

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*

Second Sunday of Lent

*For after he had told the disciples of his coming Death,
on the holy mountain he manifested to them his glory,
to show, even by the testimony of the law and the prophets,
that the Passion leads to the glory of the Resurrection.*

The preface for today provides the key for understanding the significance of the Gospel. Peter has recognised that Jesus is the Christ. The Lord tells them that this will lead to his death and Peter is having none of it. So Jesus takes his closest disciples with him and on the mountain they get a glimpse of what is to come – of the glory of the Resurrection. It is a gift meant to help them cope with the increasingly foreboding journey to Jerusalem and the scandal of the cross. Even then Peter loses the plot and in panic denies Jesus – perhaps a consolation for us if we have a bit of wobble when our lives seem to come too close to the cross.

This week I joined in with a seminar on aesthetic experience in education. The presenter was reflecting on the fullness that overflows from art and beauty: the way in which art can capture us and engross us. How it can resonate in us and bring a sense of liberation and freedom. I'm not sure whether his philosophical and academic interest in the music of the 1960s rock band 'Grateful Dead' is significant, but much what he was saying about the experience of beauty holds true with what we know about how the encounter with God renews and refreshes us.

It is through the encounter with Jesus Christ that we are renewed and refreshed. Pope Francis made a famous invitation to all Christians to look for it each day: in scripture read in church, *Lectio Divina*, the liturgy, Mass, reconciliation, personal and community prayer, the community of faith and love, the poor, afflicted and sick and in popular devotions. Lent is a time in which we try to practice a more life-giving way of being Christians: it is also the time for us to re-commit to opening ourselves to a daily encounter with the one who is the source of life and whose presence alone will sustain us as we remain close to the cross.

Mass Responses for the Second Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face. It is your face, O Lord, that I seek; hide not your face from me.

PSALM RESPONSE: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.

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"Invited" Lent Diocesan Online Mission

The first episode seems to have been very well received. The second will go live on Monday [here](#). Do have a look. It might be too late to join the diocesan discussion groups for this season, but do talk about the films with your family and friends. For more details visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

CAFOD family fast day Please return your envelopes at church or through the presbytery door. You can also give by phone (0303 303 3030) or via www.cafod.org/lent.

Walk for Water Update Our **nine Walk for Water teams** are walking their socks off to clock up 10K steps every day! To view their progress visit the Team page: <https://tinyurl.com/t42da233>. From there you can select a particular team member to sponsor. To date our walkers have raised **£1,352** and have logged nearly million steps! And last Saturday's Big Walk for Water raised a further £190.

Report from Ladywell: *'Our total number of steps for the first week are 286,854 which amounts to 218 km, almost the equivalent of the journey from Godalming to Birmingham! Each Sister at La Verna is doing it her own way and it has given us renewed energy and a sense that even if we can't walk 10,000 steps on our own, together as a community we can even top that number!'*

Funerals. Roger Stephens funeral will take place on 5th March at 1.45pm in Wimborne (YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/3edjtsmw>). Marie Batty's funeral takes place on 9th March, Derek Drapper's on 12th March, and Jim Stanton's on 17th March. May they rest in peace.

Livesimply group asks you to support **Fairtrade fortnight**. Please make an extra effort this week to buy products with the fairtrade logo as this ensures farmers receive a fair payment in return for their produce.

On Tuesday our parish **Livesimply group** meets with the */livesimply* assessors from CAFOD, so please keep them in your prayers and let's hope they will be successful in gaining a */livesimply* award for the parish!

Stations of the Cross (online) next Friday at 5.00pm. Zoom ID: ID: 996 3912 2637 Pwd: 010244. Please log in promptly if you are participating.

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.

Colour and Shape Children's liturgy For those of you with young families, the Diocese has created this online children's liturgy on [YouTube](#). It's a great resource to help your children whilst we are unable to provide children's liturgy.

Coming out of Lockdown

As we slowly come out of lockdown we will shift the balance of parish activities towards more opportunities to gather in person.

Please note that it is not until 29th March that we will be able to gather in small groups outside (rule of 6), so we will be very careful while making the most of the opportunity to celebrate the liturgy together. We should be able to do a bit more once we reach stage 3, including increasing capacity from the current 16 households (with 2m distancing).

