



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 – April 3rd 2022

The Gospel today is usually known as the Woman caught in Adultery, but I think we should increasingly judge that as an unfair title. She is the poor soul who has been caught up in a game of Jesus's opponents. I think I would rather say that it is a Gospel about Jesus's concern to find ways for everyone to grow in wholeness and holiness - no matter how complicated their situation may be.

The church is known for having a clear and developed teaching on the moral life – of what is right and good in general. It is part of what God has revealed to us to help us grow in holiness and share more fully in his life. This teaching, the moral law, should inform our consciences: our sense and judgement about what is right and wrong. But human situations and the variety of human weakness (and strength) means that how we apply them in our lives may not be simply a matter of doing exactly what they say. Sometimes this may be because of competing obligations, and often because we cannot change everything at once. Catholic teaching also includes the principles and practice of discernment and accompaniment – ways of walking alongside to discover what God's call to grow in holiness means for me now. These are often forgotten when the headlines read – “the church says that doing X is wrong”, but they are what is seen in Jesus's treatment of the woman of today's Gospel and experienced in the confessional and in spiritual direction. Two passages from Pope Francis's *The Joy of Love* exemplify this approach.

'There are two ways of thinking which recur throughout the Church's history: casting off and reinstating. The Church's way, from the time of the Council of Jerusalem, has always been the way of Jesus, the way of mercy and reinstatement... The way of the Church is not to condemn anyone for ever; it is to pour out the balm of God's mercy on all those who ask for it with a sincere heart... For true charity is always unmerited, unconditional and gratuitous'. Consequently, there is a need “to avoid judgements which do not take into account the complexity of various situations” and “to be attentive, by necessity, to how people experience distress because of their condition”.'

'It is reductive simply to consider whether or not an individual's actions correspond to a general law or rule, because that is not enough to discern and ensure full fidelity to God in the concrete life of a human being. I earnestly ask that we always recall a teaching of Saint Thomas Aquinas and learn to incorporate it in our pastoral discernment: “Although there is necessity in the general principles, the more we descend to matters of detail, the more frequently we encounter defects... In matters of action, truth or practical rectitude is not the same for all, as to matters of detail, but only as to the general principles... The principle will be found to fail, according as we descend further into detail”. It is true that general rules set forth a good which can never be disregarded or neglected, but in their formulation they cannot provide absolutely for all particular situations. At the same time, it must be said that, precisely for that reason, what is part of a practical discernment in particular circumstances cannot be elevated to the level of a rule.'

(Amoris Laetitia, 296 & 304)

Mass Responses for Fifth Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Has no one condemned you, woman? No one, Lord. Neither shall I condemn you. From now on, sin no more.

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

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 Eds)

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)

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.

CAFOD Walk against Hunger By Easter our walkers hope to have completed their 6,330 km virtual journey to Sierra Leone, and back! Well done to the team who have so far walked 5,989km and raised £1,274 for CAFOD's work to alleviate poverty. To donate: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/jo-and-julian-walk-against-hunger>

SVP Tea Afternoon If you would like to come along on Wednesday 13th at 2.30pm please let Janet know: 01252 702156.

Easter treats for children in Ukraine

Donations of mini eggs (the ones that are foil wrapped) with a note of love, by 10am on Friday to the collection box at St Edmund's.

Holy Week - Events of interest

Good Friday The Trinity Trust Team are leading a short worship event, with drama, scripture and song, on Godalming High Street at 11.30am. The idea is that those attending Good Friday church services earlier in the morning might come along afterwards.

Easter Sunday The annual Sunrise Service is at the Minster Field at 6.45am, followed by coffee with the Sisters of Ladywell Convent.

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. NB: The Passion will not take place on Guildford High Street this year.

Easter Week

St Edmund's Parish Easter Egg Hunt This was hugely popular last year and we're delighted to announce it's back again this Easter. The theme is flags of the world, with a special emphasis on the Ukrainian flag and prayers for peace in Ukraine. The Hunt takes place on four days from Good Friday to Easter Monday and you can choose which day to take part. To register and for more details please contact Nicki and Alan: email: alio@btinternet.com or 01483 420859. There is no charge and there are lots of prizes!

Easter Retreat for Young Adults 14th-17th April. Come and join other young adults and the monks at Worth Abbey, to enter into the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. www.worth.org.uk

Easter tide

Invited: Season 2 - Growing in Faith The second phase of our Diocesan Mission is arriving shortly! Episode 1 is launched on Easter Monday with five weekly conversations from 7.30pm to 8.30pm every **Thursday evening**, on diocesan-wide zoom and hopefully in person in the parish. (Please let us know if you would be happy to host one of these.) There is a wonderful line-up of speakers and testimonies for this series as we look to the Early Church for inspiration on how to be true followers of Christ.

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/invited>

RENEW - CAFOD's Young Adult event

An opportunity to meet with young Catholics at CAFOD's headquarters in London at 11am on 23rd April to find out how to play your part in challenging the root causes of poverty, injustice and the climate crisis.

<https://cafodyoungadulteventtickets.eventbrite.co.uk>

Parish Summer Alpha Programme

We are delighted to announce 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

Volunteering to support prisoners PACT 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. 07581 194907/marie.norbury@prisonadvice.org.uk

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 an afternoon reception at Guildford Rugby Club. Please let Mary know by 22nd April, for catering purposes, if you hope to attend the reception failte.kellys@btinternet.com

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.

Mental Health support The mental health crisis helpline is 0800 915 4644, open 24/7 for support for adults, children and young people in distress. If you're worried about yourself or a young person, the service can arrange a face-to-face assessment or signpost you to services e.g. the Guildford Safe Haven for evening and weekend out of hours support.

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

Easter Offering The Easter Offering goes to support the priests of the parish. Please consider gift aiding your donation, which allows us to claim back 25% from HMRC. Please place your offering in a clearly labelled envelope or use one of the printed envelopes at the back of the church (if you already have a current Gift Aid declaration just fill in your name, otherwise complete all the details on the envelope). For those who have a new numbered box of envelopes, please use the one marked Easter. If you are donating at Farncombe, please use a St Edmund's envelope and not one for St John's!

There are also contactless terminals available if you would like to give by card, but to Gift Aid your offering you will need to input your details as this is a separate system.

On Good Friday there will be a retiring collection for the support of the Holy Places. This is important for those Christian communities at a time when pilgrims are few.

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 April: We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

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 Hugh Rourke, Robert Garcia, Martin Crosby, Fr Tony Clarke (former Parish Priest), Joan Glithero, Terry Bayley, Joan Dalton and Peter Grant, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Polish Mass times – please note that there is no longer a Sunday evening Mass at St Joseph's Milford.

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

**Schedule of Masses
Fifth Week of Lent**

April 3rd 2022

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)
Monday 4th April	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's, Guildford</i>
Tuesday 5th April	11.15am Funeral Mass for Margaret Szalajda (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 6th April	4pm-5pm Exposition/Holy Hour (St Joseph's) 5.30pm Mass (Old Farmhouse, Elstead, GU8 6DB) – <i>7.30pm Lectio Divina</i>
Thursday 7th April	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 8th April	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) <i>7.00pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's)</i>
Saturday 9th April	9.30am Mass and Confessions (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – Matthew & Frank Brown RIP
Sunday 10th April PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	8.45am Mass (St John's) – 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – 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>

www.stedsqod.com