



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



First Sunday of Lent 18th February 2024

Go to your room

On Ash Wednesday Pope Francis offered a lovely homily on the longing of the heart for God. It would serve as good food for thought for us this Sunday as we consider going into the desert.

'Going to your room means returning to the heart.... It means journeying from without to within, so that our whole life, including our relationship with God, is not reduced to mere outward show, a frame without a picture, a draping of the soul, but is born from within and reflects the movements of our heart, our deepest desires, our thoughts, our feelings, the very core of our person...

'Saint Anselm has left us these words of encouragement that... we can make our own: "Escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labours. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him. Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart: I seek your face; your face, O Lord, I desire"...

'Let us return, brothers and sisters. Let us return to God with all our heart. During these weeks of Lent, let us make space for the prayer of silent adoration, in which we experience the presence of the Lord, like Moses, like Elijah, like Mary, like Jesus. Have we noticed that we have lost the sense of worship? Let us return to worship. Let us lend the ear of our hearts to the One who, in silence, wants to say to us: "I am your God – the God of mercy and compassion, the God of pardon and love, the God of tenderness and care... Do not judge yourself. Do not condemn yourself. Do not reject yourself. Let my love touch the deepest, most hidden corners of your heart and reveal to you your own beauty, a beauty that you have lost sight of, but will become visible to you again in the light of my mercy." The Lord is calling us: "Come, let me wipe your tears, and let my mouth come close to your ear and say to you: I love you, I love you, I love you".'

Pope Francis, *Homily for Ash Wednesday 2024 (abridged)*

Mass Responses for First Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

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!

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: 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.25287

The Holy Season of Lent

Some simple actions for Lent

Mass – If you have got out of the habit of coming regularly why not make a special effort.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament This week before morning Mass at St Joseph's on Tuesday; at St Edmund's on Wednesday. On Saturday 24th at St Joseph's from 10-11am. St Edmund's Church is open each day to 5pm.

Reconciliation Do pick up one of the 'Simple Guides to Confession'. Opportunities this week on Saturday 24th include: 10-11am at St Joseph's, Milford and 11.00-noon at St Joseph's, Guildford; 10.30-11.30am at Our Lady of Lourdes, Haslemere; and on Monday 19th at St Pius X, Merrow, at 7.30pm.

Join a Lent Small Group for some faith sharing. This year we are following Season IV of Invited. This week Fr Toby Lees OP talks about the Mexican martyrs and asks us to examine ourselves and what is at the centre of our lives.

There are four opportunities to take part:

Ladywell on Thursday Evenings, starting 22 February. Tea and coffee from 7.00pm. Sign up via website calendar, email to parish office or at <https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/9j3pobva/>

Elstead on Tuesday Afternoons starting 20 February at 2.30pm. Contact Sheila via the parish office if you would like to take part.

Guildford on Wednesday Mornings starting 21 February, 11am-12.30pm, in St Joseph's Hall, Eastgate Gardens, Guildford GU1 4AZ. To sign up: <https://cpg.churchsuite.com/events/tbecxht5>

Haslemere on Monday Evenings at 7pm from 19 February. Email: haslemere@abdiocese.org.uk

Pray-as-you-go Download this daily prayer App for a 12-minute meditation for each day.

Spiritual Reading Have a look at *First Belong to God: On retreat with Pope Francis*, published last week.

Sign up for daily Lent reflections from CAFOD <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/lent-calendar>

CAFOD Family Fast Day is on Friday this week and there will be Appeal talks at Masses this weekend. This Lent your donations will provide resources, tools and training to help hardworking families feed themselves. Please take home an envelope or donate online at cafod.org.uk and pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are needy and hungry.

CAFOD Stations of the Cross are at 6.30pm at St Joseph's this Friday. **Wintershall Stations of the Cross** are at 7am on Friday 1 March.

The CAFOD Big Lent Walk has started Our parish team of walkers is on the go and the aim is to reach a target of 6,800km and raise £2,000 for people who are hungry and in need. If you'd like to join the team email Jo: jolewry@aol.com You don't have to walk 5K/10,000 steps every day – just do as many steps as you can. And please don't forget to sponsor the team via this link: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming> Thank you!

Rite of Election Please pray for Gunnel, Barbara and Steve from our parish, presented to the bishop at Arundel Cathedral this Saturday and to be received into full communion at Pentecost.

Bumps & Babes and **Children's Liturgy** start again after half term, from Monday 19 February.

Prayer and Social Aged 18 to 40 or studying at university? Join Fr Tristan and others for prayer, catechesis and good times each month. Next meeting is this Wednesday 21st at St Joseph's Church, Guildford starting at 7.00pm.

