that we celebrate on this feast. It is this relationship that is a prerequisite for our service of the Gospel. It is this relationship, and this service that lead us to His Kingdom.

The Opening Prayer of Mass on this feast expresses this for us: "Grant, we pray, that the whole creation, set free from slavery, may render your majesty service and ceaselessly proclaim your praise." Praise and service. These are the marks of the Kingdom of Christ.

The readings at Mass are all about judgement and the last times. St Paul, writing to the Corinthians, speaks of the way in which Christ our King will hand everything to our Heavenly Father. The Prophet Ezekiel speaks about judgement, and Jesus Himself places before us the grounds on which we shall be judged. Service of Him in all around us – this must be our way.

The feast of Christ the King is also Youth Sunday. To all those in our schools, colleges, and universities - and to all who are searching for your way in life - I say this: be open to the call that Jesus, our King, will most certainly give to you. Place your lives before Him. May your relationship with Him be the foundation for your service of others. Build His Kingdom.

With every blessing,
+ Richard

Mass Responses for Christ the King

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: How worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and divinity, and wisdom and strength and honour. To him belong glory and power for ever and ever.

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord sits as King for ever. The Lord will bless his people with peace.

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

Invited starts this week

The third season of Invited, our Diocesan mission, launches this week and it's being hosted to help us all grow in faith, whether we are new to the church or have been a practising Catholic for decades. There are four sessions to coincide with the four weeks of Advent, and some great films featuring amazing speakers and testimonies, and some excellent resources to help individuals and small groups reflect and pray.

Do have a think about taking part. There are various options and if you can't commit to all four sessions it's fine to come along when you can:

- **7.30pm Thursdays** (30 Nov, 7, 14, 21 Dec) **Ladywell** – email parish office, sign up online or just come!
- **7.30pm Tuesdays** (28 Nov, 5, 12, 19 Dec) **Farncombe home group** - phone Jo on 01483 421520
- **2.30pm Tuesdays** (28 Nov, 5, 12, 19 Dec) **Elstead home group** - phone Sheila on 01252 702366
- **Thursday evenings online** (30 Nov, 7, 14, 21 Dec) 7-8.30pm. To register: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

Each session reflects on the Sunday readings and the Christmas message and has a film and discussion; sessions are approx. 1-2 hours.

Invited Prayer

Lord, the God who Invites. You constantly call us into a deeper relationship with you. May we, and all the people of our Diocese, grow in openness to the power of the Holy Spirit, so that by your grace, we may be renewed to become powerful witnesses of your hope and love to all around us, for you are the Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

This weekend we welcome Fr Rajesh to Godalming whilst Fr Jonathan is in Haslemere.

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.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross Friday 1st December, 7am. Meet outside Stable Cottage to join the walk. Refreshments afterwards.

Advent & Christmas

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 at Ladywell 2pm (exact time tbc) on Sunday 17 December 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 Introduction to Benedictine Spirituality at Worth Abbey, 25 November & 2 December, 10.15am-2.30pm. Two Advent talks. <https://worthabbey.net/mission/pilgrims/>

Worth Abbey Retreat 4-6 Dec, & Quiet Friday on 8 December. E: 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.

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Christmas Showcase concert, 9 December, 7.30pm, at St John's Farncombe. Tickets from Record Corner or GCGCinformation@gmail.com

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, 2pm & 5pm daily, tickets: <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

SVP Christmas Cards Thank you for your support and for helping to raise £230.50, which will go towards the work for those in need.

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, and if possible 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

There will be a talk after Mass next week and a second collection alongside our day of prayer on 9th and 10th December. Donations can also be made directly: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

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.

Support PACT's Christmas Family Days at HMP Send

The Guildford parish are appealing for gifts and vouchers for children visiting family at Christmas. Donations by 4 December. Info at: <https://cpq.churchsuite.com/events/3ngp1zqp>

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

Thank you The Director of GDWG has written to the parish to thank us for such generous donations of clothing for the Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group. We had a fabulous response and several carloads of clothing have been delivered.

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

Vacancy for Pastoral Assistant at Ladywell

Apply by end November. Supporting the holistic, spiritual well-being of the FMDM Sisters. JD and application from: recruitment@ladywell.org.uk

If you have a fall at home with no pain or injury, there is a new NHS service available, 7 days a week, 6am-9pm. T: 0300 369 0590. A qualified Community Falls Responder will attend within 45 minutes (60 minutes if more rural).

October Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £6,670 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £1,223 for charities (£698 CAFOD, £198 Missio, £327 PACT). 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 Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Rosaria Manto, 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 Rheen & 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 Peter Hutley, Alfreda Wesolowska and Angie Crisell and John Wagstaff who died recently and for Michael Scanlon, Mary Lynch, Josephine Mathieson, Kitty Blunt and Mary Gelder whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies
Christ the King & Last Week of Ordinary Time
26th November 2023**

Saturday 25th November	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Josie Mathieson RIP</i>
Sunday 26th November OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jim & Norah Flynn RIP</i>
Monday 27th November	10.30am Funeral Mass for Alfreda Wesolowska RIP (St Joseph's) (in Polish)
Tuesday 28th November	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) –
Wednesday 29th November	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) –
Thursday 30th November St Andrew	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) –
Friday 1st December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) –
Saturday 2nd December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) –
Sunday 3rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) –

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

*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*