



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*

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9th May 2021

The Gospel this Sunday is another of those foundational Johannine texts, and I invite us to ponder three of its elements.

The first of these is the remarkable way in which the Lord Jesus, the king of the universe, speaks of our relationship with him in terms of **friendship**. Friendship is usually a mutual relationship, classically requiring equality between the two parties, and far removed from what one might usually expect between God and man. For St Thomas Aquinas the Holy Spirit dwelling in us makes us friends of God. He writes that "It belongs to friendship that one friend reveals his secrets to another. Since friendship creates a community of affection and makes, so to speak, one heart from two, what one confides to a friend seems not to leave one's own heart." He goes on to explain how friendship is also more than making secrets known. The unity of heart that the sharing of secrets opens up leads to sharing all that we possess with our friend, with "our other self". If this is wonderful in our human relationships, how much more wonderful that we should really be friends of God, able to speak heart to heart and share in his life.

The second is that we have been **chosen**. The experiences of being chosen (or not) as friends when we were children can carry a primordial power in shaping our sense of self. But even as we grow as adults there remains something special about being chosen. (Consider for example the joy of those selected to tour with the British Lions!) We like to think that we are here on a Sunday, or call ourselves Christian or Catholic, because it is something we have chosen to do. But if we look more deeply we discover that the origin of this is really God's choice of us in Christ, an election which we have accepted.

The third is His speaking of us as bearing "**fruit**, fruit that will last". When Jesus speaks he does so prophetically. His main aim here is not to set a high standard for us, but to remind us that, with the Holy Spirit being poured into our hearts, we will remain in Him, and can therefore be confident that our lives will be fruitful. We can live without fear of what the future might hold. He speaks truth and because it is His work it cannot, in the end, be frustrated.

Mass Responses for Sixth Sunday of Easter

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Proclaim a joyful sound and let it be heard; proclaim to the ends of the earth: The Lord has freed his people, alleluia.

PSALM RESPONSE: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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www.stedsgod.com

Ascension of the Lord There will be a Vigil Mass at St Edmund's on Wednesday 12th at 7.30pm and a morning Mass on Ascension Day (13th May) at St Joseph's at 10.00am. Both Masses can be booked on Eventbrite.

In the evening Fr Jonathan and Fr James Rattue will lead Evening Prayer at St John's, Farncombe with Churches Together in Godalming at 5.30pm. No need to book; first come first served so arrive in good time.

COVID arrangements

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

Please follow COVID measures – hands, face, space – and ensure that you leave at least 1m (3ft) between one another.

Parish Forum Thank you to all who attended our first forum meeting. Brief notes of the discussion and a summary of the accounts will be uploaded to the website with the newsletters. They are also available in print copy on request. If you were not able to attend and have any questions please do ask, preferably by email.

We are now a *livesimply* parish!

We were delighted to announce last weekend that our parish has gained the *livesimply* award. Fr Jonathan said: "*This is valuable recognition for our parish and our desire to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with people in poverty. Our work in this area is the fruit of much hard work and a lot of prayer, but it is also just a beginning. Our thanks go to the team for their drive and leadership and to everyone in the parish for their support.*"

Look out for the *livesimply* plaque which will be displayed in due course inside the porch of both our churches, and if you would like to receive our parish monthly *livesimply* e-newsletter please email the parish office.

No weekday Mass 17th to 21st May in the parish. Deacon Jeremy will lead a couple of other services. There are Masses in Haslemere and Guildford: please book through their parish websites. Haslemere: <https://www.catholicaslemere.com/book-masses> and Guildford: <https://www.cpg.church/mass.html>.

National Marriage Week begins on Monday! Many of us love being married but perhaps we take our marital happiness for granted, and forget to look at each other and see the joy we share? Why not make a point this week to really make some time to talk to your spouse and nurture your marriage. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2zay9tr7> to download our A&B Marriage Week resources with some ideas on how to mark this special week.

