



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time 28th January 2024

Capernaum, the town where so much of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee was centred, had a very significant synagogue. Visiting the remains of the town today, one can see the black basalt stone foundations of the synagogue of Jesus' time, with the remnants of a later building constructed on those same foundations. It was a real centre for the town, a place of prayer, a place of peace, of preaching and of mission for the Jewish community.

Mark, in today's Gospel, relates two experiences of Jesus' authority – the authority of His teaching and the outpouring of His authority over the unclean spirit that possessed the man whom Jesus healed. Jesus' teaching has the authority that is His as the Word made Flesh and the power of the authority of His teaching is recognised by those who listen to Him. The Word of God – made flesh in the person of Jesus – is always active. This outpouring of action is seen in the healing of the man who is possessed. Jesus' authority in action overcomes all things.

In the person of Jesus, the prophecies of former times – going right back to Moses' prophecy in the first reading this Sunday – are fulfilled. All of human history looks to the moment of Jesus, "The Word who is Life." In the Synagogue in Capernaum, His teaching called people to truth; His healing brought the possessed man to healing, to a place of dignity, of life and of peace.

Each of us is called in the same way: to listen to the truth of the Gospel and to find in it the dignity and healing that is the universal call to holiness. Just as the man healed in the Gospel found peace, so we are called to "a peace that the world cannot give", that is Jesus' gift to us. We must, therefore, be peacemakers and in a world so torn apart by conflict, that call is ever more insistent. Let us pray that we may answer, with renewed hope and vigour, that call to be bearers of peace.

Bishop Richard

Mass Responses for Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let your face shine on your servant. Save me in your merciful love. O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

19 Croft Road, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1DB t: 01483 416880 w: www.stedsgod.com

Parish Priests: Fr Jonathan How e: pp.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Fr Rajesh Minz e: rajesh.minz@abdiocese.org.uk t: 01428 643877

Parish Assistant: Sarah Stilwell e: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding phoneline: 07534 146908

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

Our Churches

At each of our Masses this weekend Fr Jonathan will speak about the report from the Building Review Group and what it means for the future of our churches. He will summarise the possibilities open to us and encourage everyone to share their views on the future of our churches in the light of the report. This feedback will be vital in informing the decision regarding the way forward.

Fr Jonathan's letter, the report and how to provide feedback will go live on the website and out by email on Sunday, and copies will be available after Mass. Please do pass this on to friends and contacts who might have less frequent contact with the church as we would like to have as wide a response as possible to inform this once in a generation decision.

Parish Community Groups 'Taste and See'

We have three very friendly and active groups in the parish, meeting regularly for a range of activities. If you would like the opportunity to find out more/sign up to join a group, please come and join the gathering at Milford Village Hall from 12.30pm on **Sunday 11 February** for some fellowship and seasonal activities. Expect pancake races and fancy masks!

There is also **coffee after St Joseph's Mass** in (in Milford Village Hall) on Sunday 11 February, which we hope to arrange on a regular basis.

Lent Small Groups For many years people have met in small groups in Lent for some sharing of faith. This year there are two opportunities to take part in Season IV of Invited. The themes this time include Jesus as Lord of our lives; becoming Missionary Disciples; What is the Church and how do we fit in? Reconciliation; and Holy Week.

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/1plgtpdk>

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

Friday 2 February is the Feast of the Presentation of The Lord (Candlemas) Mass with procession at St Joseph's at 9.30am.

Ash Wednesday is on 14 February and is a day of fasting and abstinence. Mass and Distribution of Ashes 10am at St Joseph's; 7pm St Edmund's.

Fr Jonathan is away for a few days this week. Fr Rajesh returns from India in February. In an emergency please contact Guildford parish.

CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2024 Are you up for a challenge this Lent? Could you walk 5K (10,000 steps) each day for the 40 days of Lent? Join our BIG Lent walk and help raise funds for CAFOD to help people overcome poverty. This year we are aiming to walk 6880 kms, the distance from Godalming to Monrovia in Liberia. We need 34 parishioners to walk 5K a day for 40 days to reach our target of 6800km - and we hope to raise £2000! You can sign up to walk by contacting Jo Lewry on jolewry@aol.com

Racial Justice Sunday is celebrated this Sunday with the theme, 'Seeing one another in the life of the Church'. By way of reflection we are asked to explore the lives of those great men and women who devoted themselves to the pursuit of racial justice, and all who emulate God's passion for justice. By opposing racism and promoting equality and justice they often encountered hostility, rejection, and attempts to overturn what they were doing. However, they persevered and became instruments of change and agents of progress, and some are now saints of the Church. May they inspire us, teach us, and make us sensitive to the importance of racial justice and why we work for it.

