



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

with St Joseph's, Milford



## The Epiphany of the Lord 7th January 2024

On this Feast last year Pope Francis asked, "Where can we find and encounter our Lord?" The lessons he drew from the Magi might inspire us at the start of this year.

First, their restless questioning. "The exciting adventure of these Wise Men from the East teaches us that faith is not born of our own merits, thoughts and theories... God's grace helps us to shake off our apathy and opens our minds to ask the important questions in life. Questions that challenge us to leave behind our presumption that everything is fine, questions that open us to what is beyond us." He warns against "tranquilizers of the soul", surrogates meant to sedate our inner restlessness and to suppress those very questions: new items to consume, empty promises of pleasure and non-stop media controversies, the idolatry of fitness... Often we try to soothe our hearts with creature comforts. If the Magi had done that, they would never have encountered the Lord."

Second, the risk of journeying. "Questioning, including spiritual questioning, can lead to frustrations and desolations unless we embark upon a journey... Without a continuous journey in constant dialogue with the Lord, without attentive listening to his word, without perseverance, faith cannot grow. It is not enough to entertain some vague idea about God, to say some prayer that salves our consciences. We need to become disciples, following Jesus and his Gospel, bringing everything to him in prayer, seeking him in the events of our daily lives and in the faces of our brothers and sisters. Today, let us ask ourselves: Am I journeying towards the Lord of life, to make him the Lord of my life? Jesus, who are you for me? Where are you calling me to go, and what are you asking of my life? What decisions are you inviting me to make for the sake of others?"

Finally, the wonder of worship. "At the end of their long journey and tiring quest, the Magi entered the house, where they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage'. This is what really matters: our restlessness, our questioning, our spiritual journeys and the practice of our faith must all converge in worship of the Lord. There they find their centre and source, for there everything begins, for the Lord himself enables us to feel and act. Everything starts and ends there, because the purpose of everything is not to achieve a personal goal or to receive glory for ourselves, but to encounter God. To let ourselves be enveloped by his love, which is the basis of our hope, which sets us free from evil, opens our hearts to love others, and makes us a people capable of building a more just and fraternal world. Our pastoral activities will be fruitless unless we put Jesus at their centre and fall down in worship before him. The wonder of worship."

He concluded, "Brothers and sisters, may we never stop our restless questioning; may we never interrupt our journey by yielding to apathy or convenience; and in our encounter with the Lord, may we abandon ourselves to the wonder of worship. Then we will discover that a light shines even in the darkest nights: the light of Jesus, the radiant morning star, the sun of justice the merciful splendour of God, who loves every man and woman, and all the peoples of the earth."

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

**Thank you!** ...from Fr Jonathan and Fr Rajesh for the generous contributions to the Christmas offering and the many cards and gifts received. Thanks also to all those who helped prepare our churches and liturgies for Christmas.

**Fr Rajesh** will be visiting India until early next month. We wish him a good trip home.

**Latin Patriarch's Appeal** Cardinal Pizzaballa, who leads the Latin Catholic Church in the Holy Land, has appealed for help with their relief work and, following our Bishop's invitation, a second collection will be taken this weekend on the Feast of the Epiphany to support the work of our brothers and sisters who keep the faith of Jesus in the place of his birth.

The Peacelight from Bethlehem remains alight at St Edmund's Church and will move to the Lady Chapel until 2nd February. This flame has come from the Church of the Nativity and been carried across Europe and further afield by Scouts and Guides. Please feel free to take a light home with you if you can do so safely.

**Next Sunday is Peace Sunday** and the Second Collection offers an opportunity to support the work of Pax Christi, an international Catholic Movement for Peace. Advocating for a just peace in Palestine and Israel is part of their ongoing work alongside building a culture of nonviolence.

**Baptism Preparation** Please get in touch with Fr Jonathan or Sarah if you would like to attend the next preparation sessions in mid-January.

**Confirmation** preparation begins 14th January for young people in Year 10. Sign up at: <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/forms/wwwsvdexg> Dates and details can be found on the parish website.

Our parish **Live Simply group** meets at 7.30pm, 11th January, please join us! [jolewry@aol.com](mailto:jolewry@aol.com)

**Sunday of the Word of God** is on 21st January this year. There will be a blessing for all readers at Masses that weekend. If you are interested in this important ministry do have a think about attending the Day of Reflection on 20th January with Bishop Richard (see below), and have a chat with Fr Jonathan.

**SVP Afternoon Tea** is on Wednesday 10th at 2.30pm in Elstead. If you need a lift please contact the SVP: 07379 108009.

**St Edmund's School Admissions 2024** Please contact the parish office if you need Fr Jonathan to sign a supplementary information form.

## Looking to 2024 and beyond

### **The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission**

The updated Pastoral Plan was published this week and is available online and at the back of church. It stresses the need to keep our minds fixed on Christ, whom we encounter in the Eucharist, which forms us in his likeness. It reaffirms the significance of prayer and formation underpinning the great work of mission.

New to the plan is that those parishes (including Godalming) which make up Guildford deanery will become a single parish, cooperating much more closely, to serve the sacramental and formation needs of the communities in a flexible way and freed to bring their gifts to the service of the church in mission. How this will look in practice will need to be shaped in prayerful discernment through the coming year.

