



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 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter – 25th April 2021

I am the good shepherd and I lay down my life for my sheep

Fr Barry Weymes was my neighbour in Cobham. Retired and frail, a priest of many years, he would invariably greet me affectionately as 'my pastor'. We tend to use the term 'parish priest', but pastor is in fact the more accurate term for that office.

All Christians are called to lay down their lives in service of one form or another: in the family, in work or in some particular apostolate. The Gospel today has always had particular significance for those who God calls to Holy Orders, and it is appropriate that Good Shepherd Sunday should have a particular focus on prayer for vocations to the priesthood and diaconate. They are called, in a particular way, to model themselves on Christ the Good Shepherd. Jesus's words about the hired man encourages them to persevere in the duties entrusted to them. His own concern for 'those who are not of this flock' encourages them to look outward.

Celibacy in the life of a priest is an outward sign of the gift of self. Freely promised, it runs against contemporary expectations, yet once given it makes one free to leave and move on when the Lord calls. It is the expression of love for the Church, the body of Christ, and for the beautiful and 'smelly' people who make up the Lord's flock. And many of those who think celibacy unreasonable often forget that married life has its sorrows as well as its joys and that many find themselves single - by virtue of death, separation, dedication to some cause or just not having found an appropriate spouse.

As I pray through the scriptures this week, I recognise God's hand in drawing me into the mystery of the Good Shepherd. I give thanks for my vocation as priest and the many blessings I have received through it. I would encourage anyone thinking about a vocation to pray it through and explore it, and for parents not to be afraid of where the journey might lead. Do pray for vocations to the priesthood and diaconate from our parish and for our diocese, and for the holiness of those of us who already serve, that we may always have outward signs of the Good Shepherd in our midst.

Fr Jonathan

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: The merciful love of the Lord fills the earth; by the word of the Lord the heavens were made, alleluia.

PSALM RESPONSE: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: The Good Shepherd has risen, who laid down his life for his sheep and willingly died for his flock, alleluia.

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Parish Vision? Fr Jonathan shared some thoughts on this at Mass and in the newsletter last weekend. He encourages you to share your thoughts using the online 'padlet' tool at <https://tinyurl.com/5xezk9tb>. Comments can also be made by email or in writing.

Pete's Plant Sale 30th April to 2nd May

This *livesimply* event takes place at St Joseph's church car park over the May bank holiday weekend, in memory of Pete Kelly RIP. Please contact Janet Quinlan on 01252 702156 if you are able to contribute seedlings and plants.

Parish Forum Tuesday 4th May 8.00pm on Zoom. The agenda will focus mainly on parish finances for 2020 and gathering further comments on the parish vision.

Kasanka is a village in Zambia and home to one of the communities of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood (FMDMs), who have their mother house here in Godalming. St Edmund's parish has supported their work there for over 20 years.

Following on from CAFOD's Walk for Water in Lent we are expressing gratitude for our easy access to clean water by trying to raise £2,400 to help the village install a solar water pump.

All donations from Pete's Plant Sale (see above) will go the project. If you would like to contribute you will find special envelopes at the back of church during the month of May.

Second Collection this weekend on 'Good Shepherd Sunday' to support the education of future priests of the diocese. Contributions can be gift-aided.

Baptism There are many young families in the parish who are waiting to have their children baptised and Fr Jonathan starts a new round of preparation sessions this weekend. Please contact the parish office asap if you would like to join the next preparation course in June.

10th to 16th May is Marriage Week.

Coming slowly out of lockdown

Weekend Mass While numbers are not too high we will continue to book using Eventbrite. <https://tinyurl.com/4fdsnshv>

As infection rates are relatively low in the area we have changed to 1.5m distancing at St Joseph's and St Edmund's. We will keep this under review, mindful that not everyone has been vaccinated yet. Please sit as directed to ensure that we maintain this and take particular care to maintain 1.5m distance if required to share a bench.

Sycamore After good interest in our January pilot and following on the diocesan mission, *Invited*, we are now thinking about how best to follow through with some more Sycamore. Online? Small groups once we can meet again in person? A larger group in person in St Joseph's? If you can help and/or host a group of 6 at home, please let Fr Jonathan know in the next couple of weeks. It would be good to build a small team to take this forward for as many as possible.

The Ascension of the Lord On Thursday 13th May the Churches Together in Godalming invite you to a Service of Evening Prayer at St John's, Farncombe at 5.30pm, led by Fr Jonathan and Rev James Rattue. Seats do not need to be booked but please arrive in good time to be sure of a place.

