



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*

First Sunday of Lent

No sooner than he is baptised, Jesus is thrown into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. The desert was not always a happy experience for the Israelites in their wandering. It is a place where one can be threatened by wild beasts and have to fight against temptation.

In Mark's account, however, Jesus "lives with" the wild beasts and is ministered to by the angels. It echoes the peace of Eden before the fall and the promised peace of the new creation (Isaiah 11:6). The wilderness is a place that Jesus returns to after things get too hot after the healing of the leper in last week's Gospel and where people have to go to find him. It is the quiet and lonely place that Jesus returns to time and again in his ministry to recharge himself in the company of the Father.

Jesus is not the first to go into the wilderness. As well as Israel's defining journey we read also of Elijah. God ministered to Israel in the wilderness, and importantly it was during that time that he reveals himself and makes covenant with, and that he pardons their infidelity (Exod 32-34). Elijah is ministered to by the angel of the Lord as he walked through the wilderness to Horeb where the Lord reveals himself to him with the sound of a gentle breeze (1Kings 19).

The Greek word here is *eremos* from which we get eremitic, and old way of talking about the monastic life. The BBC have been reshowing *Retreat: Meditations from a Monastery*, a beautifully filmed and paced trilogy of monastic life that draws one into its prayerful disposition. There is much that it can teach us on how to still our troubled hearts this Lent. Robert Macfarlane's *The Wild Places* eloquently invited us to appreciate the wildernesses of our own islands.

The continued distancing and isolation imposed in response to COVID impose something of an eremitic life on most of us. This Lent we might pray that our present might become a place of encounter and renewal: that we may see the face of God and experience his peace.

Mass Responses for the First Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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This Week

"Invited" Lent Diocesan Online Mission

Bishop Richard is encouraging us to join in with a Diocesan online mission this Lent. There will be a video each week with questions for prayer and reflection followed by small groups on Zoom each Thursday evening. Around 1,000 signed up! For more details and to **register** please visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

Peggy Macfarlane's Requiem will take place in Milford on the 22nd February at 1.30pm. There are limited places for parishioners and those able to attend will have been contacted. Livestreamed at https://schmittat.uk/live/2021-02-22_mmf/ (Note the ending is 02-22_mmf/)

Walk for Water Thanks to everyone who has signed up to join in the Lent challenge of walking 10,000 steps every day for 40 days. So far we have 8 teams signed up (Jo and Julian, Colette, Helen and Dean, Catherine and Gabriella, Sarah and Philippa, Angela, Ali and Mary, and Jude) and you can view their progress and donate using the Team page link: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/st-edmunds-godalming>

CAFOD family fast day is on Friday 26th February Envelopes are available at church for you to make your donation. You can also give by phone (0303 303 3030) via the CAFOD Lent page (see below).

There will be **Stations of the Cross** that afternoon at **5pm** on Zoom (ID:846 7892 5944, pwd:2021)

Livesimply group asks your support for **Fairtrade fortnight from 22nd February to 7th March**. Look out for the logo on a wide range of goods at the supermarket from veg and fruit to wine, chocolate, coffee and clothes. The climate crisis has already started to hit Fairtrade producers, and is one of their biggest challenges resulting in low prices for their crops. Buying fairtrade ensures farmers receive a fair payment in return for their produce and provides enough income for their everyday needs.

Lent Resources for Children We have copies of colouring books for *Stations of The Cross* and the *Easter Story* for younger children and an *Activity Book* for children age 7-12 available at the back of St Edmund's Church. Please feel free to pop by and collect if you would like them for your family. A small contribution is invited to cover the cost.

Mass during Lockdown

Places of worship remain open and coming to them is a permitted reason to come out of the house; this is a welcome privilege to be used prudently and with due caution.

The main focus of parish activity for the present has moved online, while still providing opportunities to come to Mass.

10.30am Sunday Online Liturgy of the Word replaces the Mass of that time. Zoom ID: 846 7892 5944, password:2021.

The **9.00am Sunday Mass** has moved to St Edmund's to facilitate **live-streaming** on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/ya47rkkw>

Mass booking There is no need to book for weekday Mass, and **weekend Mass booking** is via Eventbrite: <https://tinyurl.com/y7qntvex>

Mass and Evening Prayer livestreamed from Guildford parish Many find this helpful and the link is: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html> The parish also offers online family liturgy every Sunday: www.cpg.church/familyliturgy

Evening Prayer in Lent Fr Jonathan will be joining with Evening Prayer and Exposition from Guildford on the Sundays in Lent at 6.30pm.

