



# Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



## Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent – 10th March 2024

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. We mark this day with rose coloured vestments at Mass. The word Laetare is taken from the Entrance Antiphon for Mass: "Rejoice, Jerusalem". Perhaps we do not see Lent as a time for rejoicing – it is the penitential season of our year – yet there must be always an element of rejoicing in the life of the Christian.

In this Sunday's first reading, from the Book of Chronicles, the writer tells of the coming of Cyrus, King of Persia, who allows the people of Israel to return home after some seventy years of exile in Babylon. The yearning of the people for their homeland, expressed in the Responsorial Psalm, comes to an end and Cyrus, in response to his own experience of God's call to him, also allows the people to rebuild their temple. The Chosen People of Israel find their unity once again, their dignity is restored. They can be at home once more. They rejoice.

St Paul, writing to the Ephesians, speaks of a different separation. This is the separation that comes through sin. The conscious turning away from God that is sin brings exile. We find ourselves living in the darkness that is separation from God's love. The greater our turning away, the greater the separation – the more distant the exile. Yet, as St Paul celebrates in his letter, God's mercy is generous and in Christ we see the richness of His love, His grace. Through the saving work of Jesus, we can recognise once more that we are truly works of art, created by and for the love of God. We can be at home once more – brought home through Jesus' Passion, Death and Resurrection. We rejoice.

Jesus, in his conversation with Nicodemus, describes His own saving work: "God sent his Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but so that through Him the world might be saved." This is the reason for our rejoicing. We must lament our sins, a necessary part of our Lenten journey, but we do this knowing that God's love and mercy – in the saving work of Jesus – overcomes even the darkest moments, the darkest places of our lives. Christ Jesus calls us home to live His life. This is the only way we can be truly at home. In Him we rejoice.

Bishop Richard

### Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory and praise to you, O Christ! God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son: everyone who believes in him has eternal life. Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

HOLY HOLY: Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis. (see p16 in Parish Mass books)

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together. It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord, to praise the name of the Lord.

19 Croft Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DB t: 01483 416880 w: [www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

Parish Priests: Fr Jonathan How e: [pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

Fr Rajesh Minz e: [rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk) t: 01428 643877

Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Safeguarding phonenumber: 07534 146908

St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.25287

## What is your view on the future of our Churches?

**This week there will be an open parish meeting on Tuesday**, 7pm for 7.30pm, at St Edmund's School, and closing at 9.30pm. This meeting provides an opportunity for further questions, observations and feedback. It will help if you can let us know that you are coming by emailing the parish office or going to <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/dm1wltfu>

It will also help if you have questions for the parish to consider at the meeting, to email them to Fr Jonathan: [Jonathan.how@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Jonathan.how@abdiocese.org.uk)  
All the information previously sent out can be found at:

<https://www.stedsgod.com/news/our-churches>,  
It now includes a link to strong objection to the report and the present consultation which has been received and will be responded to at the meeting. That paper can also be downloaded at <https://tinyurl.com/53zpayww>

The period of consultation has been extended to Easter Monday to allow time for further reflection after the meeting.

**Prayer for our parish** Please do continue to pray for our parish and diocese:

*Lord, the Word who is Life.  
May all the people of our Diocese  
grow in openness to the power of the Holy Spirit,  
so that through a growth in understanding and  
courage, and truly open to your call,  
we may bear powerful witness to all around us,  
for you are Lord for ever and ever. Amen.*

There is also a group who are praying the Angelus daily at noon and 6pm for the parish.

**Mothering Sunday** is a day to show love, gratitude and appreciation to all mothers, present and past, through acts of kindness and in prayer. We give thanks for them and pray for the healing of divisions in families and for those who have lost their mother and those who may not have been able to become mothers. Please take home a Mother's Day posy as a gift for your mother.

**Pastoral Plan** Bishop Richard has written to the priests of Guildford Deanery to say that Fr Jonathan will be their moderator when the new "community of communities" is placed under their care later in the year.

