



**Catholic Parish of
St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming**
with St Joseph's, Milford



**22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
3rd September 2023**

O God you are my God for you I long, for you my soul is thirsting.

Being Christian is ultimately a love affair. The God who loves us into being invites us to love him in return, and that love spills over into love for all his creatures. The prophet Jeremiah has discovered this. Even though his prophecy makes him a laughing-stock he knows that he has been "seduced" – he has experienced a fire in his heart that cannot be contained.

The Responsorial Psalm today is sung at Morning Prayer for every feast of the church's year. It expresses a deep longing for God, an existential cry from the heart – *my body pines for you, like a dry weary land without water*. This longing leads the soul to *gaze on you [God] in the sanctuary*, and to sing of a love which *is better than life*.

The epistle invites us to allow this deep love to shape us – to be *modelled by your new mind*. As we are re-formed by this love of God we come to share in it more deeply.

In the Gospel passage, Jesus cautions his disciples about an idealised vision of his mission and their following. Love is not all easy going (as Jeremiah well knew). It requires a genuine self-sacrifice, and a letting go in love, that leads to a sweetness and light beyond our hopes and expectations.

Bishop Richard often reminds us of the centrality of prayer in the Christian life. As the summer draws to a close and our schedules fill up once again perhaps we might make fresh purpose and intention about the place of prayer in our lives – of the existential necessity of spending time each day longing and yearning for God and a fresh experience of his love for us. It is the origin of who we are, who we are called to be, and of how we are to live in love with one another and to care for our common home.

Fr Jonathan

Mass Responses for Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia! Alleluia! May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: How great is the goodness, Lord, that you keep for those who fear you.

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

The Season of Creation (September 1st to October 4th) is a season dedicated to prayer, reflection and celebration of God as Creator. It also celebrates and reflects prayerfully on the gifts of creation and the mission given us by God to care for creation and respond to its needs and crises today. On the weekend of **23rd and 24th September** our Masses will be of thanksgiving for creation. Please think about what aspect of creation you would like to thank God for and bring to Mass a photo, picture or example e.g. plant/ flower to create a display which can be part of our celebration that weekend.

In his message for the 2023 **World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation**, Pope Francis invites us to 'the renewal of our relationship with creation so that we no longer see it as an object to be exploited but cherish it instead as a sacred gift from our Creator.'

The latest Live Simply newsletter is available on our website under 'Newsletters'. To subscribe please email the parish office.

Blessing of Students and Teachers Next Sunday is **Education Sunday** and there will be a special blessing at all our parish Masses at this time of year when schools, colleges and universities reopen after the summer; and there will be a special collection for Catholic Education.

Coffee after 8.45am Mass this Sunday Please join us! Also, it would be great to have a few more helpers on the rota so that people only organise coffee every couple of months. If you can help, please email Jo your mobile number for the WhatsApp group: jolewry@aol.com

Children's Liturgy re-starts at 8.45am Mass next Sunday 10th at St John's. For more info contact Eleanor: eleanor.streatfield@gmail.com

First Holy Communion 2024 There will be a follow-up meeting on 12 September for parents wishing to prepare their children (Year 4 or above) for First Holy Communion next year but who were unable to attend the first meeting earlier this month. Please register for this via: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/yy3fvafx> Registration for the programme is now open at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/yy3fvafx> If you would be interested in joining a small 'band' at the FHC Masses, please email Frances at communionatsteds@gmail.com

Communion under both kinds will resume at Sunday Masses at Milford from September. Children who missed out on preparation for this are invited to see Fr Jonathan after one of the Sunday Masses at St Edmund's or St Joseph's.

Bumps & Babes re-starts on Monday 11th and is from 10.30am to 12 noon at St John's; for more info contact Eileen: eileen.hudson@gmail.com

Altar Servers Any young people, or adults, who would like to try out serving at Mass are invited to make contact with Fr Jonathan. There will be a meeting for all those interested at 4pm on Saturday 9th September at St Joseph's, Milford, to learn some basics and be fitted for albs. Children should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

SVP Afternoon Teas These monthly teas on the second Wednesday of each month (next one is on Wednesday 13th) are very popular and all are welcome; 2.30pm, United Reformed Church in Elstead. For info/to arrange a lift: 07379 108009.

Parish Community Groups So far 80+ parishioners have joined one of the 'PCGs', and the groups have great plans in place for the autumn. If you would like to register go to: <https://stedsgod.com/our-parish-community>

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 on 17th September: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/j9jyjbzl>

Sacraments for Adults The next group for adults wishing to be Baptised, received into full communion (to become Catholic) or who wish to be Confirmed starts in the autumn. If you are interested in exploring this, please speak with Fr Jonathan or Ian Honeysett.

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

Young Adults Prayer and Pub are meeting in Guildford this Wednesday for Adoration at 7pm at St Joseph's Church, Guildford; followed by a brief talk at 8pm and then off to the pub for some refreshment. Free feel to bring a friend or come to as much/little of the evening as you wish.

Surrey Churches Ride & Stride takes place next Saturday; why not join them? (it helps if you have a bike!). The start is 10am outside St John's, Farncombe. More info and sponsorship details from Ian: honeysett@btinternet.com

Mass with Anointing of the Sick on Sunday 15th October at 2pm at Ladywell Convent. If you need a lift or have any queries please contact Godalming SVP on 07379 108009.

Catholic Young Adults: Dating & Relationships Whether you are happily single, in a relationship or looking for love please join this new online course on the Theology of the Body and explore what it means to navigate society's dating culture as a young Catholic. Led by the Diocesan Youth Adviser, Lizzie, on four Monday evenings from 18 September. For more info: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

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

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

Supporting the local Foodbanks If you have surplus fresh produce – fruit, veg, eggs, bread – you can drop off at the foodbank in Farncombe, (in the grounds of Farncombe Cricket Club, Summers Rd, Farncombe GU7 3BE) on the open shelves by the door. For donations, there are boxes at St Joseph's and St Edmund's, and at supermarkets. Financial donations also welcome.

FMDM Ladywell Convent Recruitment for Head of Congregational Administration & Communications - a new full-time role. Apply by 14/9; more info: recruitment@ladywell.org.uk

July Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £7,150 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £450 for charities (£329 for Stella Maris and £121 for Peter's Pence). 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 Ukraine, migrants, 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 Cyril Castelino, Wasyl Kostiouk, Wyn Gibbs, Coline Webber, Brian Cooke, Richard Blackhurst, Viva Vonahan, Elizabeth O'Donnell, Richard Pilkington, Vincenzo Bivona, Carolyn Horner and John Hookham whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time 3 September 2023

Saturday 2nd September	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i>
Sunday 3rd September 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Private Intention</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Arthur Kelly RIP</i>
Monday 4th September St Cuthbert	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 5th September	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Danny Minikin</i>
Wednesday 6th September	7.00pm Elstead Mass (Bilbrook, 1 Burford Lea, GU8 6HT) – <i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday 7th September	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 8th September Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For Vocations to Priesthood</i>
Saturday 9th September	6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For Vocations to Catholic Education</i>
Sunday 10th September 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>John Hookham RIP</i> 1.15pm Baptisms - Isla McIntyre & Robin Bellairs (St Joseph's)

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 can often be 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.

find one.