



## **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*

### **Third Sunday of Lent – 12<sup>th</sup> March 2023**

The Gospel passage today tells us of Jesus' meeting with a Samaritan woman. The Samaritans were considered heretics by the Jews and were very much despised as second-class citizens. Jesus is tired and thirsty. A woman arrives to draw water and he says to her: "Give me a drink". Breaking every barrier, he begins a dialogue in which he reveals to the woman *the mystery of living water*, that is, of the Holy Spirit, God's gift.

*Water* is the focus of this dialogue. On the one hand, water is an essential element that slakes the body's thirst and sustains life. On the other, water is a symbol of divine grace that gives eternal life. In the biblical tradition God is the source of living water: as it says in Psalms and in the Prophets: distancing oneself from God, the source of living water, and from his Law, leads to the worst drought. This is the experience of the People of Israel in the desert. During their long journey to freedom, as they were dying of thirst, they cried out against Moses and against God because there was no water. Thus, God willed Moses to make water flow from a rock, as a sign of the Providence of God, accompanying his people and giving them life.

The Apostle Paul, too, interprets that rock as a symbol of Christ. He says: "And that rock was Christ". It is the mysterious figure of his presence in the midst of the People of God on their journey. Christ, in fact, is the Temple from which, according to the prophets, flows the Holy Spirit, the living water which purifies and gives life. Whoever thirsts for salvation can draw freely from Jesus, and the Spirit will become a wellspring of full and eternal life in him/her. The promise of living water that Jesus made to the Samaritan woman becomes a reality in his Passion: from his pierced side flowed "blood and water". Christ, the Lamb, immolated and risen, is the wellspring from which flows the Holy Spirit who remits sins and regenerates new life.

This gift is also the source of witness. Like the Samaritan woman, whoever personally encounters the living Jesus feels the need to talk about him to others, so that everyone might reach the point of proclaiming that Jesus "is truly the saviour of the world", as the woman's fellow townspeople later said. Generated to new life through Baptism, we too are called to witness the life and hope that are within us. If our quest and our thirst are thoroughly quenched in Christ, we will manifest that salvation is not found in the "things" of this world, which ultimately produce drought, but in he who has loved us and will always love us: Jesus, our Saviour, in the living water, that he offers us.

#### **Mass Responses for Third Sunday of Lent**

PSALM RESPONSE: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world: give me the living water, so that I may never get thirsty. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

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Parish Safeguarding phoneline: 07534 146908

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

**Please pray for** Siri, Nicole, Alison and Jess who will be received into full communion and confirmed at the 6pm Mass at St Edmund's on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March. Please do join us if you can on this special occasion for them and for our parish.

### **Lent Focus**

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

**Lent Groups on Wednesday** evenings 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> March, & 5<sup>th</sup> April at 8pm at the Franciscan Centre at Ladywell. We are 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. Please feel free to join any session or sign up on the calendar. If you can't make a Wednesday evening, the course is also running on a Tuesday evening in Haslemere.

**The Big Lent Walk** We are delighted to have 23 walkers signed up, and this week they have jointly walked another 1,172km! Please support our parish team and CAFOD's teams of thousands of walkers from around the world who are taking up the challenge in Lent to help raise money to overcome global poverty, and sponsor them if you can:

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

**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 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm with visiting confessors.

**Zambia Porridge Club Appeal this weekend** Your donations ensure children come to school, as this is where they can get a daily meal, and school is their route out of poverty. Just £10 feeds a child for a year.

**Next Sunday is Mother's Day** and we look forward to welcoming First Holy Communion families and St Edmund's School to the 8.45am Mass at St John's – and hope everyone will join us for coffee after Mass.

**Centenary of Consecration of St Edmund's Church** is in October and Bishop Richard will come to celebrate Mass on 8<sup>th</sup> October followed by a parish lunch. It would be great to get a task group together to plan and deliver this special occasion. Please speak with Fr Jonathan if you are up for having some fun working on this. (The first really big parish celebration since COVID.)

**Parish Small Communities** is a new initiative launching here shortly. If you'd like to be part of the steering group for setting them up, please speak with Fr Jonathan.

**Dates for your diary** A few other special events are in the planning, and you might like to save the date (and perhaps offer to help):

**11<sup>th</sup> June** Corpus Christi Mass at Ladywell

**13<sup>th</sup> August** Outdoor Mass for the Feast of the Assumption at the Old Barn, Elstead, followed by a picnic lunch.

