



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford

*Through the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
our Parish will grow as the Body of Christ in Godalming
and as a sign lifted up for the peoples*

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time and the start of the Season of Lent 19th February 2023

Be holy, for the Lord your God is holy.

The news is full of challenging stories – of war in Ukraine, of the consequence of long-running political conflict in Turkey and Syria, of economies that do not serve the common good, of climate change and its effects on nature, the poor, indigenous people and young people. Pondering these things over the last few weeks it has struck me forcefully how much of what we see is a consequence of sin – of our failure to live well with God and with one another. It is not just the work of a few wicked individuals – it is difficult for us not to be in some way complicit. Many of the daily choices that we make continue to contribute to the broken nature of our world.

Sometimes we can feel powerless before the immensity and gravity of the task before us. This intractable brokenness is a constant reminder of our need for salvation and our need to cry out to God for help. We won't fix it on our own, but we are not powerless. In his letter on care for our common home Pope Francis observes that "There can be no renewal of our relationship with nature without a renewal of humanity itself." In other words, if we want to fix the world we must start with renewing ourselves.

The trouble is that we get stuck, thinking that there is no more growing to do or that there is too much to do and it goes into the "too difficult" box or onto the list of things that I might do when I have the time and energy. Lent is the season that is gifted to us as a time to turn again to God and engage in the struggle to embrace more fully the mystery of his love for us, and to live well with God and neighbour.

Please do not hold off entering into Lent this year. The Lenten practices that are commended to us are not onerous and they do work, even if slowly, to renew us in holiness and wholeness. Abstain from something to learn that things are not as vital as they always seem – whether that's particular foods or drinks or social media after dark. Make arrangements to pray more regularly and do something to feed the spiritual life. Give alms or engage in some active love of neighbour. There will be opportunities to come together in the parish for prayer and spiritual formation. You might wish to make a plan with your household for your fasting and abstinence. We are not alone on our Lenten journey. Let us walk in hope and pray that the Lord will touch us and transform us, beyond our hopes and dreams.

Mass Responses for Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: The Lord is compassion and love.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I will recount all your wonders, I will rejoice in you and be glad, and sing psalms to your name, O Most High.

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

Retiring Collection is taken today for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Assistance Fund.

Ash Wednesday is a day of Fasting and Abstinence and Mass with distribution of ashes is at 9.30am at St Joseph's and 7.30pm at St Edmund's. At 2pm there is Liturgy of the Word and distribution of ashes at St Edmund's School and parishioners are very welcome to attend.

Lent Focus

Now is a good time to start to think about how you might keep Lent this year so that it becomes a really fruitful time of growth in grace. A 'balanced diet' for Lent is made up of some self-denial, some prayer, and some almsgiving or charity. To help us as a parish to travel together through this holy season -

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

Lent Groups on **Wednesday** evenings 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd & 29th March, 8pm at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell. We will be following the '**Belong and Believe**' CaFE course which draws on the immense wisdom and inspiration of our Celtic spiritual heritage to help us to find renewed faith and vision together. Come to all/any session. Sign up if you can but feel free to just drop in too.

<https://tinyurl.com/2e8w5art>

If you can't make a Wednesday evening but would like to take part, the course is also running on a Tuesday evening in Haslemere.

The Big Lent Walk starts in just over a week - the challenge is to walk, run, roll, or stroll 200km in 40 days to raise money to support people around the world to overcome poverty. There's still time to sign up to our parish team and become part of a global team of thousands of walkers from around the world uniting for this cause. For more details contact jolewry@aol.com and please sponsor us if you can:

<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/st-edmund-godalming>

Choir for Holy Week & Easter will start rehearsing soon. New members are always welcome. To know more or to join please email Elizabeth: e.sims121@btinternet.com

Sign up to CAFOD's Lent reflections:
<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

Syria-Turkey Earthquake Appeal Another retiring collection is being taken this weekend to support CAFOD's work responding with medical assistance, food, water, shelter, and winter kits for survivors. If you are able to give directly it will enable CAFOD to get the money quicker and claim Gift Aid. You can do so by visiting: <https://cafod.org.uk/give>

Sacrament of Reconciliation

This is available in the parish at certain times as advertised in the newsletter (often on **Saturday** morning in Lent and Advent) and also by arrangement.

In **Guildford** each week at St Joseph's on Saturday after the 10am Mass, at St Pius X on Mondays at 7.30pm, and at St Edward's on Wednesdays after 10am Mass.

This Lent there will be a **Penitential Service** at St Joseph's, Milford on Tuesday 4th April at 7.30pm with visiting confessors.

Vigil for Ukraine as the anniversary of the invasion approaches please intensify your prayers for an end to the war. On Thursday, the eve of the anniversary, there will be a vigil of prayer at St Edmund's from 6pm to 7.30pm. The church will be open all day until 9.00pm if you wish to drop in at other times.

On Friday Waverley BC are holding a moment of reflection at 10am at Crown Court. Fr Jonathan will lead the concluding prayer.

