



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



First Sunday of Advent 3rd December 2023

The Gospel on this first Sunday of Advent continues the theme of being ready for the return of the Lord that has accompanied us through much of November. We could read it as a short form of the parable of the talents jokingly summarised in a popular car sticker as "Jesus is coming. Look busy!"

The passage from the prophet Isaiah that we hear invites, I think, a slightly different reading. It invites us to enter into a world – our own world in fact – which has been in darkness and desolation for so long that it has lost hope. (I remember reading Cormac McCarthy's unremittingly grim *The Road* in hope that it might have a happy ending and just feeling empty and disappointed on reaching the final page.) I am minded of those who live in our own country who are locked in cycles of deprivation, who suffer chronic illness or addiction, and in a context in which so little help is available to effect a lasting change. Or again of parts of Africa plagued by decades of conflict and violence to which must now be added famine, drought or flooding brought on by climate change. Pope Francis's recent lamentation of the inability of world leaders to work together is a prophetic judgement not unlike that of Isaiah or Jeremiah.

It is in this context that we are invited to show our expectant hope in the coming of the Saviour. Almost if, as in Peter Pan the cry of "I do believe in fairies" restores Tinkerbell, so the yearning and longing of our hearts for the coming of the Lord will indeed bring it to pass. Our expectant hope gives meaning to our action; our small deeds may not of themselves radically change the world, but they can make a concrete difference to one person at a time and be something that the Lord brings to completion when he comes in glory. The practice of longing and yearning in our prayer for the coming of the Lord nourishes and strengthens our expectant hope – as our hearts reach out to the Lord he comes to meet us with the gift of the Holy Spirit who helps us to remember and believe his promise that he will come again to save us.

This work may seem a bit of a minority sport – a long way from the perspective of many – but we are called to be the leaven in the wheat, or the seed planted in winter that will cause the loaf to rise and the green shoots to spring forth for the benefit of all.

Mass Responses for First Sunday of Advent

PSALM RESPONSE: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

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

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is on Friday with evening Mass at 7.30pm at St Edmund's, at which two of our adult parishioners will be confirmed. It isn't a holyday of obligation here but is one of the major feasts of the year and a great occasion to praise God, for whom nothing is impossible.

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 church.

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

Coffee after Mass Please join us after 8.45am Mass – we'd love to meet you and your family!

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

There will be a talk at all Masses this weekend about CAFOD's humanitarian work in this conflict. As it enters its ninth week we pray that 'as we approach the Holy Season of Advent... Christ the Prince of Peace will guide all devastated by this conflict into the ways of truth, reconciliation, and respectful co-existence.' Please support the appeal if you can. There will also be a second collection alongside our day of prayer on 9th and 10th December. Donations can also be made directly: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

Advent in the parish

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 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!

Sacrament of Reconciliation Fr Jonathan will be available from 11am on Saturday 9 December to hear confessions at St Edmund's; from 1pm at St Joseph's; and at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere, from 4-5pm. There will be priests available nearly all day at St Joseph's, Guildford on Saturday 16 December.

Blessing of the Advent Wreath This weekend the Advent Wreath is blessed at Mass.

First Holy Communion families We offer a warm welcome to you all at the 10.30am Mass.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

5pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Joseph's) As usual, children are invited to wear nativity themed fancy dress if they would like.

7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas (St Edmund's)

10pm Mass of Christmas Night (St Edmund's)

Christmas Day

8.45am Dawn Mass at St John's

10.30am Day Mass at St Joseph's

New Year's Day

11.00am Mass at Ladywell on their titular feast.

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.

Invited The third season of Invited began last week and three small groups met in our parish to look at the films and chat a little about them. The sessions are being offered to help us all grow in faith, whether we are new to the church, have been a practising Catholic for decades, or are a bit on the edge of church life and trying to follow where God is leading us now. There are some great films featuring amazing speakers and testimonies, so do have a think about taking part. If you can't commit to all sessions it's fine to come along when you can:

7.30pm Thursdays (7, 14, 21 Dec) **Ladywell** – sign up online or just come!

7.30pm Tuesdays (5, 12, 19 Dec) **Farncombe home group** - phone Jo on 07836 202588

2.30pm Tuesdays (5, 12, 19 Dec) **Elstead home group** - phone Sheila on 01252 702366

Thursday @7pm online (7, 14, 21 Dec) To register: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

Each week you can download the latest film from A&B's vimeo platform and watch at home. The talks reflect on the Sunday readings and the Christmas message and are 1+ hours.

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.

COP28 During these two weeks of critical talks in Dubai about tackling the climate crisis, please pray that world leaders will take the urgent action that is needed, as urged by Pope Francis in his Laudate Deum encyclical. And if you are buying gifts and sending cards this Christmas, please remember to make ethical purchases, support good causes and buy/use recyclable materials.

Thank you from Mary's Meals for the Foreign Currency Appeal! *'Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their wonderful generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £881.72 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 46 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all'*. If you would like to continue to support their work to combat global hunger their latest campaign 'double the love' doubles all donations: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

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.

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

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

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

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. Their **Advent Prayer Group** is on Thursday evenings 7.30pm.

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

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 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 Peter Hutley who died recently and for Joan Wheeler, Bridget Madden, John Piasecki, Chris Ronan, Helene Eade, Geoffrey Simmonds, Michael Lada-Walicki, Cynthia Stowell, and Edgidia Ferrucci whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses & Liturgies
First Week of Advent
3rd December 2023**

Saturday 2nd December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 3rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
Monday 4th December St John Damascene	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 5th December	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Wednesday 6th December St Nicholas	5pm Elstead Mass (Flinders, 19 Spring Hill, Elstead, GU8 6EL) –
Thursday 7th December St Ambrose	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 8th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	7.30pm Evening Mass with Confirmation (St Edmund's)
Saturday 9th December	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) –
Sunday 10th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Chris & Andrew Mooney RIP</i> 12.15pm Baptisms - Bertie Warnes & Arthur Morley-Cooper (St Edmund's)

Sunday Readings Year B.

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