



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*

Fourth 'Lætare' Sunday of Lent

The reference in today's Gospel to the serpent in the wilderness is a direct reference to an episode in book of Numbers (21:4-9) in which the Israelites grumbled against God and were visited by deadly serpents as a result. God has Moses fashion a fiery serpent and place it on a standard and the people are saved by looking up at it. This may be a familiar image – it is the origin of the sign often attached to medical and pharmaceutical organisations and services. I find it interesting to ponder the connection between this medicine which God gave to Moses and the way in which we are looking at pharmaceuticals as our way out of the current pandemic.

Over the centuries Christians have looked to the cross of Christ as their sign of hope and the pledge of their salvation. But the crosses they have gazed upon have been quite varied. In the earlier centuries the cross did not have a corpus (figure of Christ) but was bejewelled instead. Later on, a figure in agony evoked the suffering of the cross and the price of our salvation. At other times a fully naked Christ came to stand as a visual reminder of his humanity, and a figure in priestly vestments spoke of his work as the mediator between God and man.

For the many centuries in which sacramental communion (i.e. receiving Holy Communion as we know it) was infrequent the faithful were nourished by their sense of communion through seeing. The host was lifted high and in the light provided by the new gothic architecture they knew the presence of God and his saving grace. Churches were built as places in which the host in the monstrance could be seen. (St Edmund's follows this convention, with the 'throne' in the centre of the reredos on which the cross sits today.)

It is right that we look forward to being able to receive holy communion regularly under the form of bread and wine. However, I wonder if the fast that we have experienced over much of this last year might have allowed us to experience that simply praying silently before the tabernacle or the blessed sacrament exposed in a monstrance – looking upon the pledge of God's love – is itself a rich source of grace and one of those privileged moments in which we can meet Jesus Christ who reveals the fullness of God's love for each one of us.

Mass Responses for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

PSALM RESPONSE: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

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"Invited" Lent Diocesan Online Mission

The first three films have been very well received and the next one goes live on Monday [here](#). Do have a look. If you would like to join one of the diocesan discussion groups contact Fr Jonathan. For more details visit: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

Easter Triduum Booking is now open for those who would like to attend one of the Liturgies of the Easter Triduum, including Mass on Easter Sunday. Please use the form at <https://tinyurl.com/w427ws>. If you are having difficulty with the form please email the parish office or leave a message on the presbytery answerphone. A full schedule of services will be posted on the parish website.

Year of Joseph and Novena for Maria

I invite everyone in the parish to continue praying a novena to St Joseph, every day to 19th March, for the wellbeing of Maria Chacaltana and all those in severe need. Maria is a young girl in the parish who is being treated for a significant cancer.

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.

Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage, and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Stations of the Cross (online) next Friday at **5.00pm**. We will pray the popular "Everyone/Everyman Stations of the Cross". If you would like to borrow a copy we will leave some at the back of St Edmund's and in the narthex at St Joseph's. Zoom ID: 846 7892 5944 / password 2021.

Feasts in March Over the next two weeks we keep the Solemnities of the Anniversary of the Dedication of our church in Milford (18th), St Joseph (19th) and the Annunciation (25th). It is appropriate, even in Lent, to celebrate these blessed days. **To be sure of a place for St Joseph please book** using Eventbrite, or let us know by email or phone. There is unlikely to be as much pressure for space on the other days.

Reconciliation Fr Jonathan will be available after 10.00am Mass at Milford on Saturday 13th, 20th and 27th. We will have a look at holding a parish penitential service once the main COVID restrictions are relaxed.

This Sunday is Mother's Day and we pray especially for those mothers (of all ages) having a hard time because of COVID.

Coming out of Lockdown Please note that it is not until 29th March that we will be able to gather in small groups outside (rule of 6), so as we slowly come out of lockdown 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 and can increase capacity from 16 households (with 2m distancing).

