



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Fifth Sunday of Lent 17th March 2024

*Unless a grain of wheat shall fall upon the ground and die,
it remains but a single grain with no life*

For me, Bernadette Farrell's setting is a bit of an ear worm. Once it's running round my head I find it hard to shake off. And maybe that's not such a bad thing, since in many ways it stands for and leans into the mystery of the cross and resurrection of Jesus which becomes increasingly our focus in these last two weeks of Lent. The death and resurrection of Jesus is absolutely central to who we are as Christians. We were joined to it in the waters of Baptism. As would-be followers of Jesus we take up our crosses, allow ourselves to die in all sorts of small ways (and especially to any sin in our lives) so that we might share the joy and glory of his resurrection.

There is a famous article on rock climbing, called *Games Climbers Play*. The author places uncertainty about the outcome as central to the activity. Rock climbers and mountaineers may do something with low risk and little backup, but also with greater risk with really good backup. He is right in identifying it as part of many adventures – there has to be just a little uncertainty in our minds at least for there to be challenge and the sense of success at overcoming it. While we might sometimes let children win at games, it doesn't work if they catch us letting them win.

And so we come to Passiontide and Holy Week. I would really encourage you to immerse yourself in the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus (the Paschal or Easter Mystery) as much as you can over these two weeks, and to allow it to engage with that mystery which is your own life, and the life of our church community. In leaving behind our usual pattern of activity, in finding a bit of creative stillness, in engaging with the liturgy, with the scripture and with silence, we can - as religious people have done throughout human history - enter that time and place in which we die along with Christ and rise to new and more abundant life with him. The outcome of this adventure is always uncertain – but the invitation is there and the promise of salvation is there too.

Please take some time this weekend to make a plan for the Great Week (Holy Week). In the rites and liturgies that we will celebrate the Lord Jesus is accomplishing his work of salvation and calls us to be with him, not just as spectators but as members of his very own body.

Mass Responses for Fifth Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: A pure heart create for me, O God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my servant be. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

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: Amen, Amen I say to you: Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains a single grain. But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

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

Monday is the Solemnity of the Anniversary of Dedication of St Joseph's Church in Milford.

Tuesday is the Solemnity of St Joseph.

The Solemnity of the Annunciation this year is transferred to 8 April, after Easter Week.

We welcome our FHC families to 8.45am Mass this Sunday at St John's, and invite everyone to join the coffee in the Hall after Mass.

Second Collection this weekend is for church flowers at Easter and at other times of the year.

Passiontide & Easter Triduum

Palm Sunday

6.00pm (Saturday) Mass with Solemn Entrance at St Edmund's

8.45am Mass at St John's

10.30am Mass with Procession at St Joseph's

Wednesday of Holy Week

6.00pm Chrism Mass at Arundel Cathedral

Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Joseph's. Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose ending with Night Prayer at 10.30pm.

Good Friday

7.00am Wintershall Stations of the Cross (led by Fr Jonathan)

10.30am Family Stations of the Cross at St Edmund's;

3.00pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday at St Joseph's.

Holy Saturday

8.30am and 9.00am Świąconka at St Joseph's

9.30am Morning Prayer and Office of Readings at St Edmund's

8pm Solemn Vigil of Easter at St Joseph's.

Easter Sunday

6.45am Dawn Service (not Mass) at Minster Field

8.45am Mass at St John's

10.30am Mass at St Joseph's

'These Are The Feasts' - Day of Triduum

Reflections on 23 March, 10.45am-3pm, St Joseph's, Guildford. A chance to prepare yourself for Holy Week with talks, reflections, prayer, adoration, Stations of the Cross. Sign up:

<https://cpg.churchsuite.com/events/xrkzdxs3>

Fr Gabriel Dobson OSB on Holy Week is the last of our Lent Invited series. We meet at

Ladywell on Thursday 7pm for 7.30pm. Drop in even if you have missed the previous sessions.

Also Tuesdays a'noon Elstead; Wednesday AM/ Guildford and Monday PM/Haslemere. See also:

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

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.