**Second Collection next weekend** is for our church flowers at Easter. Any surplus will help at other times of the year.

**SVP Afternoon Tea** is on Wednesday at 2.30pm at URC, Elstead. Lifts available: SVP 07379108009.

**Salesian Zambia Porridge Appeal** This weekend there will be a speaker to share the message, 'porridge means education', and you will be able to buy a fridge magnet for £10, which is how much it costs to feed one child for a year. Please support this Appeal to show solidarity with the young people who lack food and education.

## The Holy Season of Lent

### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday: 9am at St Joseph's

10.30am St Edmund's

Friday: 9am at St Edmund's

7-7.30pm at St Joseph's with polish community.

**Reconciliation** Monday 11 at St Pius X, Merrow, 7.30-8.30pm; Saturday 16 March: 10-10.30am St Edmund's; 10.30-11.30am at OLL, Haslemere.

**Join a Lent Small Group** for some faith sharing with Season IV of Invited. This week Fr Kevin Dring will reflect on "Understanding sin and God's saving grace". We are meeting at **Ladywell on Thursday Evenings**, tea and coffee from 7.00pm. Feel free to come along to one or all of the sessions. Other 'in person' options are: a Tuesday afternoon Elstead group; a Wednesday morning Guildford group and a Monday evening Haslemere group.

Online options: Thursdays 7-8.30pm with diocese <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/acs6cjtjx>.

Films are also available via the Diocesan Website.

**Stations of the Cross** Fridays at 6.20pm at St Joseph's.

**CAFOD Big Lent Walk** So far our parish team has cumulatively walked 4,438km and raised £910. The team includes families from St Edmund's school and the FMDM Sisters. Please pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are needy and hungry and donate online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) or by sponsoring our team: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming> Thank you all!

**Gift Aid and contactless devices** If you pay tax you are able to join our parish Gift Aid scheme and we can claim 25p from HMRC for every £1 you donate, which makes a big difference to our parish finances. Please note that even if you have already signed up for GA with the parish, a separate GA declaration is needed for donations via our contactless devices. It's quick and easy to do on the machine itself, and you only need to sign up once (and not for subsequent donations). For more info please contact Eileen: [ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

**To receive the parish newsletter by email**  
email: [godalming@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:godalming@abdiocese.org.uk)

## Easter Triduum Highlights 2024

**Maundy Thursday** – 8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Joseph's.

**Good Friday** – 7am Wintershall Stations of the Cross (led by Fr Jonathan); 10.30am Family Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's; 3pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday at St Joseph's.

**Holy Saturday** 8.30am and 9.00am Świąconka 8pm Solemn Vigil of Easter at St Joseph's.

**Easter Sunday** - 6.45am Dawn Service (not Mass) at the Minster Field; 8.45am Mass at St John's; 10.30am Mass at St Joseph's.

**Wintershall Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square** is on Good Friday. It's a moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus, and there are two 90-minute performances: 12 noon and 3.15 pm. No tickets are required, performances are free.

**Live Simply Plant Sale** Pete's Plant Sale is on Sunday 2nd June, to raise money for the work of the FMDM sisters in Kasanka, Zambia. Please start thinking of planting seeds now!

**Chilworth Abbey Study Morning** Saturday, March 16th led by Fr John Seddon OSB, on Jeff Cavin's 'A Quick Journey through the Bible', [www.chilworthbenedictines.com](http://www.chilworthbenedictines.com) for more details.

**Care Companion at End of Life** We all want our loved ones and ourselves to die well and peacefully, and Daphne Bleach, a retired nurse, is talking on this sensitive subject at Godalming Baptist Church at 10am on 16 March. More info: 01483 428646 [pollard3@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:pollard3@hotmail.co.uk)

**Godalming Community Gospel Choir** Easter Concert is at SS Peter & Paul's at 7.30 pm on 16th March; a lively, joyful and uplifting evening of gospel music, both modern and traditional. Tickets £10, children free. [www.gcqc.org.uk](http://www.gcqc.org.uk)

**Godalming Choral Society** Come and enjoy their beautiful performance of Faure's Requiem, Cantique de Jean Racine and Haydn's Nelson Mass. 7.30pm on 23rd March at St John's, Farncombe. [www.godalmingchoral.org.uk](http://www.godalmingchoral.org.uk)

**March CTGD Prayer Breakfast** is at 8.30am on 23 March at Godalming United Church. The March edition of 'Link Up' is available on our website.

