



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 29th October 2023

You must not molest the stranger or oppress him, for you lived as strangers in the land of Egypt

The readings this Sunday direct us to the twin commandment of love. The rest, as they say, is commentary. However, if it were really that simple, everyone would be a saint and sin would be no more. So here are two things to help us grow as men and women who live by the law of love.

Firstly, notice that when God commands Israel to take care of the stranger in their midst he reminds them that they themselves were once strangers – until he intervened and brought them out from slavery into freedom. God reminds them of why they should be good: love of him and of neighbour (and strangers are neighbours) is a very basic matter of gratitude. Our regular examination of our lives and the recognition of the blessings that we have and continue to receive provide the spiritual foundation for our response in charity. The lives of many who live with little teach us that it is the appreciation of what we have that spurs us on to charity far more than the quantity of what we have received.

Secondly, notice that love requires action in very concrete terms. God spells out what he expects his people to do. OK, he doesn't cover every situation, but the simple lessons we are given here remind us that our discipleship means that we need to be kind and more than fair in our dealings with others. Some companies may think it fine to trade on 90-day payment terms, but that is not the mark of a Christian – we should pay our bills on time and willingly. The widow and orphan, so much a focus of social justice in Torah, represent those who today do not have anyone else to speak for them or fight their corner. As a church in the twenty-first century we are called to make a particular effort to ensure that the voice of the poor is heard. And what of our response to migrants? How do we speak of them and how does their welfare feature in our political thinking? Is our discourse and thinking marked with mercy and compassion or with harshness and cold hearts?

So, now that the half-term break is over, here is a little "homework": make an "Examen" – a prayerful consideration of the blessings received and of where we have succeeded and failed in love. The sort of prayer I am talking about here is not finding a big stick to beat ourselves up with, but opening ourselves to God's presence in our lives. If you need help finding a balanced structure then maybe have a look at some of those on *Pray-as-you-go*. (<https://pray-as-you-go.org/series/3-examen-prayer>)

Mass Responses for Thirtieth Sunday of Ordinary Time

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

PSALM RESPONSE: I love you, Lord, my strength.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

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

All Saints and Holy Souls

All Saints Wednesday 1st November is a Holy Day of Obligation and Mass will be celebrated at 7.30pm at St Edmund's on 31st October
10.00am at St Joseph's
2.15pm at St Edmund's School
6.30pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere.

There will be coffee and cake at Squires after the 10am Mass, and probably some sort of libation after the Vigil Mass for those who wish to mark the feast.

All Souls 2nd November is a particular day of prayer for the Faithful Departed. Mass will be celebrated at 9.30am at St Joseph's, followed by blessing of graves at **Milford** Cemetery at 10.30am.

The blessing of graves at **Eashing** Cemetery will take place on Sunday 5th November at 12 noon. The blessing of graves at **Nightingale Road** has now been arranged for 10am next Saturday (4th November).

Book of Remembrance The books of remembrance at St Edmund's and St Joseph's are being updated. We will have a look at adding some blank pages each year for you to record the names of family and friends from outside the parish for whom you wish to pray.

Fr Rajesh is with us this weekend whilst Fr Jonathan is in the Haslemere parish.

Children's Liturgy Resumes next Sunday at 8.45am after a half-term break. The next Bumps & Babes session is Monday 30 October.

Contemporary Music A small group will lead some contemporary music at the 6pm Mass on second Saturdays in 2024. Contact Nicki Lion if you play an instrument or sing and would like to take part.

Mass with Anointing of the Sick A huge thank you to everybody who helped at the Mass with anointing of the sick at Ladywell Convent last Sunday. It was a wonderfully blessed afternoon. Thank you also to the FMDM sisters at Ladywell for allowing us to use their chapel and for the delicious afternoon tea afterwards!

CAFOD Emergency Israeli-Palestinian Crisis

Appeal The terrible situation in Israel and occupied Palestinian territory is tearing lives apart. Funds are needed to enable CAFOD to provide urgent, practical help to the families who need it, as soon as it's safe to do so. Donate at: <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=israelipalestiniancrisis>

Clocks change – don't forget the clocks change this weekend!

Advent

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 followed by 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
- Elstead home group (time and day tbc)
- 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 27th November.

If anyone would like to facilitate a day-time group please speak to Fr Jonathan or Sarah and we can add it to the list.

Retreat The Franciscan Centre at Ladywell have an Advent retreat on the first weekend of December. See their website for further details or to book. Another very good way to keep a spiritual focus as we head into one of the most important feasts of the year. It's also possible to take part on a non-residential basis.