From **14th March**, Sunday Mass at 10.30am at **Milford** will replace the online liturgy of the Word.

If all goes well, from **28th March** the 9.00am Mass will move back to **Farncombe**.

All weekend masses up to and including that weekend will be booked through **Eventbrite**: <https://tinyurl.com/y7gntvex>

Daily Mass and Evening Prayer livestreamed from Guildford parish The link is: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html> and online family liturgy is offered 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 next week.

Open Cloister Retreat at Worth Abbey

led by Michael Woodward (member of the Lay Community of St Benedict) 12th-14th March on 'Romero and the Salvadorian Martyrs'. Book your place online at <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats>
More information from: toc@worth.co.uk

Easter Retreat Join the Wellspring Community, the monks of Worth Abbey, and young people from across the country in this interactive online retreat over the Easter Triduum. With a mixture of prayer, small groups and talks there is a great opportunity to journey with others deeper into the mystery of Easter, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. There's plenty of space given to allow for deep reflection and personal journeying with God. For more visit: <https://tinyurl.com/mvw42uvw>

"And when you give alms"

Donations to the Food Bank There is an urgent need for many items ranging from instant mash to crumpets, and tinned meals to toiletries, and there is a full list at <https://www.parishofgodalming.org.uk/our-church-of-st-marks/food-bank/> Please drop off items in the collection boxes at church; or leave a cash donation for food shopping.

Les Amis – Burkina Faso Their recent newsletter is appended to or inserted into this week's newsletter.

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 This is a new group in the parish and we're knitting for seafarers, dementia patients and RSH special care baby unit. We can provide patterns, and there are knits for all levels of ability. We'd love to hear from anyone who would like to join. Even if you haven't tried knitting before, perhaps lockdown might be the time to start? It's known to be therapeutic activity and increase feelings of usefulness. If anyone has wool to donate, please also get in touch.

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 March: that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Lizzie Laverty, 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 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 in particular for Paddy Laverty, Roger Stephens, Jim Stanton, Derek Drapper, and Marie Batty who died recently and Helen Hawkins, Anne Barnard, Georges Gebhardt, Margaret Edwards, Mary O'Meara & Colm Whittle whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Second Week of Lent 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 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)
Monday 1st March ST DAVID	9.30pm (St Joseph's) – <i>Peggy Macfarlane RIP</i>
Tuesday 2nd March	8.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Marie Batty RIP</i>
Wednesday 3rd March	9.30am (St Joseph's) – <i>Derek Drapper RIP</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 4th March	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Maria Chacaltana</i>
Friday 5th March	<i>No Mass or other services today – St Edmund's open for private prayer</i>
Saturday 6th March	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Andy Williams RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 7th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I.
Psalter Week 2.

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

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

www.stedsgod.com

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021

Dear friends and supporters of Les Amis,



At this time of year, Gillie would normally have just come back from her annual trip to Burkina Faso. She would have spent an extremely busy week tearing around the country visiting all our projects, coming back with a lot of information and photos to use in the ensuing newsletter. What a difference a couple of years can make!

Added to the ongoing threat of terrorist activity, which makes trips to Burkina Faso inadvisable for the moment, there is now the added problem of Covid-19, a pandemic which has affected the entire world, making travel impossible. Given the current difficulties in visiting our projects, we are often asked if this means that our projects are stalling or even grinding to a halt. The short answer is ...

No! Our projects continue as normal, unaffected by either terrorism or Covid-19

THE YOANN FOUNDATION IN OUAGADOUGOU

This was where all our work began. Named after the late Yoann, a sufferer of cerebral palsy, this foundation serves the needs of disabled children, their mothers and other women in real need. They get together regularly at the Franciscan Friary in Ouagadougou where they are given money, sacks of rice and also meals.



Thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Franciscan Capuchin friars in Ouagadougou and Pélégie, the mother of the late Yoann, this project is still working wonders. Despite the restrictions of Covid we continue to give help to the mothers of 23 disabled children and a further 20 disadvantaged women. This is a great relief to us as, without this help, and living in a country where there is no welfare support, these people would suffer in a way which we probably couldn't imagine. The friars have asked me to pass on a heart-felt greeting to you from these women: "Bark Puusgo!" (gratitude/thanksgiving in Mooré)

In September we told you about Javier (left), who has been suffering from crippling seizures. Whilst still suffering from seizures, he is now undergoing rehabilitation treatment, and this is bringing some stability. He wants to say: "Bark Wusgo Yāmba" (which means "thank you very much").

REACHING OUT TO REFUGEES AND THE DISPLACED

"Burkina Faso is now the world's fastest-growing displacement and protection crisis with over one million people – more than one in every 20 inhabitants – displaced by surging violence inside the country. Many have fled multiple times in Burkina Faso's north and east." UNHCR



Thanks to Father Lambert, who is based in Kaya, one of the busiest towns in respect of coping with refugees, we have been able to continue our support of these desperate people. Father Lambert has, over the last year, been active in buying them the many practical things that they need.

Here is a picture of Fr Lambert, having stopped his car to give what money he has to the refugees he has just passed on the road.

PROTECTING AND EDUCATING GIRLS

The protection and education of girls and young women is really important to us. Burkina Faso is a country which favours males and gives few rights to females. One of the biggest problems is the giving away of young girls to much older men. If those girls know of somewhere to run for help and protection, then they run. If not, they are consigned to a life of servitude and misery. We are so happy to be able to help them.

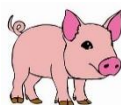
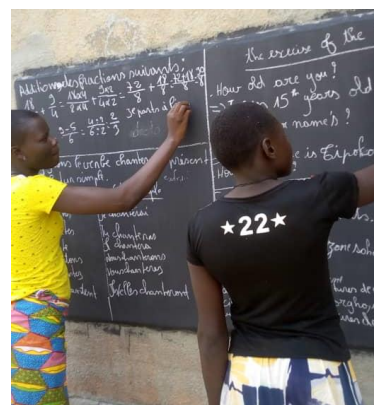
..... in Baskouré

In Baskouré we fund a refuge for runaway girls. There, they learn lots of different skills to help them secure financial independence until such time as they wish to marry. They learn to grow crops, to look after livestock, brew beer, embroider and make soap.



In our last newsletter we reported on some serious difficulties that they had suffered, including the loss of their pigs, the need to repair the dormitory roof and the destruction of their crops due to the poor state of the fencing. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Year 7 girls of Poyntz House of St Mary's School Ascot, their piggery has been re-established and is going well (**left**). Added to that, we gave them sufficient funds for the repair to the dormitory roof (**below left**) as well as one or two things which will be of great help to them, such as tables and chairs (**below right**), a blackboard (**right**) and the digging of a pit for the run-off water from the showers.

The cost of replacing the fencing to protect their crops will come to £800. If there is anyone out there who likes the idea of funding this, please get in touch.



..... in Fada

*At the **St Joseph's Training Centre** in Fada, owned by the Diocese of Fada, we sponsor the seamstress training of a number of girls who have run away from forced marriages.*

One of the girls, Véva (**right**), whom Les Amis has been looking after over the years, has been very ill with Hepatitis B. We were able to give sufficient funds for her treatment so far this year, and she continues to make good progress. With some of the funds we sent they



were able to fix the girls' shower which was faulty, build a shed (**left**) and create a small terrace in front of the girls' bedroom. Our giving also covered the cost of training for two girls, one in sewing and the other in weaving. We were also able to buy a sewing machine which was necessary for their shop. They have reported a great increase in the cost of food at the moment; this is as a result of the farmers having been driven from their land by terrorists, and therefore having to abandon their crops.



..... in Koupéla

In the town of Koupéla we give funds to OCADES which runs training sessions for girls and young women in the art of clothes making, growing and bottling of vegetables and the making of soap.

