



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Sunday of the Word of God

21st January 2024

This year, 2024, is shaping up to be a year with a strong focus on prayer – it is the foundation of all that we do and are. The Eucharist is the summit and source of our life, and in order that it may bear ever greater fruit in our lives (not just making us better disciples, but actually enriching us with joy and hope) we are being encouraged to make Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – prayer before the tabernacle or monstrance – a part of our spiritual lives. You will see opportunities for this in the newsletter and I hope that you will be able to make a little time each week for this powerful form of prayer.

This *Sunday of the Word of God* is a good time to remind ourselves of the analogy between the real presence of Jesus Christ in the word of God and in the consecrated bread and wine. Pope Benedict, in his letter on the Word of God writes,

By approaching the altar and partaking in the Eucharistic banquet we truly share in the body and blood of Christ. The proclamation of God's word at the celebration entails an acknowledgment that Christ himself is present, that he speaks to us, and that he wishes to be heard. Saint Jerome speaks of the way we ought to approach both the Eucharist and the word of God: "We are reading the sacred Scriptures. For me, the Gospel is the Body of Christ; for me, the holy Scriptures are his teaching. And when he says: whoever does not eat my flesh and drink my blood, even though these words can also be understood of the [Eucharistic] Mystery, Christ's body and blood are really the word of Scripture, God's teaching. When we approach the [Eucharistic] Mystery, if a crumb falls to the ground we are troubled. Yet when we are listening to the word of God, and God's Word and Christ's flesh and blood are being poured into our ears yet we pay no heed, what great peril should we not feel?". Christ, truly present under the species of bread and wine, is analogously present in the word proclaimed in the liturgy. A deeper understanding of the sacramentality of God's word can thus lead us to a more unified understanding of the mystery of revelation, which takes place through "deeds and words intimately connected"; an appreciation of this can only benefit the spiritual life of the faithful and the Church's pastoral activity.

So this week, perhaps take a moment to ask how you can cherish the word of God more dearly, and through it encounter the one who calls you to new life, by being at his side and in his presence.

Mass Responses for Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: Lord, make me know your ways.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand: repent, and believe the Good News. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

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

This Sunday is 'Sunday of the Word of God'

- a day to celebrate Scripture and deepen our love for it and reflect on its importance in our daily life. The chosen theme for this year is from the Gospel of St John: "Remain in my Word" (John 8,31). There will be a blessing for all readers at Masses this weekend. If you are interested in becoming a Reader at Mass, please have a chat with Fr Jonathan.

NB We can expect to start using the Catholic Edition of the ESV in the liturgy later this year, so please think twice before buying a new Sunday or Weekday Missal.

Coffee after 8.45am Mass Please come and join us and meet others in our parish family.

Welcome to our First Holy Communion Families attending the 10.30am Mass.

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 arrange **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** monthly specifically to support this work. The first of these will be **10am-11am on 27th January** at St Edmund's.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity continues this week until Thursday; the chosen theme "You shall love the Lord your God...and your neighbour as yourself" (Lk 10:27), from the parable of the Good Samaritan, powerfully challenges indifference to suffering and inspires solidarity, and calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

You are encouraged to join Fr Jonathan and Rev James Rattue for the joint **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.

The next **Churches Together in Godalming and District Prayer Breakfast** is on 27th January, 8.30-10am at St Marks, Ockford Ridge.

Annual Diocesan Justice & Peace Assembly Saturday 27th January, 10-1.30pm at St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley, with speakers from Restored, Lifecentre and Pax Christi. For more info: 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/diqacwqd>

Next Sunday is Racial Justice Sunday and there will be a second collection for this cause.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan

The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission

The updated Pastoral Plan was published at the start of the month 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>.

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 in the coming weeks.

The Ministry of Consolation The funeral rites offer a vision of the parish community supporting those who have been bereaved by attending funeral masses and participating in the liturgy. Do consider this simple work of charity if you are available when we celebrate a funeral mass.