Churches Together Good Friday Witnesses

Churches Together in Elstead are gathering on the Green in Elstead at 10am on Good Friday. In Godalming the 'Witness in the Town' led by the Trinity Trust Team, is at 11am on the High Street.

Good Friday Collection is for the Holy Places. It provides a vital support for the small number of remaining Christians who look after the places in which Our Lord lived, died and rose again.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Monday 18 at St Pius X, Merrow, 7.30-8.30pm

Thursday 21 March at St Joan's, Farnham 12pm-7pm, on the hour every hour

Saturday 23 March:

10.00-11.00am at St Joseph's, Milford

10.30-11.30am at Our Lady of Lourdes Haslemere

2.00-4.00pm at St Joseph's, Guildford

CAFOD Big Lent Walk Our parish team has cumulatively walked 6,013km and raised £1,040. Thank you all! Please sponsor the team if you can so that we reach our target of £2,000 by Easter: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming>

What is your view on the future of our Churches?

Thank you for a strong turnout at the open parish meeting this week and for all the useful feedback and contributions. The period of consultation continues until Easter Monday to allow time for further reflection after the meeting. Please send in your feedback, comments and suggestions to Fr Jonathan, and complete the questionnaire. If you wish to amend a previous submission please email saying as much as you can about how you responded first time and what you wish to change and this will be taken into account.

<https://www.stedsgod.com/news/our-churches>

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.

Prayer and Social Aged 18 to 40 or studying at university? Join Fr Tristan and others on 20th March, 7-10pm, for prayer, catechesis and good times at St Joseph's, Guildford.

Parenting young people and mental health

The Green Hub Project for Teens is a local community project supporting teenagers and their families/carers facing mental health challenges. Their Parent Support Group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 7pm-8.30pm; the talk on Wednesday 20th this week is about 'Understanding the issue of shame around parenting and mental health in our teens'. More info at: <https://greenhub.org.uk/parent-hub/>

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.

Godalming Choral Society Easter performance March 23, 7.30pm www.godalmingchoral.org.uk

Salesian Zambia Porridge Appeal Thank you from the charity for your generous response last weekend. £492 was collected, which means they can feed 49 children with a bowl of porridge for the whole year, which is amazing!

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>

Simon McCann RIP The family would like to thank the parish for the prayers, cards and messages of condolence they have received following Simon's death; these have been a great comfort to them.

Easter Offering The collection at Easter is for the support of our priests. (Our priests do not receive a salary: their income comes from the offering at Christmas and Easter, offerings for baptisms, weddings and funerals and offerings for Masses. These are gratefully received.) Please use the Gift Aid envelopes if you can.

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

February Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £7,400 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £858 for charities (£350 for Lourdes; £508 for CAFOD).

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

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, Liliane 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 Ernoult, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Betty Matthews, 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 John Donnelly, Simon McCann and Canon Michael Spelman who died recently, and for Robert Gilmour, Ian Gordon, Derek Pink, Ethel Stammers, Kevin McKenna, Pauline Macnamara, Francesco Masella, Terence Donovan and Maria Lukaszewicz whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses
Fifth Week of Lent
17th March 2024**

Saturday 16th March	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Genevieve Bernard RIP</i>
Sunday 17th March 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Robert Gilmour RIP</i>
Monday 18th March ANNIVERSARY OF DEDICATION OF ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Ian Gordon RIP</i> 7.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Tuesday 19th March ST JOSEPH	9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) 7.00pm Mass in Polish (St Joseph's)
Wednesday 20th March	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Thursday 21st March	9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)
Friday 22nd March	<i>11.00am Mass at St Mary's, Rydes Hill</i> 6.20pm Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's) 7.00-7.30pm Adoration (St Joseph's)
Saturday 23rd March	10.00-11.00am Adoration and Sacrament of Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass with Solemn Entrance (St Edmund's)
Sunday 24th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	8.45am Mass (St John's) 10.30am Mass with Procession (St Joseph's)

Sunday Cycle Year B

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