Like other countries in the world, Burkina Faso has been affected by the Covid pandemic. The situation has caused the Koupéla branch of OCADES to use part of the help received from Les Amis to teach women how to make hand sanitiser and bleach in the fight against Covid. Thanks to Les Amis, they have been able to provide health kits to two key groups: 1) the St Lazare Home (for elderly victims of social exclusions) in Koupéla and; 2) the



refugees from the north of the country who are now settled nearby in Baskouré and Andemtenga. These refugees are installed in areas without any sanitary infrastructure, and this has led to the spreading of diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria. In addition, the risk of spreading Covid-19 is very high in these environments. OCADES initiated the training of women in the production of sanitising gel and bleach as part of its contribution to the fight against Covid. Thanks to this training, they have provided the St Lazare Home and the refugees with bleach and gel to protect themselves. Those who benefit from funds from Les Amis are happy to be able to help others.



..... in Gounghin

In the village of Gounghin is the St Monique Home where we house and pay for the education of ten orphaned secondary school girls. .



Last year we heard that the kitchen at the St Monique Home had been very severely damaged in bad weather; they made an appeal to us to help them pay for the necessary repairs. We are delighted to have received a photograph of the new kitchen (**right**).



Also in Gounghin, we continue to support the local nursery and primary schools, paying the fees for a number of the children whose parents would otherwise not be able to send their children to school. It was lovely to get a photo of them (**above**), just before this newsletter was sent off to the printer.

REACHING OUT TO INDIVIDUALS

We love to give financial help directly to individuals whose situations in life are really difficult. The help we give to them is genuinely life-changing.



Three years ago, we reported on Morganne (**left**), a mother of young children who had just been widowed. We had given her the funds to set herself up in business as a seamstress, working from home. The big difficulty she has at the moment is that her in-laws would like to remove her children from her and reclaim the house. Life in many parts of Africa is so much harder if you are a woman! We are currently exploring ways of ensuring that Morganne retains the house and her children. If this story touches you and you would like to offer some financial help, then please be in touch with us.



For some years we have been helping Abelle (**right and left**), the mother of Alard who has Down's Syndrome. She had run away, whilst pregnant with Alard, from an abusive marriage. Having given birth to Alard, she was then blamed by her family for his being born handicapped. Over the years we have given her practical help, such as securing solar power for her house, the repair of the wall around her house and general financial support. The photo on the left was taken when we first met her; you can see from the photo on the right that Alard is growing up fast, as is his sister, Karine.



A personal message from Gillie ...

Who would have thought, a year ago, that the world would have all but ground to a halt because of a new and deadly virus? I do hope that you and your loved ones are keeping well and coping with the ongoing challenges.

In recent weeks I have noticed that the number of terrorist attacks in Burkina Faso seems to have reduced, and this has given me real hope of getting back to Burkina Faso soon, Covid rules and regulations allowing. Despite my having been unable to visit our projects recently, I am kept well-informed by those who work with us in Burkina Faso. So much is still being achieved thanks to your ongoing generosity.



One of the biggest problems, because of Covid, is being unable to give talks to groups. Given that this is the best way, by far, of raising interest and therefore funds, this is very concerning to us. Therefore, I have recorded an illustrated talk which you can access directly from our website. Just go to the 'All our Projects' page, at the bottom of which is a link to an online presentation via YouTube. Here is the link: (<https://youtu.be/Jehalll40aA>). I do ask you to share this link with your friends and family. Thank you.

A big thank-you to those of our readers who responded to my plea, in September, to consider the possibility of increasing the amount of their monthly Standing Order; we are very grateful.

Thank you for continuing to help us to change lives.

Any changes to your circumstances that we should know about?

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Have your circumstances changed since you started making donations to us? If you are no longer able to Gift Aid the donations you make, then please don't forget to let us know.

Our continued and heartfelt thanks to **Headline Design & Print** in Woking for printing this newsletter for us. They do a fantastic job and we are very grateful to them.



The Trustees of Les Amis-Burkina Faso: Gillie & David Nicholls and Jude O'Mara-Spicer

Les Amis – Burkina Faso

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Registered Charity number 1120772

The poor will never cease out of the land;
therefore I command you to open wide your hand
to the needy and to the poor. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

In so far as you did this to the least of those brothers of
mine, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:40-41)

100% of money given is passed on to the needy. Yes, 100%!