Trinity Trust Team Youth Groups on Wednesday evenings at Godalming Baptist Church: **Fusion** 6-7.15pm (primary & junior school age) with games, craft, bible stories, songs, and snacks; and **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/>

Franciscan Centre Administrator New job opportunity at Ladywell working in a key role in the Franciscan Centre team providing admin support to the Director. £29k+, FT. Apply by end January to: recruitment@ladywell.org.uk

Overwhelmed - Finding balance in a fast-paced world 27 January, 9.30am, at Godalming Baptist Church. What makes us overwhelmed and how do we respond? Learn from what Jesus modelled and taught His followers. For more info: pollard3@hotmail.co.uk

Looking to Lent 2024

Thursday Evening Small Groups at Ladywell

Stress free conversation about our faith in a welcoming and friendly setting. The themes from this season of Invited include: Jesus as Lord of our lives; becoming Missionary Disciples; What is the Church and how do we fit in? Reconciliation; and Holy Week. Tea and coffee from 7pm with the session starting at 7.30pm from 15 February. Please sign up via the website calendar.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2024 Are you up for a challenge this Lent? Could you walk 5K (10,000 steps) each day for the 40 days of Lent? Join our BIG Lent walk and help raise funds for CAFOD to help people overcome poverty. This year we are aiming to walk 6880 kms, the distance from Godalming to Monrovia in Liberia. We need 34 parishioners to walk 5K a day for 40 days to reach our target of 6800km - and we hope to raise £2000! You can sign up to walk by contacting Jo Lewry on jolewry@aol.com

Some useful resources for the Word of God

Bible Alive offers a reflection on the scripture reading for each day. It comes in a small, printed format and on Kindle. Some parishioners have been subscribers for a long time and really love it.

Magnificat is also very popular, available by subscription, which includes the readings for Mass each day, a reflection and shorter Morning and Evening Prayer. <https://uk.magnificat.net/>

Pray As You Go offers a daily prayer session, designed to go with you wherever you go, to help you pray whenever you find time. Each daily prayer session lasts around 10 minutes, and combines music, scripture and reflection. You can download this free App to your phone or PC. <https://pray-as-you-go.org/>

Universalis is a popular website and app with the readings and prayers for Mass and the Liturgy of the Hours. <https://universalis.com>

ESV Bible enables you to read/listen to the Bible online or via the App, using the English Standard Version of the Bible. <https://www.esv.org/>

Bible in One Year App This is an audio version of the Bible, which you can download free to your phone or PC with a daily selection of three excerpts from the New and Old Testaments and Psalms. <https://bibleinoneyear.org/en/>

** Remember that we will have a new translation of the Scripture readings in the liturgy from Advent this year. **

ADoRE mini retreat online on 27 January, 10am-1pm, with Charles Whitehead www.altonrenewal.com

December Offertory The parish gratefully received a total of £13,386 from offertories and standing orders; and a further £486 for charities. Thank you.

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 to pray for Peace on earth; Openness to the Word of God; Christian Unity.

The Holy Father's Intention for January 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 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 Rosaria Di Mantio, John Higgins, Gabrielle Dumble and Joan Buckley who died recently, and for Mary Dorsett, Delia Purvis, Elizabeth Brewer, Alan Batchelor, Molly Cliff, Carmine Barbato, Freda Etsel, Jean Cox, Peter Elli and Percy Padday whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 20th January	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the Unity of Christians</i>
Sunday 21st January 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i> 5.30pm Joint Evening Prayer (St John's)
Monday 22nd January	11.00am Funeral Mass Rosaria Mantio RIP (St Joseph's)
Tuesday 23rd January	10.30am Funeral Mass John Higgins RIP (St Edmund's)
Wednesday 24th January St Frances de Sales	11.00am Funeral Mass Joan Buckley RIP (St Teresa's, Chiddingfold)
Thursday 25th January THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the ecumenical work of the Joint Liturgical Group and Societas Liturgica</i>
Friday 26th January St Timothy and Titus	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Saturday 27th January	10.00am – 11.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 28th January 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Marie Batty RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the</i>

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year 1I

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

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*