



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford

*Through the love of the Father, Son and Spirit,
our Parish will grow as the Body of Christ in Godalming
and as a sign lifted up for the peoples.*

**Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A
29th March 2020**

Celebrating The Paschal Mystery in a Pandemic

Usually as we enter into the last weeks of Lent the practical preparations intensify. Rehearsals for the services, confessions, music practices, flowers to be arranged, things to be cleaned. This year we do not have the opportunity to be so distracted and our focus shifts entirely onto the mystery we celebrate – the journey of Jesus to accomplish his great work through his Passion, Death and Resurrection, the 'Paschal Mystery'.

There are many here and throughout the world who are now experiencing their own being emptied out, their own share in the passion. This year provides a unique opportunity for many of us to live Holy Week in a new and more intense way. To take the risk of allowing ourselves to walk closely with Jesus in his own dying, that we may have a share in the new life that he wishes to give us. Easter morning always follows Good Friday, but our faith tells us too that Good Friday and the cross are the only way to new life.

I do not know what graces, what new ways of being more alive, that the Father of Love and Mercies will shower upon us, any more than the Israelites knew what the promised land would be when they left Egypt. St Paul speaks too of "What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him". But this is the journey of faith that we are called to embrace – to die again with Christ as we did in the waters of baptism that we might rise with him to new and more abundant life.

In the fourth century Christians in Egypt began to seek the solitude of the desert. It was in this context that St Athanasius wrote in 333AD about the coming Easter celebrations. They are encouraging words to us too as we enter into this time of extraordinary grace.

"Now, that God who first instituted this feast for us, my beloved, has also permitted us to celebrate it each year. He who handed over his Son to death for our salvation, for the same reason gives us this holy feast which is recalled annually. This feast guides us through the misfortunes which befall us in the world. And now God gives us the happiness of salvation, which flows from this feast, and makes us friends. At the same time, he gathers us all together, uniting us spiritually wherever we may be, letting us pray in common and offer common thanksgiving, as is proper on a feast day. **The miracle of his kindness lies in this: he brings together to this feast those who are far off; and those who are perhaps separated in the body, he makes spiritually close by the unity of faith.**"

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Re-Dedication of England to Mary

Sunday is the long-planned re-dedication of England as the "Dowry of Mary". This weekend has been chosen as being closest to the Solemnity of the Annunciation, which we kept on Wednesday. At the heart of this act of faith and of communion with the saints and one another are the Angelus and a prayer of (Re)-dedication. Both of these can be found at <https://www.behold2020.com>. The prayer of rededication will be said as part of the noon mass from Walsingham, and also streamed from Arundel Cathedral after the 11.15mass.

Love One Another Fellowship

There are lots of encouraging stories at the moment of people helping neighbours with shopping and phone calls.

But we are also aware that many value the sense of belonging to our parish or the invitation to do so. That someone they know perhaps only a little bit cares for them. That's one of the reasons why we have set up and are now launching the "Love One Another Fellowship" who can help with shopping, a friendly phone call, praying for or with a person, posting urgent mail and picking up urgent supplies (e.g. medicines). And even if we cannot help directly, they may be able to find someone who can.

If you need a bit of help or know someone who does contact Nicki or Alan on 07593 121430 or at stedmundschurch@outlook.com

Further people to help are also very welcome. Contact the same number if you would like to do so.

Sacraments during lockdown

The celebration of the sacraments of baptism and the anointing of the sick are considered essential ministry to those in danger of death. The local priests are working together to ensure that hospitals are covered and are able to visit homes and care homes to anoint *in extremis*. Please do not hesitate to call if the sacraments are needed for those who are dying. It is always helpful to call the priest in good time and if you leave a message please leave your phone number (mobile preferred) so that the priest can get back to you.

Guildford Virtual Parish

Our neighbours have curated some excellent resources for both adults and families. <https://www.cpg.church> It also provides a link in case you would like to stream any of their services. You will see there that Rev Tom Kent, a deacon from Womersley, has now joined the clergy of the deanery.

Easter Triduum

In addition to our own personal prayer and the streaming of the main Holy Week services I invite you to join me as a parish online (GoToMeeting) for the Liturgy of the Hours during the Easter Triduum. In particular for Morning Prayer and the Office of Readings on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and Morning and Evening Prayer on Easter Sunday. I will do some pdf booklets to help with this.

We will also have a **Family Stations of the Cross** at 11.00am on Good Friday. It will be interactive and grown-ups are also allowed to take part. I will post details of this next week

Bishop Richard will celebrate the main liturgies at Arundel Cathedral and streamed from the diocesan website and YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7I-pXF8v-VZfz001zrnerQ/featured>

If you are missing a fix of **Wintershall**, their Passion Plays from the last few years can be easily found online (YouTube) and would be good watching.

