



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 27th March 2022

Taste and See that the Lord is good

I wonder what the prodigal son was feeling as he went back to his Father. Being human, I expect he had some trepidation. He had, after all, been particularly foolhardy. How did he think his Father would act? How did he imagine things would go? The speech he planned suggests that he did not expect anything more than a servant's place in the household, and yet what he received was far more than he even dared to dream.

The season of Lent is traditionally one for welcoming new members through the waters of Baptism. It is also the traditional time for welcoming back those who have fallen away, either in some dramatic fashion or just by gradual drift. Penitents were formally enrolled at the start of the season by the imposition of ashes and were reconciled with God and the community before Easter so that they could celebrate the Easter Mysteries in full.

I have no doubt that for them, just as for the prodigal son, the sacrament of reconciliation was a transformational and life-affirming encounter with the love of the Father. In my own experience, both as a penitent myself and as a confessor, I can testify to the power of the Father's healing embrace in this sacrament.

There is something very powerful about the sacrament of reconciliation, when we come before the Father in our brokenness and inadequacy. It is one of the few places in life when we can be completely ourselves. But it requires a certain, uncomfortable, vulnerability. The hunger that the prodigal son experienced was enough to get him to realise that he had to give it a go. Sometimes we will reach such a state ourselves that we know that only the healing of God can put us back together. Much of the time we will just shuffle along, ignoring the offer of the Father to restore us to life in all its fullness.

This Lent, I would like to make an invitation to all of us whose lives got interrupted by the pandemic, to "taste and see the goodness of the Lord" in the sacrament of reconciliation. To help there are some little fold-out cards at the back of the church and there will be visiting priests at Milford on the next couple of Saturday mornings.

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found.

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www.stedsgod.com

St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.252878

Ukraine crisis The most effective way of responding to the crisis at the moment is still by contributing to the relief work being done by CAFOD, who are working with partners on the ground and their established logistics. If you give direct it can be gift-aided and often attracts match-funding.

The Ukraine page on our website offers advice if you are thinking about hosting refugees, and contact details for a reputable charity which can match you to refugees wanting to come here plus more information on how our diocese is responding to the crisis

Sacrament of Penance There will be a visiting priest hearing confessions after the Saturday morning Mass in Milford on 2nd April (Fr Tony Barry) and 9th April (Fr Robin Farrow). Fr Jonathan will be available after Mass on 12th and 13th April, and also by arrangement. Confessions are heard every Saturday morning in Guildford, and this is a popular option for those who would like somewhere outside the parish.

School Mass After a two-year break, we are delighted to be able to hold a 'School Mass' in the parish this Sunday and we welcome all parents from St Edmund's school to St John's.

Baptism Preparation 2nd and 7th April. Please speak to Fr Jonathan or get in touch with Sarah in the parish office if you are hoping to arrange Baptism for your child.

Holy Week in the parish

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
Mass at the usual times.

Maundy Thursday

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper (St Joseph's)

Good Friday

10.30am Family Stations of the Cross
(St Edmund's)

3pm Solemn Liturgy (St Joseph's)

Holy Saturday

8.30pm Easter Vigil (St Joseph's)

Easter Sunday

8.45am Mass (St John's)

10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)

Godalming Community Gospel Choir

Easter Concert Saturday 2nd April at 7.30pm at Godalming Baptist Church. Tickets £8 at Record Corner / £10 cash on the door.

Wintershall Passion of Jesus on Good Friday in Trafalgar Square An electric and moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus, in a 90-minute production which is free of charge. Performances at noon and 3.15 pm and the production is open air with visibility maximised using large screens. If you haven't yet experienced this, it's highly recommended and well worth the journey. No booking needed. The Passion will not take place on Guildford High Street this year.

Lent Focus

Adoration, Sung Evening Prayer & Benediction 4.30pm - 5.30pm on Sundays.

Exposition/Holy Hour Wednesdays, 4.00-5.00pm, at St Joseph's, Milford, including benediction, rosary and private prayer.

Lectio Divina at 7.30pm on Wednesdays (on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/f4xfmvbe> ID: 846 7892 5944 / Password:2022)

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7pm at St Joseph's, Milford.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are on Friday 1st April at 8am.

Early Morning Mass See calendar.

Sycamore online The final film from Fr Stephen Wang is on 31st March @7.45pm 'Mary and Hope of Heaven'. The Zoom link is: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89934568457>

For Young People - Pizza and Prayer with Fr Jonathan, 6.30pm, Sundays in Lent.

Parish Prayer Group On Mondays at 5pm in Lent the group is exploring Carmody Grey's York Course booklet 'God has no favourites'. More info from Richard: 01252 702230.

Lent Talks at St Joan of Arc, Farnham on Wednesdays at St Joan's Centre, 8-9pm. 30th March 'How to live this Lent for others'.