Meanwhile the **online Liturgy of the Word** will continue on Sundays at 10.30am for the next few weeks, and we hope the **9.00am Mass** returns to Farncombe on 28th March.

All weekend masses up to and including that weekend can 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 joins Evening Prayer and Exposition from Guildford on the Sundays in Lent at 6.30pm.

Appeal for Catholic bibles for prisoners Our parish *lives* simply group is organising a collection of Catholic bibles at the request of the Catholic chaplain at HMP Downview, a prison for young offenders in Sutton. If you have a spare Catholic bible at home which you no longer use perhaps you could consider this might be a valuable gift to a prisoner, whose life may be transformed by it? Foreign language Catholic editions are also welcome. Please leave bibles at the back of church by 29th March so we can deliver the good news in time for Easter. Please note: we have been asked specifically for Catholic Bibles, as the prison receives bibles from the Gideon's and other organisations.

"And when you give alms"

CAFOD Lent Walk for Water

Our 11 parish teams have now raised £1,995! Do please keep the donations coming and if you haven't yet sponsored them perhaps this is the time? In doing so you are supporting the work of CAFOD to provide clean water and sanitation to communities in poverty. To donate: <https://tinyurl.com/t42da233>.

Les Amis – Burkina Faso To support this charity, which has such close connections with our parish, and which serves the poor and needy of Burkina Faso, please visit: <https://www.les-amis-bf.org.uk/>

Kasanka has often been the focus for Lenten Alms in the parish 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.

Easter Activities for families

Stations of the Cross for families with primary age children. 10.00am on Good Friday at St Joseph's. Please book on Eventbrite if you plan to attend.

Good Friday Pilgrim Trail and Quiz around the churches of Godalming, organised by Churches Together in Godalming (CTiG). This is an original and creative alternative to the annual Walk of Witness for adults and families. Details to follow.

St Edmund's Easter Egg Hunt This fun event will take place in local parks and fields on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Choose your day based on the weather or to suit your schedule. It is free and there are plenty of Easter egg prizes as long as you can find the hidden tokens! To register please email Nicki and Alan Lion alion@btinternet.com or phone G. 420859

CTiG Prayer Breakfast Next takes place on Saturday 27th March on zoom at 8.30am <https://zoom.us/j/9463914833> Password 2021.

Grandparents across the Diocese are invited to join Fr Stephen Ortiger for an afternoon of conversation and inspiration, on Zoom on 17th March 3.00-4.30pm. Fr Stephen will share his enthusiasm for the goodness of God while providing encouragement to grandparents to deal with the difficulties many have faced over the last year. To book email katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

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.

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 – Irene Grant, 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 Lilly Kreciglowa, Paddy Laverty, Roger Stephens, Jim Stanton, Derek Drapper, who died recently and Theresa Pullen, Kate Birbeck, Stafford Sims-Handcock, Marguerite Duncan, Jim Drain, Alexander Moore, Margaret Foster, Robert Gilmour, Derek Pink, Kevin McKenna, and Pauline MacNamara whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Fourth Week of Lent 2021

Saturday 13th March	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.45am Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For our mothers, living and dead</i>
Sunday 14th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT "LAETARE SUNDAY"	9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i> 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)
Monday 15th March	<i>No Mass today</i>
Tuesday 16th March	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Jim Stanton RIP</i>
Wednesday 17th March ST PATRICK	11.00am Requiem Mass (St Joseph's – <i>family only</i>) – <i>Jim Stanton RIP</i> Live-stream: https://schmittat.uk/live/2021-03-17_jbs/ 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301
Thursday 18th March ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Robert Gilmour RIP</i>
Friday 19th March ST JOSEPH	12.30pm Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Deceased relatives of Ciara White</i> 5.00pm Stations of the Cross online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021
Saturday 20th March	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jim Flynn RIP</i> 10.45am Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)

Sunday Year B. Weekday Cycle I.
Psalter Week 4.

†Please book on Eventbrite for Mass for St Joseph to be sure of a place

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

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

www.stedsgod.com