Holy Week in the Domestic Church

The Domestic Church, as the family or household in known, has become the focus of the spiritual life of the body of Christ. You might like to start to plan what you might do to mark holy week at home. e.g. plan a meal on Maundy Thursday, wash each other's feet (it began in religious communities and only became part of mass 50 years ago), decorate or make some eggs, read the accounts of the passion, death and resurrection in the Gospels.

I would also really encourage you to keep the pattern of fasting and feasting that marks the coming days. Two days fasting (or simple abstinence for the old and young – going vegan is very popular these days) on Good Friday and Holy Saturday and something nice to eat and drink on Easter Sunday.

Candle of Hope

Many displayed a 'candle of hope' in their windows last Sunday evening, uniting in prayer with many thousands of others around the world. As our nation faces the unprecedented challenge of the coronavirus pandemic, Churches Together in England (CTE) is encouraging Christians across our nations to continue uniting in this way, praying in their homes at 7.00pm *each* Sunday evening. Premier Christian Radio are broadcasting a service at this time. Posters have been prepared for those who would like to display a permanent symbol of Christ's light shining in the darkness. Please be very careful with live candles, particularly on windowsills. We are keen to avoid adding to our emergency service personnel, particularly at this difficult time. <https://www.cte.org.uk>

Thank you.

For your regular giving. If you usually give at Mass on a Sunday and are able to continue to support us Eileen Hudson (t: 01483 208238) or the parish office can help you set up a standing order or make bank transfers.

Lenten Alms in support of Kasanka are still welcomed. You might like to save these at home and we will arrange to collect them later.

Please remember in your prayers

All those affected by the **Coronavirus**, who are sick, work in our essential services, who are anxious or struggling with living well together at home.

For the victims and survivors of Child Abuse.

The Holy Father's Intentions for March: that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity;

The sick and those who care for them

especially - Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, Pat Cooke, Ruth de Stefani, Josie Whittle, Barbara Brightman, Nuala Gallagher, Maria Chacaltana, Ann Lloyd, Anita van Rheen, Jean Humphrey, Maura Goodfellow, George Gelder, Jean Tyrell, Pat Wilson and Rudolf Dorrepaal.

The faithful departed: Mary Christmas, Betsy Bawdelly-Smith, Arthur Pheby, Mark Loughlin & Hugh Rourke whose anniversaries occur at about this time. And for those healthcare workers and priests who have died with coronavirus contracted in the course of their duties. May they rest in peace.

What can I do now that there isn't mass in public?

We are not able to stream our own parish mass but there are a number of places that already do this well.

Walsingham usually at noon each day.

<http://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream>

Guildford are running a virtual parish, including streamed services.

<https://www.cpg.church>

This Sunday we will have another **Liturgy of the Word at 10.00am** on Sunday morning.

We had over 60 people last weekend. From next Sunday this will move to 11.00am to allow those who wish to stream mass earlier on or at noon. This will provide an opportunity to be with others to listen to the Word of God and pray together.

Evening Prayer at 5.00pm on Sunday.

We are using a video conferencing platform called GoToMeeting for our online services. You will need to download the app to your tablet or browser from

<https://global.gotomeeting.com>

Our "Virtual Parish" is ID 450-922-301. You can also dial in using your phone on 020 3713 5028 using access code: 450-922-301. Please ask if you need help setting it up.

Texts of the Mass, and also of the Liturgy of the Hours on Universalis using their excellent app which can be downloaded from <https://universalis.com>.

Something for Families and Children

CAFOD are offering a very good on-line Children's Liturgy and we have decided to direct those who are interested there rather than do one locally. You can sign up to participate here:

<https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>.

Please do let me know if you would like us to arrange a parish video conference pray-in particularly for families. We will have family Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

There are a number of people in the parish who are praying the **rosary** each night at 9.00pm. At the close of each day we hand it all over to Mary.

An Extra Page

There have been some helpful and important things from Pope Francis and the bishops this week and as the newsletter is not being printed we've added an extra page.

Easter Duties & Confession

Many of the faithful will be aware of their Easter Duties; that is to receive Holy Communion during the Easter Season and by custom, to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation beforehand. (The latter comes from the need to be in a state of grace to receive Holy Communion.) These duties have been dispensed for the year 2020.

