



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*

First Sunday of Lent - 26th February 2023

Leo the Great was bishop of Rome in the middle of the fifth century. He is counted among the great teachers and preachers of the church, and a good number of his letters and homilies were recorded and available to us today, and many of them concern the key feasts and seasons in the church's year. The following is part of one of his Lenten sermons and expands our understanding of almsgiving – one of the three disciplines of Lent. It highlights, I think, the sense of Lent as a season of focussed ("intentional" to use the current fashionable term) training in living the Christian life. It is difficult to keep this sort of focus all year round and so in Lent we are blessed with this encouragement to think again about the quality of our openness and response to God and to engage in a daily struggle to grow in holiness and grace.

"Dear friends, **what the Christian should be doing at all times should be done now with greater care and devotion**, so that the Lenten fast enjoined by the apostles may be fulfilled, not simply by abstinence from food but above all by the renunciation of sin.

"There is no more profitable practice as a companion to holy and spiritual fasting than that of almsgiving. This embraces under the single name of mercy many excellent works of devotion, so that the good intentions of all the faithful may be of equal value, even where their means are not. The love that we owe both God and man is always free from any obstacle that would prevent us from having a good intention. The angels sang: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. The person who shows love and compassion to those in any kind of affliction is blessed, not only with the virtue of good will but also with the gift of peace.

"The works of mercy are innumerable. Their very variety brings this advantage to those who are true Christians, that in the matter of almsgiving not only the rich and affluent but also those of average means and the poor are able to play their part. Those who are unequal in their capacity to give can be equal in the love within their hearts."

Mass Responses for First Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

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

Lent Focus

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 Please support our parish team and CAFOD's team of thousands of walkers from around the world who are taking up this challenge in Lent to raise money to help overcome global poverty. 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>

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.

Flame 2023 is the biannual Catholic Youth Festival at Wembley Arena and takes place next Saturday. Please pray for our confirmation candidates who will be attending with Fr Jonathan. Fr Tony Furlong will be celebrating the Saturday evening Mass.

This weekend. A particular welcome to the First Holy Communion families who will be gathering at the 6pm Mass on Saturday; Refreshments and Fairtrade stand after 8.45am Mass; a short talk to encourage us to take part in family fast day next Friday.

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.

Please pray for Jude who will be enrolled among the elect and for Siri, Nicole, Betsy, Alison and Jess as they are recognised by the bishop as candidates for reception into full communion. 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.

Happy Birthday and congratulations to Rina Gambazza who reaches 97 this week.

Jean Tyrrell RIP Jean's funeral will take place at 11am at Ladywell on 22nd March.

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

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>

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent

Appeal This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope, contactless machine or at cafod.org.uk/give and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

Word Day of Prayer service takes place this year at Godalming United Church on Friday 3rd March at 10.30am, with refreshments and lunch afterwards.

Churches Together in Godalming March issue is available in the Newsletters section of our website.

Godalming Community Gospel

Choir Easter concert is at St John's on Saturday 25th March, 7.30pm. Tickets are available from Record Corner or online via GCGC.org.uk

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!

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>

Special Events in the Diocese

For details and sign up forms visit

<https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

- **Grandparents Pilgrimage** to West Grinstead on 14 June 2023
- **Mass for Engaged Couples** at Arundel Cathedral on 16 June 2023
- **Marriage Anniversaries Mass** at Arundel Cathedral on 30 September 2023.

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.

Fr Jonathan will be on leave from next Sunday afternoon (5th) to 10th March.

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; **Elstead** 01252 702702.

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 (critically ill at the time of printing), 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, Nicole 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, Giovanna Russo, and Margarita Crawford, who died recently, and Tom Rogers, James Chaloner, Elena Kuzmickas, Maria Mason, Anthony Style, Jerzy Burger, Helen Hawkins, Anne Barnard, Paula Butcher, Georges Gebhardt and Robert Taylor whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

First Sunday of Lent - 26th February 2023

Saturday 25th February	10-10.30am Confessions (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>People of the parish</i>
Sunday 26th February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Rina's intentions</i>
Monday 27th February	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 28th February	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Nanezda Istokova RIP</i>
Wednesday 1st March St David	5.30pm Elstead Mass (Billbrook, 1 Burford Lea, Elstead GU8 6HU)
Thursday 2nd March	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Helen Mary Gordon RIP</i> 3.00pm Reception of Nancy Drapper's body @ St Joseph's
Friday 3rd March	11.00am Requiem Mass Nancy Drapper RIP @ St Joseph's 7pm CAFOD Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's) 8pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Saturday 4th March	8am Rosary + Mass in Polish (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 5th March SECOND 'SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jesus Lopez RIP</i>

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