



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.*

Seventh Sunday of Easter 24th May 2020

*All these joined in continuous prayer, together with several women,
including Mary the mother of Jesus.*

Just as Lent helps us to turn (back) to God, so Eastertide helps us to understand who we are as a church, as God's people brought to new life through the Easter Mysteries and the waters of baptism. One of the most powerful images that we are given is of the church – the Apostles and several women, united in prayer with Mary the mother of God. I have to say that even though I have been physically on my own at the altar for eight weeks now, I have a strong sense of being united with the *whole* church in the work of prayer – whether celebrating Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours or in my other prayers.

The scriptures and other historical sources show us a pattern of prayer that shapes the day and that can be seen even in the lives of the Apostles, and which would settle eventually into what is called the Liturgy of the Hours or the Divine Office, of which Morning Prayer (Lauds) and Evening Prayer (Vespers) are probably the most familiar. Increasingly, since the start of the twentieth century, lay men and women have started praying these offices as part of their baptismal right and duty. But even in the centuries when it was harder to take part in them there were still popular forms of prayer which linked in with those central liturgies. The Angelus at morning, noon and evening mirror the three offices during the day. The 150 Hail Marys of the rosary mirror the 150 Psalms that form the core of the Liturgy of the Hours.

The Mass is the Jewel in the Crown of our Catholic faith and inheritance. It is the most precious sign of God's love for us. But it's not just the Mass but **"The public and communal prayer of the people of God [that] is rightly considered among the first duties of the Church"**.

While I know that being without Mass is hard for many – and watching on the computer or TV is not the same, no matter how beautifully it may be done – I do hope and pray that in these months we might be renewed in our prayer, our sense of it as a sharing in the prayer of Jesus to the Father, and our experience of it as a place in which God himself meets us and fills us with the grace of the Holy Spirit. Where possible pray not only privately but with one another for, as Jesus promised, "Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." And yet our tradition has always recognised that even if we can't meet in person we can be united in prayer. For me, T.S. Eliot expresses this mystery well in one of the Choruses from *The Rock*:

What life have you if you have not life together? / There is no life that is not in community, / And no community not lived in praise of God. / Even the anchorite who meditates alone, / For whom the days and nights repeat the praise of God, / Prays for the Church, the Body of Christ incarnate.

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Pentecost Sunday

National Rosary Rally Pope Francis is encouraging Catholics to pray the Rosary in their family homes during the month of May, especially when the pandemic is making us aware of the value of our families and making it possible for us to pray together at home.

He encourages simple Rosaries and joining online Rosary initiatives to pray to Our Lady for deliverance from Covid-19 and he has composed two prayers for this intention.

On Pentecost Sunday the church in England and Wales is holding a Rosary Rally, and each diocese is taking a turn to lead this campaign of prayer. Ours is 9.00-10.00am. **Next Sunday Fr Jonathan will us in praying the rosary for the end of this pandemic at 9.15am** on GoToMeeting.

Solemn Vigil Mass The Roman Missal includes an Extended Vigil Mass for Pentecost (a bit like the Easter Vigil). Parish routines rarely allow for such celebrations and Fr Jonathan is taking the opportunity to celebrate it this year, with the *Veni Creator, Mass VIII (de Angelis)* and *Credo III* being sung, streamed on the parish Facebook page. (<https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod>)

Plainsong seems to work more effectively in an empty church than more contemporary music – I'm not suggesting it becomes the mainstay for our usual parish masses.

Liturgy of the Word Our Liturgy of the Word will take place as now usual at 10.00am on Pentecost Sunday.

Evening Prayer the final liturgy of the Easter Season will be held online at 5.00pm.

Today is the Fifth Anniversary of **Laudato Si**, Pope Francis's letter about the care of our common home, and the end of a week of prayer <https://laudatosiweek.org/prayer/>. We will be joining this at the end of our Sunday Liturgy of the Word.

Pray-as-you-go have some great resources on their website, including a prayer walk a wide range of *Examens*, and some videos on *Lectio divina*. <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

Opening Up We are starting to prepare to open our churches for private prayer as soon as it is safe to do so. The opportunities are likely to be limited by the need to do so safely, which may require supervision and regular cleaning, while protecting those who volunteer. I know that many are looking forward to this and it will be communicated as soon as there is something more to say.

Praying for those we love continues on Tuesday from 7.30pm to 8.00pm. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament streamed from St Edmund's Church and time for silent and intercessory prayer. Names and intentions for reading out are best sent in advance to Fr Jonathan, but can also be added using the chat function during the time of prayer. This will be hosted on **Zoom** (ID: 810 3258 4584). Contact Alan Lion on 01483 420859 if you need help getting set up.