**Please consider signing the Petition** to reduce the abortion time limit from 24 weeks: <https://righttolife.org.uk/littlefighters> And consider the impact of the Johnson amendment: <https://righttolife.org.uk/johnsonabortionamendment>

**Job opportunity** Asst Safeguarding Co-ordinator, based in Crawley, P/T (0.6 FTE). Apply by 10 March <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/asco>

**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.

## Some sources of practical support

**Bereavement support** The parish team can be contacted via: [bereavementatsteds@gmail.com](mailto:bereavementatsteds@gmail.com)

**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.

**Pope Francis' prayer intention for March** is for the martyrs of our day, witnesses to Christ. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might imbue the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

**Please remember to pray** for our diocese and parish; in thanksgiving for our mothers; for peace.

**The sick and those who care for them** Nicole Gebhardt, Kate Hall, Ana Carvalho, Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliame Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret Punter, Freda Apark, Philip Doyle, Alex Jolliffe, Mona, Pam & John Lennox, Nigel Ambrose, Tony McDonald, Sylvia Reilly, Valentina Masella, Danny O'Sullivan, Catherine Goodridge, Alan Berry, Nicolle Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Betty Matthews, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Anne Stephens, Anita van Rheenan and Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals and care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately

**The faithful departed** in particular for Simon McCann and Canon Michael Spelman who died recently, and for Stafford Sims-Handcock, Frederick Stowell, Michael Evans, Jim Wheeler, Colin Graham, Winifred Hammett, Lily Kreciglowa, Margaret Szalajda, Lily Stomer, Jean Ball, Theresa Pullen, Kate Brubeck, Colette Williams, Marguerite Duncan, Jim Drain, Alexander Moore, Monica Green, Margaret Foster and Helen Saunders whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses  
Fourth Week of Lent  
10th March 2024**

<b>Saturday 9th March</b>	<p><b>10.00am – 12.00pm Adoration for the Parish (St Joseph’s)</b> <i>(With Sacrament of Penance / Confessions available)</i></p> <p><b>12.30pm – 2.30pm Adoration for the Parish (St Edmund’s)</b></p> <p><b>6pm Mass (St Edmund’s)</b></p>
<p><b>Sunday 10th March</b> 4TH ‘LAETARE’ SUNDAY OF LENT</p>	<p><b>8.45am Mass (St John’s)</b> – <i>People of the parish</i></p> <p><b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph’s)</b> – <i>Michael John Canning RIP</i></p> <p>12.30pm Baptism – Timothy Nicholls (St Edmund’s)</p>
<b>Monday 11th March</b>	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph’s Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 12th March</b>	<p>9.00am Adoration (St Joseph’s)</p> <p><b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph’s)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i></p> <p>10.30am -11.00am Adoration (St Edmund’s)</p>
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	<b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund’s)</b> – <i>Canon Michael Spelman RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	<b>7.30am Mass (St Edmund’s)</b>
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	<p>9.00am Adoration (St Edmund’s)</p> <p><b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund’s)</b></p> <p>6.20pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph’s)</p> <p>7.00-7.30pm Adoration (St Joseph’s)</p>
<b>Saturday 16th March</b>	<b>6pm Mass (St Edmund’s)</b>
<p><b>Sunday 17th March</b> 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT</p>	<p><b>8.45am Mass (St John’s)</b></p> <p><b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph’s)</b> – <i>Robert Gilmour RIP</i></p>

Sunday Cycle Year B

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

[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

*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*