As the current requirements prevent the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) the Bishops have asked that all should make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time. Perfect contrition is the true and real sorrow for our sins which is created when we realise the immense love of God for each one of us. We express this contrition when we realise how we offend God by our sinful words, deeds and omissions in contrast to the immeasurable love and mercy that he continually shows us.

This requires us to be contrite of heart for what we have done, know and be overwhelmed by the love and mercy of God for his children, and to approach this grace with humility and resolution not to sin again.

An Act of Contrition

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Saviour Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.

The Present Moment

Fr Rod Strange writes in *The Tablet* this week about Cardinal Van Thuan who experienced many years of solitary confinement in North Korea and his awareness of the value of the present moment. For him, "This is the only time we have in our hands. The past is already gone and we do not know if there will be a future. The present moment is our great wealth.

Indulgences

We don't talk about indulgences that much these days, but they are still a valuable part of our tradition. In Baptism and Confession our sins are forgiven. But we say that the temporal punishment for sin remains – it is a recognition that even if we're forgiven there is still a mess to be cleared up. It is like that when we break things. An indulgence is the recognition that, on account of the spiritual resources of Christ and his Church, certain spiritual actions can lead to removal of that temporal punishment.

Christ never abandons his people and to assure people of the certainty of grace and mercy, even without access to the Sacraments, the Holy Father has granted the gift of a *Plenary Indulgence* to all the faithful suffering from COVID-19 disease, as well as to health care workers, family members and all those who in any capacity, including through prayer, care for them.

It is a moment of grace, an opportunity for us to be more completely free from the effects of sin. It can encourage us on our pilgrim path through these difficult times as we are assured of the Lord's healing, forgiveness and the promise of Eternal Life.

It is granted to those who unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass, the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or other forms of devotion, or if at least they will recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and a Hail Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity towards their brothers and sisters, with the will to fulfil the confess their sins, receive Holy Communion and pray for the Holy Father's intentions, as soon as possible.

There is an additional plenary indulgence for the dying, with only minimal conditions that might otherwise be granted by the priest at the deathbed: "The Church prays for those who find themselves unable to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and of the *Viaticum*, entrusting each and every one to divine Mercy by virtue of the communion of saints and granting the faithful a *Plenary Indulgence* on the point of death, provided that they are duly disposed and have recited a few prayers during their lifetime."

Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

Liturgy of the Hours: Psalter Week 1

Fr Jonathan celebrates Mass in the parish each day and the times and intentions are given below for those who wish to join spiritually with this celebration by praying at home.

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday, 29th March <i>5th Sunday of Lent</i>	9.00am Mass	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday, 30th March	9.00am Mass	<i>Francis & Matthew Brown RIP</i>
Tuesday, 31st March	9.00am Mass	<i>Rose Rogers RIP</i>
Wednesday, 1st April	9.00am Mass	<i>Emma Green RIP</i>
Thursday, 2nd April	9.00am Mass	<i>Celebrant's Intention</i>
Friday, 3rd April	9.00am Mass	<i>Celebrant's Intention</i>
Saturday, 4th April	9.00am Mass	

Schedule of Services for Holy Week

Sunday, 5th April Palm Sunday	9.00am Parish Mass (<i>People of the Parish</i>) 11.00am Liturgy of the Word online 5.00pm Evening Prayer online
Monday, 6th April	9.00am Parish Mass (<i>Rose Rogers RIP</i>)
Tuesday 7th April	9.00am Parish Mass (<i>Pamela Scott RIP</i>)
Wednesday 8th April	9.00am Parish Mass 6.00pm Chrim Mass from Arundel Cathedral
Maundy Thursday 9th April	8.00pm Parish Mass of the Lord's Supper (<i>F&M Brown RIP</i>) 8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper from Arundel Cathedral 9.00pm Watching from St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham
Good Friday 10th April	9.00am Morning Prayer & Office of Readings online 11.00am Family Stations of the Cross online 3.00pm Parish Celebration of the Passion of the Lord 3.00pm Celebration of the Passion of the Lord from Arundel
Holy Saturday 11th April	9.00am Morning Prayer & Office of Readings online 8.30pm Parish Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 8.30pm Easter Vigil in the Holy Night from Arundel Cathedral
Easter Sunday 12th April	9.00am Morning Prayer online 10.00am Parish Mass (People of the Parish) 5.00pm Evening Prayer online

GoToMeeting Virtual Parish 450-922-301

t: 020 3713 5028 – access code 450-922-301

Some Useful Parish Contacts

Diocesan Safeguarding Office	07585 657090
St Vincent de Paul	07990 717067
Alan Lion	01483 420859
Susan Strudwick	01483 428564