<https://franciscancentre.org.uk/>

Power of Prayer The next session of this course at St Joan's Farnham is 'The Holy Eucharist and the meaning of the Mass'. 1 November, 7.45pm.

Bishop Richard on Prayer 4 November at St Pius, Mellow. 'The Lord Jesus speaks to us through the Scriptures', an afternoon unpacking the riches of the Bible, as Bishop Richard shares his decades of experience with lectio divina. Also includes prayer time to listen to the Lord's voice in prayer. 2pm, concludes with Mass at 5.30pm.

Clothing for Gatwick Detainees Welfare Group Good quality second hand clothes are needed for men held in detention; some arrive with only the clothes they are wearing and in some cases these clothes are wet. No women's clothes please. Items needed are jeans, T-shirts, jogging bottoms, coats, jumpers, belts (in all sizes); and trainers (sizes 6–13). The Live Simply group will arrange delivery to GDWG so please drop off items to the parish office or at church.

Synod of Bishops The members issued a *Letter to the People of God* as they concluded last week. They write: "We want to thank God with all of you for the beautiful and enriching experience we have lived... For the first time, at Pope Francis' invitation, men and women have been invited, in virtue of their baptism, to sit at the same table to take part, not only in the discussions, but also in the voting process of this Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. Together, in the complementarity of our vocations, our charisms and our ministries, we have listened intensely to the Word of God and the experience of others... To progress in its discernment, the Church absolutely needs to listen to everyone, starting with the poorest. This requires a path of conversion on its part, which is also a path of praise: 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children'..." To read the full letter visit <https://tinyurl.com/2c786b93>

Christian Medical Fellowship Conference. Christians in Health and Social Care: Ethics and Practice, 4 November, 10am-3pm. By zoom from St Mary's University, Twickenham. Speakers will cover topics such as freedom of conscience, caring for ourselves and our relationship with God, and our vocation to care. To register or find out more visit <https://tinyurl.com/ys7yra87>. Please feel free to pass this on to colleagues.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross Fr Anthony Meredith will be leading on 3 November at 7am.

Baby Loss memorial The memorial book and prayer book is in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's church throughout October.

CTGD Christmas Lunch A volunteer cook has come forward so this popular and well attended event will be able to go ahead this year.

Wintershall Nativity 13-18 December, booking now open at <https://www.wintershall.org.uk> They are also looking for a 5-8-month-old baby for the starring role of Jesus! If you/your family might be interested, please get in touch: 01483 892167.

Christmas cards to support SVP will be on sale w/e 11/12 November @ £2.50 cash per pack. All profit goes to support the work of our local SVP group, and donations are also accepted.

A&B Diocesan Communications Officer 17.5 hours P/T <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers>

September Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £6,557 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £214 for charities (Catholic Education and CAFOD). 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 the Holy Land, Ukraine, Afghanistan; missionaries.

The Holy Father's Intention for October is for the Synod. We pray for the Church, that she may adopt listening and dialogue as a lifestyle at every level and allow herself to be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

The sick and those who care for them Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Rosaria Mantio, 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 Rheenan & Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals & care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed in particular for Assunta (Sue) Goncalves-Matthews and Diane Donne who died recently, and for Esme Kulik, Gerard Dawes, Anne-Marie Barnsdale, Ellen Folett, Robert Gray, Ellen Holman, Doreen Rogers, Agnes Wright, John Norton, Fr Bernard Rowley, Anna Warner, Phyllis Dunn and those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses & Liturgies

Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time 29 October 2023

Saturday 28th October SS Simon and Jude	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Well-being of Harriet Murphy</i>
Sunday 29th October 30TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Nick Waight RIP</i>
Monday 30th October	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 31st October	12.00pm Funeral Mass for Assunta (Sue) Goncalves-Matthews RIP (St Joseph's) 7.30pm Vigil Mass for All Saint's Day (St Edmund's)
Wednesday 1st November ALL SAINTS DAY	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Doreen Rogers RIP</i> 2.15pm Mass (St Edmund's School) – <i>People of the parish</i> 6.30pm Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere)
Thursday 2nd November ALL SOULS DAY	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>For the Faithful Departed</i> Followed by Blessing of graves at Milford Cemetery
Friday 3rd November	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>John Sands RIP</i>
Saturday 4th November St Charles Borromeo	10.00am Blessing of graves at Nightingale Road Cemetery 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Deceased family of Brenda Brown</i>
Sunday 5th November 31ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) <i>– Eugene, Roisin, Joseph & Sarah McClinton RIP</i> 12.00pm Blessing of graves at Eashing Cemetery

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