'Thy Kingdom Come' This global prayer initiative which runs between the great Easter celebrations of the Ascension and Pentecost, from 13th to 23rd May, encourages us to pray for and help people come to know Jesus Christ. The 'Our Father' prayer is engraved on all our hearts and we are invited to pray it for those we know and love to come closer to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/33ay2hur>.

Rosary prayer to end the pandemic

Traditionally we make an extra effort to pray the rosary during May, and this year we are asked to pray it for an end to the pandemic. You may like to join the Walsingham livestream at 8pm or pray at some other time: <https://www.walsingham.org.uk>

Pete's Plant Sale Thank you to everyone who organised and supported this *livesimply* event last weekend which, together with offerings at Mass, helped us raise over £650 for Kasanka on our first weekend. This is a fantastic start to our Appeal...

Kasanka Appeal The Kasanka school community urgently need to replace their borehole water pump with an efficient solar-powered pump and we are trying to help them raise £2,400. We know how important water is for our health, not only in food and drink but also to keep us clean, and by making a donation we can express our own gratitude for access to clean water.

To contribute: pick up a Kasanka envelope at church; donate using the contactless devices at Mass; or bank transfer to 'Zambia RD' a/c no: 00754226, sort code: 60-09-04 (and ensure 'Kasanka' is your reference). If you would like to gift aid your contribution, please contact the parish office for a form.

Colour and Shape is a social network, originating in our diocese so that families can discover their unique rhythm of prayer, learn how to accompany their children confidently on their journey to discovering their own relationship with God, and find friends along the way. For more information visit: www.colourandshapeonline.com

New Lectionary Work continues on the preparation of new translations for the reading for Mass. We are likely to start using these sometime next year. Please bear this in mind if you are thinking of buying a new Missal for yourself or someone else. There has been some discussion in the Catholic press and blogosphere about it and those who are interested might like to have a look at two items in *The Tablet* on its broad approach (<https://tinyurl.com/59r2tc34>) and on how it is handling inclusive language (<https://tinyurl.com/ntm2rp6u>). The new lectionary is based on the ESV which can be easily accessed online at <https://www.esv.org>. It is being adapted slightly for the lectionary.

Struggling with bereavement or loss? Our Deanery has a team of trained Catholic Bereavement Supporters available to listen and support. Contact Fr Jonathan if you would like to speak to one of the team or contact Simon South from Marriage & Family at simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

Keeping in touch with Fr Michael who is in good spirits despite having had a mini stroke and needing to use a zimmer frame to get around. He loves to receive phone calls from parishioners and his direct number is: 01903 711306 or reception: 01903 711325.

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.

Contactless terminals and new format envelopes are available at the back of church.

Pandemic crisis in India Please keep praying for the people of India. If you would like to support CAFOD/Caritas India you can donate online at: cafod.org.uk/give

10th-16th May is also Christian Aid Week.

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 May:

That those responsible for financial services may work together with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

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 Fr Jan Gora (formerly Rector of the Polish mission), Teodor Skoropad, James Grant, Jenny Bryant, Krystyna Misko, Ralph Kirby, Angela Skinner, Louisa Godier and Peter Kelly whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Liturgies Sixth Week of Easter 2021

Saturday 8th May	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)†* – <i>Peter Kelly RIP</i>
Sunday 9th May SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Mass (St John's)† – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Fr Jan Gora</i> 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)
Monday 10th May	<i>No Mass today</i>
Tuesday 11th May	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Celebrant's Intention</i>
Wednesday 12th May	7.30pm (Vigil) Mass (St Edmund's)† – <i>Bogdan Kelpaski RIP</i>
Thursday 13th May ASCENSION OF THE LORD	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Friday 14th May ST MATTHIAS	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Nancy Heaney RIP</i>
Saturday 15th May	10.00am Mass (St Joseph's)† – <i>Gwen & Declan Leigh</i> 6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)†* – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Sunday 16th May SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9.00am Mass (St John's)† – 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)† – 6.30pm Evening Prayer & Exposition online (www.cpg.church)

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

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

***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