Lectio Divina is a very special and fruitful way of praying with the scriptures. St John Paul II said "It is especially necessary that listening to the word of God should become a life-giving encounter, in the ancient and ever valid tradition of *lectio divina*, which draws from the biblical text the living Word which questions, directs and shapes our lives." This week Fr Jonathan will lead us in praying through the second reading for next Sunday, 1Corinthians 12: 3-7,12-13. **Wednesday 7.30pm – 8.45pm** on GoToMeeting.

Sources of Practical Support

Love One Another Fellowship

If you would like help from our team of parish volunteers do not hesitate to call the help line number (07593 121430) or send a message via the parish email or Fr Jonathan.

Godalming Food Bank is still providing vital support to many. For latest update and details, including new collection points see: <http://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/our-church-of-st-marks/food-bank/>

Parish Welfare Fund aims to support those who are struggling at this time to afford basic necessities. If you need a bit of help or know someone who does please don't hesitate to contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence. The **SVP** are also able to help.

Some Recommended Streaming

St Edmund's, Godalming. Services by video conference on **GoToMeeting**. ID 450-922-301. Or **by telephone** on 020 3713 5028 using access code: 450-922-301. Please ask if you need help setting it up.

Guildford <https://www.cpg.church> They also have a lot of resources for adults and families.

Arundel Cathedral with Bishop Richard or Fr David. From www.dabnet.org or <https://tinyurl.com/y75fpbeg>

Walsingham

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

Dominican Sisters at Swaye

<https://dominicansistersofstjoseph.org> Mass and Liturgy of the Hours with the community in the New Forest.

CAFOD Children's Liturgy continues at <https://cafod.org.uk/Education/Children-s-liturgy>.

CAFOD Coronavirus Emergency Appeal continues via cafod.org.uk/coronavirusappeal. You can put something through the door of presbytery if you prefer to give that way.

Thank you for your regular giving. Eileen Hudson (t: 01483 208238) can help set up standing orders or make bank transfers, for those who wish. Donations for the parish can also be made through a new Just Giving facility – mention the parish against your donation and it will get to us: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/parish-offertory>

Sacraments during lockdown

Please do not hesitate to call if the sacraments are needed for those who are gravely ill.

Prayer Intentions

Fr Jonathan is keeping a prayer list in the Lady Chapel at St Edmund's, which will remain on the altar with a lighted candle during the current pandemic. Please email requests for prayer direct to Fr Jonathan: they aren't for publication.

Forthcoming Funerals

Pat Cooke's funeral will take place Eashing Cemetery on Tuesday 26th May at 10.30am. Requiem Mass from St Edmund's at 9.00am live streamed at

<https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod>

Pete Kelly Wednesday 27th May. Fr Jonathan will celebrate a Requiem Mass from St Edmund's at 9.30am live streamed at

<https://www.facebook.com/stedsgod>

Pete's service of committal will be streamed from Guildford Crematorium at 3.00pm:

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> (ID: 30800, Password: jtacvvpk).

Fr David Parmiter will a Mass for Pete at Arundel Cathedral on Saturday 30th May at 9.30am which can be followed on YouTube.

<https://tinyurl.com/y75fpbeg>

I know that their families greatly appreciate the prayers of the community, even if you can't be with them in person.

Pray-as-you-go have some great resources on their website, including a prayer walk a wide range of *Examens*, and some videos on *Lectio divina*. <https://pray-as-you-go.org>

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, Our families, schools and their staff as they prepare to begin teaching on site after half-term, and for those who find juggling learning, work and family life difficult.

The Holy Father's Intentions for May: that deacons, faithful in their service to the Word and the poor, may be an invigorating symbol for the entire Church.

The sick and those who care for them

including - Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, 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, and those in our hospitals and care homes.

The faithful departed Pete Kelly and Pat Cooke who died recently, and Maria Knight, Mary Barnard, Frank Herrington, Maggie Moore, Frank Brown, Diedre Richardson, Arthur Kelly whose anniversaries occur at about this time.

Schedule of Services for the Seventh Week of Easter

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. They are not available online. Items in bold are usually on GoToMeeting. The meeting code and dial in details are at the bottom of this page. Please contact Fr Jonathan if you are unsure and need help joining.

Sunday 24th May 7th Sunday of Easter	9.00am Mass – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.00am Liturgy of the Word online 5.00pm Evening Prayer online
Monday 25th May St Bede the Venerable	10.00am Mass – Frank & Matthew Brown RIP
Tuesday 26th May St Philip Neri	9.00am Mass – Pat Cooke RIP (www.facebook.com/stedsgod) 7.30pm – Praying for those we love (Zoom: 810 3258 4584)
Wednesday 27th May St Augustine of Canterbury	9.30am Mass – Peter Kelly RIP (www.facebook.com/stedsgod) 7.30pm – <i>Lectio Divina</i> online
Thursday 28th May Blessed Margaret Pole	9.30am Mass – Henry Kavanagh RIP
Friday 29th May St Paul VI	9.30am Mass –
Saturday 30th May	9.00am Rosary online – the Joyful Mysteries 9.30am Mass – Peter Kelly RIP (https://tinyurl.com/y75fpbeg) 7.00pm Vigil Mass of Pentecost – Nora Flynn RIP (www.facebook.com/stedsgod)
Sunday 31st May Pentecost	9.15am Rosary Rally online 10.00am Liturgy of the Word online 11.15am Mass – <i>People of the Parish</i> 5.00pm Evening Prayer online

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

MAY – THE MONTH OF MARY: WIFE, MOTHER, ETERNAL WOMAN.