Regular financial support for the parish

Thank you to those who support the parish by regular giving. Donations to the parish by bank transfer can be made to 'RCD AB Godalming' sort code 40-05-20, account number 41077481. If you would like to arrange a standing order, or to sign up for Gift Aid, please contact Eileen Hudson on 01483 208238 or eileen.hudson@gmail.com.

New envelopes are available at the back of church which can be used to Gift Aid donations. If you have a current declaration just fill in your name, and if not please complete all the details on the envelope. If you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope and not one for St John's! We hope to have contactless terminals available for those who might wish to give by card.

1st May is memorial of St Joseph the Worker. In this year of St Joseph, we pray for justice and dignity in human work for all women and men.

Missio - the Pope's Charity The Mill Hill Missionaries and the communities they serve, live in such difficult circumstances, made even harder by COVID 19, and they are so grateful that we are supporting them. If you have a box to be emptied please contact Nick 07985 096233 or nickdec1@btinternet.com More information at <https://missio.org.uk/>

**Our *livesimply* group has news for you!
Watch this space...!**

Please sign the Climate Change Petition

This year the UK will host the largest gathering of world leaders ever to take place on British soil: the 'COP26' climate talks in Glasgow in November. With the eyes of the world on the UK, we must urge the Prime Minister to make sure communities hardest hit by the climate emergency are listened to at COP26. Please sign our petition online: <https://action.cafod.org.uk/page/73304/petition/1> or, if you would prefer to sign a card, please take one from the back of the church, sign and post to CAFOD using freepost.

Walking the Parables of Jesus This will be performed at Wintershall this year from 28th June to 3rd July, instead of The Life of Christ, and will be a really special new experience. There will be five parable scenes with the audience walking from scene to scene, and limited numbers to allow more space for social distancing; so it's advisable to book early. For more information: 01483 892167 Or visit <https://tinyurl.com/e6yx24j8>

50 years of Lay Community of St

Benedict Bishop Richard will be giving a talk about his Benedictine journey, having been an oblate of Pluscarden Abbey since his seminarian days, on 25th April at 8pm.

To join: <https://tinyurl.com/ddrh2u9s>

For more information visit:

<http://www.laybenedictines.org/fifty>

Programme of Prayer Retreats at Worth

Abbey: <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/online-retreats>

For enquiries, email: toc@worth.org.uk

For **Retreats at the House of Prayer** in

Molesey visit: www.christian-retreat.org.

Some sources of practical support

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 April: We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis.

The sick and those who care for them

including – Audrey Hockey, Mark Hewitt, Margaret Szalajda, Anne Stephens, Warren McMillan, Margarita Crawford, 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, those in our hospitals and care homes and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed in particular for Baby Robert Oliver, Joan Dalton, Tim Green, Salvatore Ferrucci, who died recently and Fr Colum Murray (former Parish Priest), Paul Bryant, Marie-Louise Hayward, Tony Strudwick, Mary Youd, Anthony Edwards, Philip Downey, Jaya Lake, Brenda Waugh, Pat Cooke and Annik Allison whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies Fourth Week of Easter 2021

Saturday 24th April	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Frank & Matthew Brown RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)†* – <i>For Vocations to Holy Orders</i>
Sunday 25th April FOURTH 'GOOD SHEPHERD' SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Mass (St John's)† - <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Fr Michael Perry (85th Birthday)</i> 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)
Monday 26th April	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Tony Strudwick RIP</i>
Tuesday 27th April	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Anthony Parkinson RIP</i>
Wednesday 28th April	10.30am Requiem Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Joan Dalton RIP</i> <i>(Family and guests only please)</i> 7.30pm-8.30pm Lectio Divina online Zoom: 846 7892 5944 / 2021
Thursday 29th April ST CATHERINE OF SIENA	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i> 11.00am – <i>Requiem Mass for Baby Robert Oliver McGown Garcia</i>
Friday 30th April	2.30pm Requiem Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Salvatore Ferrucci RIP</i> <i>(Family and guests only please)</i>
Saturday 1st May <i>(St Joseph the Worker)</i>	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Pat Cooke RIP</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)†* – <i>Kate McCaughey RIP</i>
Sunday 2nd May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Mass (St John's)† 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>People of the Parish</i> 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)

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

†**Booking Essential** – available places on Eventbrite (<https://tinyurl.com/4fdnsnhv>)

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

Quicklink for Parish Zoom – <https://tinyurl.com/apfvd674>

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

www.stedsgod.com