Please pray for Jude who will be enrolled among the elect and for Siri, Nicole, Betsy, Alison and Jess as they respond to the call to continuing conversion at the Rite of Election at Arundel Cathedral next weekend. Siri, Nicole, Alison and Jess will be received into full communion and confirmed at the 6pm Mass at St Edmund's on Saturday 18th March.

Of your charity please pray for the repose of the souls of Jean Tyrell, Nancy Drapper and Margarita Crawford who died recently, fortified by the rites of the church. Nancy's funeral is at St Joseph's on 3rd March, and Jean's at Ladywell on 22nd March.

Coffee after Mass this Sunday at St John's. **Children's Liturgy** continues at half term.

Wintershall Stations of the Cross on Friday 3rd March at 7am

New(ish) parishioners' evenings

Fr Jonathan warmly invites anyone who is fairly new to the parish to join him and others for supper at the presbytery on Monday 20th March, the Feast of St Joseph. Please sign up via the website calendar or phone the office.

Communion at home for the sick and elderly

We have many parishioners who are unable to get out and about or join us for Mass and for them to be able to receive Communion at home is a great blessing, and so valuable both spiritually and pastorally. If you know of someone who is unable to get to Mass regularly, please get in touch with the SVP: 07379 108009 or speak to Fr Jonathan.

Receive the parish newsletter by email

Please let us know if you'd like a digital copy by emailing godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Chilworth Abbey Study Day on 4th March Episode 7 of the 'Catholicism' course: 'Word made Flesh, True Bread from Heaven: The Mystery of the Liturgy and the Eucharist'.

<https://www.chilworthbenedictines.com/>

Individually Guided Retreat at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell From 5-12 March.
<https://franciscancentre.org.uk/>

Quiet Days with spiritual direction at the House of Prayer in East Molesley:
<https://www.christian-retreat.org/quiet-days>

Lourdes Pilgrimage The A&B Diocesan pilgrimage this summer is open for booking:
<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>
Please pray about whether there are people you might encourage to go on the pilgrimage.

Live Simply Please start thinking now about plants you can grow for **Pete's Plant Sale in May** as we'll need lots of plants to sell!

You can support the Climate Coalition's February campaign '**Show the Love**' by sending a postcard to Jeremy Hunt MP to ask him to champion action on the climate.
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>

Support Fairtrade Fortnight From 27th February to 12th March please make an effort to buy products with the Fairtrade mark, as this ensures that local producers and farmers in the third world are given a fair price. You can also find out how to stand in solidarity with small farmers at: <https://cafod.org.uk/campaign>

January Offertory The parish gratefully received a total of £7,851 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £78 in crib offerings. Thank you all for your generosity.

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 or to sign up for Gift Aid, please contact Eileen: ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Some sources of practical support

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

Godalming Foodbanks Please contact the SVP or Fr Jonathan if you need a referral for St Marks Foodbank or Godalming Community Food Store.

Good Neighbour schemes with volunteer drivers to help with transport to appointments, shopping, befriending etc: **Farncombe & Binscombe:** 07531 888398; **Godalming:** 07943 274461; **Witley & Milford:** 07871 570160.

Mental Health support Local mental health crisis helpline is 0800 915 4644, open 24/7 for support for adults and CYP. If you're worried about yourself/young person, there's face-to-face support and assessment at Guildford Safe Haven.

Please remember in your prayers The people of Ukraine. Those affected by energy and food shortages that are a consequence of the war.

The Holy Father's Intention for February is for Parishes. We pray that Parishes, placing communion at the centre, may increasingly become communities of faith, fraternity and welcome towards those most in need.

The sick and those who care for them Ursula Polack, Mona, Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, Sylvia Reilly, Valentina Masella, Danny O'Sullivan, Ethel Stammers, Colin Humphrey, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Rudolf Dorrepaal, Nicolle Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Maria Lopez, Betty Matthews, Gerry Newell, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Anne Stephens, Anita van Rheen and Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals and care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed, in particular for Jean Tyrell, Nancy Drapper, Margarita Crawford, and Tony Greene who died recently, and Eric R, Henry Wood, James Rafferty, Therese O'Brien and Noel Ormerod whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses Seventh Week in Ordinary Time and the start of the Season of Lent

19th February 2023

Saturday 18th February	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 19th February 7TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Helen Osborne RIP</i>
Monday 20th February	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 21st February	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Harry & Marie Mason RIP</i>
Wednesday 22nd February ASH WEDNESDAY	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Gertrude Vane-Tempest RIP</i> 2.00pm Distribution of Ashes (St Edmund's School) 7.30pm Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Charles, Julia & Martha Harding RIP</i>
Thursday 23rd February	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Eugene Baggar RIP</i> 6pm-7.45pm Prayer Vigil for Ukraine (St Edmund's)
Friday 24th February	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the people of Ukraine</i> 7pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's) – <i>For Ukraine</i> 8pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 25th February	10am Confessions (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 26th February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)

Sunday Cycle Year A / Weekday Cycle Year 1

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation as above and by arrangement

Hearing loops systems are available in our churches

For a communion host approved by Coeliac UK - please speak with a welcomer

Mass Books are available – please ask if you can't find one.

www.stedsgod.com