God of light and truth, you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice.

Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble, and a care for our brothers and sisters;

so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all.

We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.

Live Simply The group meets on Thursday at 7.30pm. At this time of climate crisis we pray for ecological conversion and renewed commitment to protect our common home. If you would like to find out more please email Jo: jolewry@aol.com

Wintershall Stations of the Cross are at 7am on Friday; all are welcome, and to refreshments after. <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/stations-cross>

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.

Divine Renovation: Health or Burnout, where are your leaders going? 28 February 7pm-8:15pm, online. With Sr Miriam James Heidland & Will van der Hart. To register: <https://catholicparishsummit.com/webinars/>

Diocesan Pastoral Plan - The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission Short and more readable copies of the pastoral plan are available at the back of church. Please do pick one up. The Deanery clergy are meeting later next month to work on how our communities take this forward, and there will be more news after Easter.

National Marriage Week is from 7-14 February and is an opportunity to reflect on marriage as a particular vocation in the church and in God's plan for the world. We give thanks and pray for those who try to answer this call in our midst; and we pray too for the healing of wounds that are sometimes part of family life and that all may discern where the Lord is calling them and have the faith, hope and courage to respond.

Some useful resources

Teams of Our Lady are small groups of four married couples with a chaplain who usually meet monthly for supper, prayer and mutual support in their married vocation. If you are interested in joining a parish team, please chat to Fr Jonathan.

Marriage Encounter offers a weekend retreat where couples can rediscover, deepen and enrich their relationship. <https://wwme.org.uk/>

Retrouvaille is the name of a programme which offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your partner, and a loving relationship in your marriage. The next course is 8-11 February (online); and in person courses: 14-16 June and 8-11 November. <https://retrouvaille.org.uk/>

Marriage Care offers relationship counselling and support. There is currently a 6m waiting list so register asap if you are looking for support. <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/>

Crossways is a Christian professional counselling service based in Haslemere offering counselling for couples (and for individuals and young people aged 11-18) who otherwise would not be able to afford private counselling sessions. All counsellors are Christian and work under regular supervision. <http://crosswayscounselling.org.uk/wp/>

The A&B Spirituality Network The diocese has several trained and experienced spiritual directors offering one-to-one accompaniment, which can help us to see and appreciate the way the Holy Spirit is acting in our lives. In today's changing world, many are discovering how helpful it can be to have someone walk alongside them on their journey of faith. To find a spiritual guide based in Surrey (but not in the parish) contact Teresa Brooks topcat52@btinternet.com

To receive the parish newsletter by email
email: godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Franciscan Centre Administrator A key role in the Franciscan Centre team providing admin support to the Director. £29k+, FT. Apply by 31st January to: recruitment@ladywell.org.uk

December Offertory The parish gratefully received a total of £13,386 from offertories and standing orders; and a further £486 for charities. Thank you.

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 racial justice; peace on earth and our diocese and parish.

Pope Francis' prayer intention for February is for the terminally ill; that all who are sick and in the final stages of life, and their families, receive the necessary medical and human care and accompaniment.

The sick and those who care for them Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret & Terry 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, Nicole Ernould, Nuala Gallagher, George Gelder, Audrey Hockey, Cliff Hutchinson, Ann Lloyd, Betty Matthews, Gerry Newell, Jean Rejniak, Maria Rogers, Margaret Silvester, Anne Stephens, Anita van Rheenand & Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals & care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed in particular for Doreen Denyer, Walter 'Ted' Bates and Raymond Barnewall who died recently, and for Leonard Bryant, Marie Batty, Fr Martin Jakubus, Anita Quinn, Millie Mensah, Peggy Macfarlane, Thelma Edwards, Paul Bruno, Imelda Gray and Derek Drapper whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 27th January	10.00am – 11.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Fr Martin Jakubas RIP</i>
Sunday 28th January 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Marie Batty RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 29th January	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 30th January	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Wednesday 31st January St John Bosco	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Thursday 1st February	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Gertrude Magdalen Vane-Tempest RIP</i>
Friday 2nd February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD	9.30am Mass with Procession (St Joseph's) <i>-Jane Fitzgerald RIP</i>
Saturday 3rd February	6pm Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Charles, Julia and Martha Harding RIP</i>
Sunday 4th February 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>John Raymont</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the parish</i>

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year 1I

St Edmund's Church is open each day, usually from 10am to 4pm

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*