**New(ish) parishioners' evening** Fr Jonathan warmly invites anyone who is fairly new to the parish to join him and others for supper at the presbytery on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, the Feast of St Joseph. Please sign up via the website calendar or phone the office.

**Coffee and cake on the Feast of St Joseph** As St Joseph is the patron of our church in Milford, we celebrate with a gathering at Squires after 9.30am Mass on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Please do join us.

**Funerals** Jean Tyrrell's funeral will take place at 11am at Ladywell on 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Ursula Polack's funeral takes place at St Joseph's at 11am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**Ministry of Consolation** We are hoping to set up a parish group to support bereaved parishioners. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact Anna Rogers/ Colette W-G for more information via parish office.

**Receive the parish newsletter by email** Please let us know if you'd like a digital copy by emailing [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Churches Together in Godalming**  
**Monthly Prayer Breakfast** is at 8.30am on Saturday 25th at Godalming United Church.

**ADoRE mini retreat** online on 25 March, 10am-1pm, 'Going deeper with Jesus' with Jenny Baker. [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

**Chilworth Abbey Study Day** on 1<sup>st</sup> April, 9am-3.30pm, for episode 8 of Bishop Robert Barron's 'Catholicism' course: 'A Vast Company of Witnesses: the Communion of Saints'. <https://www.chilworthbenedictines.com/>

**Worth Abbey Retreats** offer themed, silent or self-guided retreats, and you can join in the rhythm of monastic prayer and liturgy and enjoy the peace of the Sussex countryside. <https://worth.co.uk/retreats/>

**Franciscan Centre at Ladywell** For more information about Retreats, Quiet Days and Spiritual Direction phone: 01483 675575 or email: [franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk](mailto:franciscancentre@ladywell.org.uk)  
[www.franciscancentre.org.uk](http://www.franciscancentre.org.uk)

**Climate Crisis film 'The Letter'** Everyone who came to our recent screening agreed that this film needs to be watched as widely as possible - in families, schools and groups – as it's so powerful and a great starting point for discussion and action on how to care for our planet. It's free to watch so please do take the time to watch it and consider who else you can encourage to watch it.  
<https://www.theletterfilm.org/>

**Save your used stamps** We will despatch to the RNIB to raise funds for the charity.

### **Do you want to fast this Lent?**

Fast from hurtful words and say kind words  
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude  
Fast from anger and be filled with patience  
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope  
Fast from worries and trust in God  
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity  
Fast from pressure and be prayerful  
Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy  
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others  
Fast from grudges and be reconciled  
Fast from words and be silent so that you can listen ... [From Pope Francis]

**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](mailto: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 March** is for victims of abuse: we pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

**The sick and those who care for them** Alex Jolliffe, Marilyn Jones, David Kennealy, Gerry Hoey, 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 Ursula Polack, Guiseppina Locurto, Jean Tyrell and Anne Murphy who died recently, and Jean Ball, Theresa Pullen, Kate Birbeck, Collette Williams, Marguerite Duncan, Jim Drain, Alexander Moore, Monica Green, Margaret Foster, Helen Saunders, Robert Gilmour, Derek Pink and Stafford Sims-Handcock whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Masses

### Third Sunday of Lent - 12th March 2023

<b>Saturday 11th March</b>	8am Rosary + 8.30am Mass in Polish (St Joseph's) <b>6pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 12th March</b> THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>Margaret &amp; Edmund Szalajda RIP</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Carmel Meaney RIP</i>
<b>Monday 13th March</b>	<i>10am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 14th March</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Petra's Intention</i>
<b>Wednesday 15th March</b>	<b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 16th March</b>	<b>7.30am (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Friday 17th March</b> ST PATRICK	<b>7.30am (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>John &amp; Teresa O'Brien RIP</i> 7pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's) 8pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
<b>Saturday 18th March</b>	<b>10am Mass &amp; Confessions (St Joseph's)</b> <b>6pm Mass with receptions into full communion (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Sunday 19th March</b> FOURTH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>Private Intention</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Robert Gilmour RIP</i> <i>The Solemnity of St Joseph is transferred to 20<sup>th</sup> March</i> <i>The Solemnity of the Anniversary of Dedication of St Joseph's Church is transferred to 21<sup>st</sup> March</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](http://www.stedsgod.com)