Feasts in March There are a number of feasts coming up in March, including the Dedication of our church in Milford on 18th, St Joseph on 19th and the Annunciation on the 25th. Details of how we might celebrate these will follow in the coming weeks.

Happiness in a Time of Pandemic This free online Lenten retreat, led by Abbot Christopher Jamieson OSB on 27th February, 10.30am-3pm, will draw on the monastic tradition, lectio divina and silent meditation. Email St Mary Moorfields for Zoom details: moorfields@rcdow.org.uk

"And when you give alms"

CAFOD The story of **Abdella**, age 23 from northern Ethiopia gives the focus for the Lent appeal this year. He wakes before dark to start on a long journey that will see him walk along a dried-out riverbed, over rocks, and over a mountain just to get a drink of water. The entire journey to get water for the family will take Abdella ten hours.

"I am a young man. I am wasting my life. What would I do if I had the time? I would start a small business. I want to make something of myself."

To donate or find our more visit www.cafod.org.uk/lent.

Donations to the Food Bank There is an urgent need for tinned meals (eg meatballs, chilli, sausages and beans) and tinned vegetarian meals (eg vege versions of ravioli, sausages, meatballs etc), Canned vegetables. Wet wipes, Size 5/6 nappies, Pasta (not macaroni). Please drop off items in the collection boxes at church; and/or make a cash donation to fund online food shopping. Email: stmarkscentre@googlemail.com

Les Amis – Burkina Faso This charity, which has such a strong connection with our parish, supports hundreds of vulnerable women, children, refugees and disabled people, all living in extreme poverty and hardship. Please consider making a donation if you are able to; the information is at: www.les-amis-bf.org.uk. Nearly all charities are in need of funds in these times and *Les Amis* is no exception. Thank you to all those in the parish who support them through the year by their prayers and giving.

Kasanka has often been the focus for Lenten Alms in the parish. At the moment we are trying to spread out our appeals and there will be more about Kasanka after Easter.

Financial support for the parish

Thank you to those who support the parish by regular giving. To arrange a standing order, or to sign up for Gift Aid, please contact Eileen Hudson on 01483 208238 or eileen.hudson@gmail.com.

Useful resources during the pandemic

LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship)

This team of parish volunteers offers practical help. The helpline number is 07593 121430.

SVP members offer regular visits, friendship and practical support to those in need. The helpline number is 07990 717067.

Godalming Food Bank provides vital support. No referral required. 01483 418741.

Parish Welfare Fund If you need a bit of help or know someone who is struggling please contact Fr Jonathan, in confidence.

Parish Knitting Group We're hoping to start a knitting group in the parish to help us support a variety of needs in the community. Please get in touch if you're a 'knitter' and if you haven't tried knitting before, perhaps lockdown might be the time to start? It's known to be therapeutic, relieve stress, and increase feelings of usefulness.

Of your charity pray for the repose of the Roger Stephens who died this week and the comfort and consolation of Anne his family. Details of the funeral in Wimborne to follow. Marie Batty's funeral will be on 9th March. Jim Stanton's funeral will be on 17th March.

Please remember in your prayers

All those affected by the Coronavirus and its impact on our lives and on the economy.

The Holy Father's Intention for February:

For women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Margaret Silvester, Arden Holford, Nancy Drapper, Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, 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, and those in our hospitals and care homes.

The faithful departed in particular for Roger Stephens, Jim Stanton, Derek Drapper, Peggy Macfarlane, Fr Edward Stachurski and Marie Batty who died recently and Henry Wood, Jame Rafferty, Therese O'Brien, Noel Ormerod, Tom Rogers, James Chaloner, Elena Kuzmickas and Anthony Style whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses First Week of Lent 2021

Saturday 20th February	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Tom Rogers RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 21st February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Derek Drapper RIP</i> 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)
Monday 22nd February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER	1.30pm Requiem Mass for Peggy Macfarlane
Tuesday 23rd February	<i>No Mass today</i>
Wednesday 24th February	9.30am (St Joseph's) – <i>Marie Batty RIP</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 25th February	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 26th February	12.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Private Intention</i> 5pm Stations of the Cross online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021
Saturday 27th February	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Peggy Macfarlane RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 28th February SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Eugene Baggar RIP</i> 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I.
Psalter Week 1.

*Livestreamed on YouTube – <https://tinyurl.com/ya47rkkw>

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 5pm

www.stedsgod.com