



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.*

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 5th April 2020

Celebrating the Paschal Mystery in a Pandemic

The Liturgy does not offer us a didactic, logically ordered treatise about Christ. It make us enter into the living reality of Easter by presenting us with the whole mystery of Christ, successively evoked in the greatest prefigurations (Jeremiah, the suffering Servant of Isaiah, etc.) and the interpretations of the person and the work of Christ (the Gospels, the Letter to the Hebrews, St Paul). No picture fully grasps it, no concept can express it, the Liturgy does not try to make the synthesis. It places us before the reality of Christ; it permits us to contemplate him, to unite ourselves to him by our love, to be formed in our heart, in his image.... Let us not approach Christ as a subject to be analysed 'objectively', as a thing, or a dead man. Christ is alive, his mystery is a current reality, and this reality is none other than our deepest reality. – A Carthusian.

Holy Week and the Easter Triduum is the focal point of the Church's year and always a privileged time in the life of the parish. I was looking forward to celebrating it in person together, but we shall have to do so remotely this year. I encourage you to find ways of joining in with the Easter Liturgies at home. Perhaps by reading them through prayerfully, perhaps by streaming online.

Celebrating the liturgy without a congregation at this time has brought home to me even more strongly than usual some important truths about our liturgy that I thought I would share.

Firstly, that in the action of the liturgy we are united with the saints and angels and the whole of those who have gone before us marked with the sign of faith. We sing with the angels, we name Mary the Mother of God, St Joseph and many of the saints. We pray for the family of God gathered spiritually. We do what God's priestly people have done each and every day through the centuries, and still do together with us. The Carthusian monks at Parkminster in Sussex will speak of the intimacy that grows in silence. And the huge amount of silence in the liturgy at the moment makes present the whole communion of saints and the desire of those who cannot be there to share in this work.

Secondly, that we are engaged in serious business. The liturgy is nothing other than a share in the priestly and saving work of Christ. It is the renewal of the covenant between God and man. It is the delivery of his people from slavery and from evil. It is the remaking of a broken world. And it takes place whether there is anyone to witness it or not. This work is every bit as vital to the world, its wellbeing and its future as food and health. It is the most important thing that I do in the day. In this present situation Jesus pleads before his Father for us and for the World, and he calls us to share in this work by giving of ourselves too in faith, hope and charity.

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Easter Triduum

I will be celebrating the liturgy of the Triduum at St Edmund's and hope that many will make a point of praying at those times with the desire to come closer to the saving mysteries.

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>

Love One Another Fellowship

There are lots of encouraging stories at the moment of people helping their neighbours.

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 the "Love One Another Fellowship". This week they will be **ringing round** everyone for whom we have a number just to say hello and to see if there's anything you need a bit of help with.

We don't have phone numbers for everybody, so if they don't manage to contact you please do not hesitate to call the help line number (07593 121430) or send a message via the parish email or Fr Jonathan.

Welfare Fund A number of people have asked about contributing to a Welfare Fund to support those who are struggling at this time to afford basic necessities. If you would like to donate please send a cheque payable to "St Edmund's Parish" with "Welfare Fund" on the envelope or back of the cheque or contact us for BACS payments.

Godalming Food Bank is still providing vital support to many. Their current urgent items are soap, washing up liquid, baby wipes and shower gel. For latest update and details see: <http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/our-church-of-st-marks/food-bank/>

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 now 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.

Diocesan e-news The diocese publishes a regular e-news bulletin. It includes Bishop Richard's now weekly podcast and details of upcoming opportunities and events in the virtual and physical world. Subscribe at: <https://www.dabnet.org/news/view/319>

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.

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!

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>

This Sunday we will have another **Liturgy of the Word at 11.00am** on Sunday morning. We had some 80 people last weekend. This will provide an opportunity to be with others to listen to the Word of God and pray together. And a chance to meet over 'coffee after mass' afterwards!

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>.

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.

Candle of Hope Light a candle at 7pm each Sunday in your window pray with Christians across the country. 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. <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) can help you set up a standing order or make bank transfers, and that's probably the best way. Donations for the parish can also be made through a new Just Giving facility – put the parish name against your donation and it will get to us: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parish-offertory>

Lenten Alms for Kasanka are still welcomed. We suggest this year you might like to save them up at home and then give direct to the FMDMs. Fiona at Ladywell can help with Gift Aid or details for BACS.

FionaWarburton@ladywell.org.uk

Easter Offerings are usually an important part of a priest's income and an expression of the bond between pastor and people. Bishop Richard has asked parishes to make a payment to their priests in line with the Easter Offering last year and offset it against donations received.

Please remember in your prayers

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

The Holy Father's Intentions for April: that those suffering from addiction may be helped and accompanied.

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 Rheenan, Jean Humphrey, Maura Goodfellow, George Gelder, Jean Tyrell, Pat Wilson and Rudolf Dorrepaal.

The faithful departed: Fr Eddie Matthews who died this week; and those whose anniversaries occur at about this time, in particular Martin Crosby, Fr Tony Clarke (former Parish Priest), Joan Glithero, Terry Bayley, Peter Grant, Salvador Barbato, Jan Orlinksy.

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.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

At your feet, O my Jesus, I prostrate myself and I offer you repentance of my contrite heart, which is humbled in its nothingness and in your holy presence. I adore you in the Sacrament of your love, the ineffable Eucharist. I desire to receive you into the poor dwelling that my heart offers you. While waiting for the happiness of sacramental communion, I wish to possess you in spirit. Come to me, O my Jesus, since I, for my part, am coming to you! May your love embrace my whole being in life and in death. I believe in you, I hope in you, I love you. Amen.

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."

Schedule of Services for Holy Week

Liturgy of the Hours: Psalter Week 2

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.

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
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
Love One Another Helpline	07593 121430
Susan Strudwick	01483 428564