CAFOD Walk against Hunger

Congratulations to our team of 30 walkers who have so far raised £1,054 for CAFOD's work to alleviate poverty, and have covered 5,463 km of the total 6,330km distance to Sierra Leone. Please support them if you can: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jo-and-julian-walk-against-hunger>

Volunteering to support prisoners PACT - the Prison Advice Care Trust – is holding a workshop at St Dunstan's, Woking, on Saturday 7th May 10-4. It's an opportunity to find out more about the important work of serving prisoners and their families, and to help you discern if your faith encourages to help in this way. Phone 07581 194907 or email: marie.norbury@prisonadvice.org.uk

Parish Summer Alpha Programme

We are delighted to be able to offer an in-person summer Alpha programme. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life and the Christian faith in a friendly, open and informal environment. Each session includes supper, a short film and discussion. The course will run on Sunday evenings from 1st May, 7- 9pm. Full details and sign-up are on our website www.stedsgod.com (scroll down home page).

This course is for everyone and is the ideal tonic to renew and to inspire you, especially if you feel your faith has waned as a result of recent world events. And, if you know of anyone who might like to come too, please invite them or offer to come along with them – as the greatest gift we can give a fellow human is faith, a gift which can last for eternity. For more information: Nicki and Alan 01483 420859 E: alion@btinternet.com

Memorial for Pete Kelly The Kelly family invite parishioners to a Requiem Mass for Pete on 7th May at 11am at St Edmund's and to a reception at Guildford Rugby Club at 2pm. Everyone welcome. Please let Mary know by 22nd April, for catering purposes, if you hope to attend the reception 07909 527876 or failte.kellys@btinternet.com

Parish Get-Together Thank you to everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable evening, with good food and entertainment; in particular to Ian and Dean on their ukes leading a good old sing-song!

Keeping in touch with Fr Michael He loves to receive phone calls from parishioners and his direct number is: 01903 711306 or reception: 01903 711325.

COVID precautions Please continue to wear face coverings if you can, particularly while singing, and please don't attend if you have anything infectious.

Seeking parish contacts We're looking for people to volunteer to act as a contact/ coordinator for some upcoming events and activities. If you can offer to help, please speak to Fr Jonathan. It should be a small-time commitment rather than a lifestyle!

***Invited Season 2** – Our Diocesan Mission has its next phase in Eastertide with a weekly video and opportunities to meet in small groups or online.

***Christian Aid Week** in May

***World Meeting of Families.**

Parish Finance Thank you to those who support the parish by their regular giving. Donations to the parish by bank transfer can be made to 'RCD AB Godalming', sort code 40-05-20, account number 41077481. To arrange a standing order/sign up for Gift Aid, or request envelopes contact Eileen: ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Some sources of practical support

LOAF (Love One Another Fellowship) This team of parish volunteers offers practical help. Contact Alan on 01483 420859.

SVP members offer regular visits, friendship and practical support to those in need. The helpline number is 07379 108009.

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 COVID and its impact on people around the world. Peace in Ukraine.

The Holy Father's Intention for March: For a Christian response to bioethical challenges.

The sick and those who care for them including Sasha Hall, John Lennox, Patrick Kennealy, Maria Rogers, Maria Lopez, Jean Rejniak, Arden Holford, Audrey Hockey, Anne Stephens, Margarita Crawford, Irene Grant, Margaret Silvester, Nancy Drapper, Betty Matthews, Cliff Hutchinson, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Gerry Newell, Josie Whittle, Nuala Gallagher, Ann Lloyd, Anita van Rheen, 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 Margaret Szalajda who died recently, and Jerzy Burger, Reginald Wall, Mary Christmas, Betsy Bawdelly-Smith, Arthur Pheby and Mark Loughlin whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Fourth Week of Lent

27th March 2022

Saturday 26th March	9.30am Mass and Confessions (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 27th March 4TH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) <i>David & Elizabeth Coombs – In Thanksgiving</i> 12.00pm Baptism Luca Ascione (St Joseph's) 12.45pm Baptism Percy Grant (St Joseph's) 4.30pm Adoration & Evening Prayer (St Edmund's)
Monday 28th March	7.00pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Tim Green RIP
Tuesday 29th March	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – For Ukraine
Wednesday 30th March	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Matthew & Frank Brown RIP 4pm-5pm Exposition/Holy Hour (St Joseph's) <i>7.30pm Lectio Divina</i>
Thursday 31st March	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 1st April	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) <i>7.00pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's)</i>
Saturday 2nd April	9.30am Mass and Confessions (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 3rd April 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – People of the parish 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – Joan Dalton RIP 4.30pm Adoration & Evening Prayer (St Edmund's)

Sunday Year C.

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

Livestream Mass is available from Guildford: <https://www.cpg.church/live.html>

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