Culture, ancient and modern, has always manipulated and fermented the distortion of the uniqueness and essential creativeness of the feminine, womanhood and motherhood. In ancient times, masculine demands made of woman an asset, to be used, abused and frequently discarded. In modern times masculine demands have been subverted by the needs of cultural feminine equality with the masculine. There is a distortion in the complementarities that should exist between man and woman as intended and created by God. In the modern era, woman uses the power of the sensuous to manipulate and elevate herself within the cult of the body. She has lost the unique meaning and power of the feminine.

“I am the handmaid of the Lord” Mary said to the angel. As Gertrud von le Fort writes in her book, *The Eternal Woman*, ‘Only the handmaid of the Lord is the Queen of Heaven. Wherever the creature cooperates with utmost sincerity, there the Mother of the Creator will appear, the Mother of Good Counsel. Wherever the creature becomes detached from self, the Mother most Amiable, the Mother of Fair Love, comes to the aid of the tortured world. Wherever the nations of the earth are of good will, the Queen of Peace intercedes for them.’

May is a wonderful month of the year to celebrate the Mother of God. Certainly in the northern hemisphere, Spring flourishes with colour and freshness. The songs of migratory birds fill our mornings with hope and joy. May is the only month that has three letters; it could just as well be called the month of the Mother of God the Holy Trinity.

Mary personifies the eternal contribution that woman gives to the eternal plan of our creator. There have been no greater women on this earth than our women saints. Indeed many of the Church’s saints have shown their love of the Mother of God as a key element in their way of life here on earth and their relationship with our Creator. May we, in our simple but devoted lives, never cease to make Mary the Mother of our belief?

FREEDOM

Freedom is a word much used especially in every sort of protest movement. It is also used in many other contexts as well, for example with relationships, work places, of thought, and especially the freedom to choose. It is in the latter category that we experience the real challenges of life and as Christians, our relationship with God.

It is often said that if God existed why did he allow this or that to happen especially to the innocent and vulnerable? The many thousands of victims of the present Corona Virus can be a perfect example for asking such a question. It is difficult, but we have to try to understand that without that sense of freedom, which gives us the ability to reason and choose, we would not be the unique creature which reflects the image of God, our creator. He has put us, deliberately, in an environment where we are free to live, use the benefits of the world and our human talents, to improve not only our existence but that of our fellow human beings. Fr Jose Millas, SJ, writing in a recent edition of *La Civiltà Cattolica* about the weakness of Christ, states that: “*If God were present in creation showing infinite superiority, the freedom of the creature would not be possible. But freedom is the greatest good that God created, and God wants to preserve and respect it unconditionally, even at the cost of the presence of sin and evil.*”

Part of that evil of course is suffering. It is an experience that challenges our faith in the love and goodness of God. For many, their suffering alienates them from any conception of a loving God. For those with faith, it brings them closer to that love. Faith and freedom go hand in hand. Our faith will encourage us to persevere, to trust that the apparent silence of God in our suffering, the apparent silence of God the Father while his Son hung on the cross, was and always will be, the gateway to our everlasting freedom.

With every blessing to you all for your faith and freedom. Deacon Jeremy



COMMON PRAYER

for the 5th anniversary of
Laudato Si'

Loving God,

Creator of heaven and earth and all that is in them,
You created us in your own image and made us
stewards of all your creation.

You blessed us with the sun, water and bountiful land
so that all might be nourished.

Open our minds and touch our hearts,
so that we may attend to your gift of creation.

Help us to be conscious that our common home
belongs not only to us, but to all of your creatures and to
all future generations, and that it is our responsibility to
preserve it.

May we help each person secure the food and
resources that they need.

Be present to those in need in these trying times,
especially the poorest and those most at risk of being
left behind.

Transform our fear and feelings of isolation into hope
and fraternity so that we may experience a true
conversion of the heart.

Help us to show creative solidarity in addressing the
consequences of this global pandemic,

Make us courageous to embrace the changes that are
needed in search of the common good,

Now more than ever may we feel that we are all
interconnected and interdependent,

Enable us to listen and respond to the cry of the earth
and the cry of the poor.

May the present sufferings be the birth pangs of a more
fraternal and sustainable world.

Under the loving gaze of Mary Help of Christians, we
make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen



**LAUDATO SI'
WEEK 2020**



DICASTERO PER IL SERVIZIO
DELLO SVILUPPO UMANO INTEGRALE