



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*

Fifth Sunday of Lent

When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself.

At the start of Lent we hear about Jesus being driven into the wilderness by the Holy Spirit. On this last Sunday before we enter into Holy Week we hear a quite different way of describing how people come to him. He *draws* them to himself. It is a dynamic of attraction not of coercion or persuasion. It is the beauty of his love and his life that attracts our heart and that calls to our spirit. It is perhaps for this reason that aesthetics and beauty have become of increasing interest for the life and worship of the church in more recent years.

We see such beauty in the lives of the saints across the centuries, and the lives of the truly holy men and women among our brothers and sisters today. Putting it simply, those who imitate Christ in his letting go of self are attractive. People want to see them – just as the Greeks who approached Philip wanted to see Jesus. People want to spend time with them and learn how they have found such a solid ground in their lives and whether this might be possible for them too. (Remember how much popular culture turns around the idea of coming close to successful people in the hope that we might have a share in what they have.)

This is why this pattern – everyday holiness as Pope Francis has called it – is basic to all Christian living. It is our only path to happiness and the only path to the abundance of life for which we were made. It is also intrinsically missionary. We stand (or fall) as living sacraments, living visible signs, of the continuing presence of God with his people and for them.

Over the last few years we have, as a parish, become more conscious of being missionary disciples. The Gospel that we hear today reminds us that, ultimately, it is Jesus himself who calls men and women to follow him, and that he does so in a manner that is gentle and persistent. Our part is to be an attractive reminder – not in the form of assertion and pride, but in the love and humility that is exemplified by Christ crucified.

Mass Responses for the Fifth Sunday of Lent

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Give me justice, O God, and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless. From the deceitful and cunning rescue me, for you, O God, are my strength.

PSALM RESPONSE: A pure heart create for me, O God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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www.stedsgod.com

'Invited' Lent Mission The last of the five films goes live at 5pm on Monday. If you haven't had time to join in or watch so far all the films are available on YouTube via: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited> Viewing is recommended as there have been some inspirational speakers and testimonies, and feedback has been very positive.

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. The full schedule of services is also on the parish website.

National Day of Reflection and Prayer We are invited to make this Tuesday a particular day not only of reflection but of prayer: bringing to God all that has taken place over the last year. In addition to joining in the noon silence and evening doorstep vigil our bishops, and Fr Jonathan, would like to encourage you take some time today for prayer and perhaps to visit the church, pray before the blessed sacrament and light a candle. St Edmund's Church will be open from 10.00am to 7.45pm. The letter from our bishops is included with this newsletter.

Solemnity of the Annunciation We celebrate this blessed day on Thursday 25th March with Mass at 9.30am at St Joseph's. Please book on Eventbrite to be sure of a space.

Stations of the Cross (online) on Friday at **5.00pm** Zoom ID: 846 7892 5944 / password 2021.

Reconciliation Fr Jonathan will be available after 10.00am Mass at Milford on Saturday 20th and 27th. We hope to hold a parish penitential service once COVID restrictions are relaxed.

Of your charity, pray for the repose of the soul of Lilly Kreciglowa RIP whose funeral takes place at Milford Cemetery on Friday.

Fr Jonathan is due to get his COVID jab on Sunday and will be on light duties for a couple of days, just in case of side effects.

Coming out of Lockdown slowly 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 continue to be very careful while making the most of the opportunity to celebrate the liturgy together.

This Sunday there will be **online Liturgy of the Word** at 10.30am. It will be replaced on Palm Sunday by Mass at St Joseph's. We currently expect Mass at Farncombe to resume on Easter Sunday.

Mass for Palm Sunday 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.

FMDM Sisters at Ladywell in the news! The sisters own 'Walk for Water' is nearing a million steps. Some achievement for these Sisters – many of whom are now in their 80s, and many of whom served in parts of the world where water is scarce. Read about their story at <https://tinyurl.com/pvhamrmw>.

Petition our Government to *not* reduce overseas aid You are invited to sign this petition at <https://tinyurl.com/484dvbd4>.

"And when you give alms"

Derek Drapper's son James is doing a sponsored walk to raise funds for the Alzheimer's Society. To find out more visit <https://tinyurl.com/p64jjdbn>

CAFOD Lent Walk for Water

There are now 12 parish teams and the latest fundraising total is £2,275! Each £750 could bring clean water to another community. Could we manage a whopping £3,000? To support our team visit: <https://tinyurl.com/t42da233>.

Les Amis – Burkina Faso To find out more or support this charity please visit: <https://www.les-amis-bf.org.uk/>

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 would like to attend.

Wintershall also have a limited number of places for families with primary age children to come and follow their outdoor stations on Good Friday (noon to 3.30pm). To book or for further details please contact admin@wintershall.org.uk. There is a small cost of £10 for each group of up to 6 to cover the cost of admin and a 'pilgrim bag'.

Good Friday Pilgrim Trail and Quiz around the churches of Godalming, Details to follow.