CTGD February Prayer Breakfast is at St John's Farncombe, 8.30am, on Saturday 24th.

World Day of Prayer This year's service is at St John's, Farncombe, at 10.30am on **Friday 1st March**. WDP is a global prayer initiative. The liturgy was prepared by a group of Christian women from the Palestinian territories. Donations of cakes for refreshments after the service are very welcome.

Parish 'Taste & See' Community Group gathering This was a very enjoyable and sociable occasion, with a good size crowd, plenty to eat and drink, and the highlight of the Pancake Races. Starting with the children's races - who seemed rather more skilled at tossing pancakes than the adults! - and then the adults, who threw themselves whole-heartedly into running round the car park, followed by a fair bit of tidying-up bits of pancake at the end! Enjoy the photos on our parish facebook page, and many thanks to everyone who helped organise this gathering.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan The plan gives some principles, and we will need to work together as a community of communities across our deanery to see how to use them to build on our strengths and drive our mission to draw all people to Jesus Christ, the Word who is Life. There will be more news later this month. Copies of the plan are available at the back of church or via this link: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/pastoral-plan>

Lourdes Pilgrimage This year is the 50th anniversary. The pilgrimage is 'love in action' and a profound experience of renewed faith for both pilgrims and helpers: the sick, disabled, frail and elderly. This year's pilgrimage is 25/26 July to 1/2 August and if you're thinking of going, please speak to Tony or Ruth from our parish; they went last summer and are happy to answer queries.

What is your view on the future of our Churches?

Please do read the report on the future of our churches published recently, pray about the possibilities open to us and give your feedback on the options. **Every person's view is important to us.** You can find a copy of the report and links for feedback at on the website at: <https://www.stedsgod.com/news/our-churches>

Update

In response to some requests, we will include a **parish forum** as part of this initial consultation, to answer questions and take comments. We are looking to find the best date at the moment and will let folks know once it is set. The intended deadline for responses will be extended to allow sufficient time after that meeting.

Some questions and responses can be found at: <https://padlet.com/frjonathanhow/OurChurches>

ADoRE mini-retreat 24 February 10am-1pm online, 'I have chosen you - trusting God's promises', with guest speaker Mary Hirst. www.altonrenewal.com

The Passion of Jesus, Trafalgar Square is on 29 March. Wintershall players bring their moving portrayal of the final days of Jesus in 90-minute performances at 12 noon and 3.15 pm. No tickets are required, the performances are free.

Retreats at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell
Upcoming dates: 15-17 March; 28-31 March.
<https://franciscancentre.org.uk>

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Their Easter concert is on 16 March at 7.30pm at St Peter & St Paul's. <https://www.gcgc.org.uk/>

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat The Godalming Theatre Group are staging this production at the Baptist Church 9-14th April. Tickets from: <https://www.gtguk.com/>

Job Vacancies - School Office Admin Asst at St Edmunds Catholic Primary, 8 hrs pw term only. <https://www.eteach.com/job/school-administration-assistant-1401981> Apply by 19/2. **Diocesan School Building Officer** <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/bosf>

January Offertory Collection The parish gratefully received a total of £7,376 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £1,025 for charities (Latin Patriarchate, Crib). 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

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.

Please remember to pray for peace on earth, the sick and unemployed and for our diocese & parish.

The sick and those who care for them Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret Punter, Freda Aparak, 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 Terry Punter, Osborne Acquaye, and Gerry Newell, who died recently, and for Joao Pinheiro, Heinz Zillekens, Sarah Anderson, Desiree Cron, Sarah Street, Breda Pamment, Vernon Nantwich, Henry Wood, James Rafferty, Therese O'Brien and Noel Ormerod whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses
First Week of Lent
18th February 2024**

Saturday 17th February	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Maria Chacaltana RIP</i>
Sunday 18th February 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Jim Flynn RIP</i>
Monday 19th February	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 20th February	9.00am Adoration (St Joseph's) 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Harry & Marie Mason, Clare Roe RIP</i>
Wednesday 21st February	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Laura Fisher RIP</i>
Thursday 22nd February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE	2.00pm Requiem Mass for Terry Punter RIP (Ladywell Convent)
Friday 23rd February CAFOD Lent Fast Day	11.00am Requiem Mass for Gerry Newell RIP (St Joseph's) 6.30pm CAFOD Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's)
Saturday 24th February	10.00am Adoration & Reconciliation (St Joseph's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 25th February 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the Parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Pat Stuttle RIP</i>

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year II

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*