The plan can be read and/or downloaded at: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/news/bishop-richards-new-pastoral-plan>.

Bishop Richard will be hosting an open **Webinar on Wednesday 10th January at 7.30pm** for people across our diocesan community. Please use the following the link to join the webinar <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86457734895>

### **Our Churches**

The publication of the Pastoral Plan will enable us to further our discernment on the future of our churches in Godalming. We will be seeking to hear the voice of parishioners on the options before us after the Building Review Group reports to the parish late January/early February.

This year will provide an important time for our parish to plan its mission for the years ahead. Bishop Richard has asked each parish to have an hour of **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** each month specifically to support this work.

**Faith as Turning Point in Prison** Marie Norbury from the Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) is speaking at St Dunstan's Church in Woking, GU22 7DT, on 17th January at 7pm. To register: [guildfordknightsofstcolumba@gmail.com](mailto:guildfordknightsofstcolumba@gmail.com)

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** starts next week on 18th January. Our main opportunity to participate is Evening Prayer on Sunday 21st January at 5.30pm at St John's. The reformed churches will gather for a joint Eucharist that morning at 10.30am at St Peter & St Paul's.

**Cleaners needed at St Joseph's** If you can spare an hour or two every now and then to help with cleaning the church please get in touch with Sarah in the parish office.

**Upcoming Retreats at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell** The 2024 programme of events offers participants the opportunity to experience the Beauty, Goodness and Generosity of God in a reflective hospitable Franciscan environment, through retreats, quiet days and workshops. There is also the opportunity for Spiritual Direction from Spiritual Directors. Upcoming dates: 16-18 February; 15-17 March; 28-31 March. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

### Some Diocesan Events in 2024

**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word** with Bishop Richard in Cobham on Saturday 20th January 11am-4pm. For more details/to book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/9vii0inm>

**Annual Justice & Peace Assembly** Saturday 27th January, 10-1.30pm at St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley. The assembly will address violence and abuse in our homes, families and wider community, with speakers from Restored, Lifecentre and Pax Christi. For more info contact Tessa Ricketts: [Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Tessa.Ricketts@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist** with Bishop Richard in Worthing on Saturday 10th February. For more info/to book: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/diqacwqj>

**Overwhelmed - Finding balance in a fast-paced world** 27 January, 9.30am, at Godalming Baptist Church. Led by Andy Peck, this session covers issues such as: What makes us overwhelmed and how do we respond? Learn from what Jesus modelled and taught His followers. To book: [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk)

**Trinity Trust Team Youth Groups** If you have children or grandchildren looking to join a local Christian based youth group, there are two TTT groups on Wednesday evenings at Godalming Baptist Church which may be of interest: **Fusion** 6-7.15pm (primary & junior school age) with games, craft, bible stories, songs, and snacks; or **FUSE** 7.30-9pm (secondary-school age), with sessions on contemporary themes and issues and how the bible speaks into these. More info at: <https://www.trinitytrustteam.co.uk/>

**Thank you for supporting Coffee after 8.45am Mass** Last year £350+ was raised for our parish SVP group through donations for coffee. It's a great opportunity to meet and chat with others in our parish family so please do join us this Sunday. If you can help with serving the coffee, please get in touch with Jo Lewry.

**CTGD January Newsletter** is available on our website under 'Newsletters'.

**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 and Ukraine; for peace in our world.

**The Holy Father's Intention for January** We pray for the gift of diversity in the church, that the Spirit may help us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

**The sick and those who care for them** Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret & Terry Punter, Freda Aparak, Philip Doyle, Alex Jolliffe, 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 Rosaria Di Mancio, John Higgins, Antonio Barbato, Gabrielle Dumble and Joan Buckley who died recently, and for Jan Heksel, Kathleen Wheeler, Malcolm Forbes, John Bunting, Jean Humphrey, Alfons Peterson, Jesu Lopez, Patricia Hedley, Vera Bowens, Louis McCabe, Irene Routledge, Barbara Selley, Grace Coulber, Dorothy Lacey-Smith, Peter Clark, Jean Barnes, Teresa Bontoft, Sidney Gale, James McGrath, Bill Frayne, Winifrid de Guignand, Josefa Iwanohkiw and Anna Hunt whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses  
The Epiphany of the Lord  
& First Week of Ordinary Time**

<b>Saturday 6th January</b>	<b>6.00pm Vigil Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Tim Green RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 7th January</b> THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i> 12.00pm Baptism – Jemima Röbin (St Joseph's)
<b>Monday 8th January</b> THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	<b>2pm Mass (St Edmund's School)</b> – <i>John Higgins RIP</i> <i>The season of Christmas finishes this evening.</i>
<b>Tuesday 9th January</b>	9.00am Adoration (St Joseph's) <b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 10th January</b>	<b>9.30am Morning Prayer and Adoration (St Joseph's)</b> <i>10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Guildford</i> <i>Evening - Parish Community Group House Mass</i>
<b>Thursday 11th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> 12.00pm – 1.00pm Adoration (St Edmund's)
<b>Friday 12th January</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Margaret Stevens RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 13th January</b>	<b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Sunday 14th January</b> 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b>

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year 1I

**St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm**  
[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*