St Edmund's Easter Egg Hunt This free fun event takes place in local parks and fields on Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Plenty of Easter egg prizes. To register please email Nicki and Alan alison@btinternet.com or phone G. 420859.

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

Online Easter Triduum Retreat with the monks of Worth Abbey. To book visit: www.worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats

Safeguarding Awareness training Thank you to all those who are completing their training, ensuring that we can demonstrate that we are supporting our brothers and sisters to a standard which they and others in the wider community rightly expect. Remember that the target date is 31st March. This touches all the work that we do to with any child or adult at risk of abuse, and seeks to ensure that we act appropriately and speak out when we see others being harmed.

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 – Margarita Crawford, Irene Grant, Lizzie Laverty, Margaret Silvester, Arden Holford, Nancy Drapper, Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernoult, 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 Jerzy Burger, Lilly Kreciglowa, Paddy Laverty, Jim Stanton, who died recently and Fr Edmund Daly (former Parish Priest), Edward McMullen, Jeremy Holmes, On Lai, Josef Pawlyszyn, Stan Selley, John Meagher and Reginald Wall whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Fifth Week of Lent 2021

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| Saturday 20th March | 10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – Jim Flynn RIP 10.45am Sacrament of Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)† – People of the parish |
| Sunday 21st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT | 9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)†* – Hugh O'Boyle RIP 10.30am Liturgy of the Word online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church) |
| Monday 22nd March | <i>No Mass today</i> |
| Tuesday 23rd March | <i>No Mass today. St Edmund's open 10.00am to 7.45pm.</i> |
| Wednesday 24th March | 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Roger Stephens RIP 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online GoToMeeting 450-922-301 |
| Thursday 25th March SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD | 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) † – Colette McCooe RIP |
| Friday 26th March | 8.00am Mass (St Edmund's)* – Lilly Kreciglowa RIP 5.00pm Stations of the Cross online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021 |
| Saturday 27th March | 10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – People of the Parish 10.45am Sacrament of Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)† – Roger Stephens RIP |
| Sunday 28th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD | 9.00am Mass (St Edmund's)†* 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† – Peggy Macfarlane RIP 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church) |

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

†Please book on Eventbrite 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



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Statement from the Presidency of the Bishops' Conference on the National Day of Reflection for COVID-19 Tuesday 23rd March 2021

We welcome the designation of Tuesday 23rd March as a National Day of Reflection to mark the anniversary of the first national lockdown with a minute's silence at midday and doorstep vigils of light at 8pm.

We ask you all to make this not only a Day of Reflection but also a Day of Prayer. In reflection we ponder on all that has taken place; in prayer we bring this to our Heavenly Father. For all who live by faith in God, reflection and prayer always go hand in hand. Prayer completes reflection. Reflection informs prayer. Prayer opens our life to its true horizon. Without prayer we live in a foreshortened world and are more easily swamped by its clamour and tragedy. Throughout this difficult year, so many have been inspired by prayer, so much effort sustained in prayer, in every place. So let us make the 23rd March truly a day of prayer.

March 2020 was the first time our churches had to be closed. It is our hope that on this day, every one of our churches will be open. We invite everyone to enter a church on this day, to reflect and pray in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We know this will involve an extra effort, but this can be part of our important contribution to a significant moment in the life of our country. Indeed, we ask that you might invite a friend, neighbour or colleague to come to church with you as you make this visit.

There is so much on which to reflect and include in our prayer.

We reflect in sorrow on all those who have died, whether family members, friends or those unknown to us personally. We pray for them, asking our Father to welcome them into their heavenly home, the destiny for which God first gave us the gift of life.

We reflect with compassion on all those who have suffered during this last year, whether through illness, stress, financial disaster or family tensions. We pray for their ongoing resilience, courage and capacity to forgive.

We reflect with thanksgiving for the generosity, inventiveness, self-sacrifice and determination shown by so many in this most difficult of times. We pray for them,

thanking God for their gifts and dedication, whether they are scientists, politicians, health workers, public servants of every kind, community leaders or steadfast family members and friends who continue to show such love and compassion.

We reflect in hope that, as the pandemic is controlled and we open up our lives again, we will gather in the lessons we have learned and build our society into a better shape, more compassionate, less marked by inequalities, more responsive to needs and deprivation. We ask for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us in this endeavour, whether we are focussing on overcoming family breakdowns, economic recovery, or building political consensus.

Christian prayer is, of course, centred on Jesus Christ, the one who is “lifted up” before us “so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him” (John 3.13). We pray with Jesus, in him and through him, for he is the one who carries us, and our prayers, into the embracing presence of his Father. He is our comfort in sorrow, our strength in the face of need, our rejoicing in the gifts we celebrate and our hope in the face of the weighty darkness of death.

May Tuesday 23rd March be a great day of prayer that this pandemic comes to an end and that the gift of God’s Holy Spirit will carry us all forward to a new and better life, both here and in the world to come.

+ Vincent Nichols

Cardinal Vincent Nichols
President

+ Malcolm M^cMahon OP

Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP
Vice-President