



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Third Sunday of Lent – 3rd March 2024

He fed them with manna in the desert

One of the lenses through which we see and experience the season of Lent is the experience of Israel on its journey from Egypt to the promised land and of the covenant that God renews and makes with them in the course of their journey. And so last week the story of the manna in the desert (Exodus 16) was offered as part of the scriptures for daily prayer. It seemed to speak quite powerfully to our present situation, in which we may be worried about the future and changes in where and when we gather for Mass and how we relate to the other parishes around us. Perhaps we can take courage that in salvation history others have been through periods of change and grown in holiness and grace. There are four aspects of the story that I would offer for reflection.

The first is that Israel starts to complain. They are missing the familiarity of the 'pots of meat' that they enjoyed in Egypt. They have forgotten the deeds of the Lord. But their reaction is very human. Very few of us like a lot of change. But as St John Henry Newman said "**To live is to change**, and to be perfect is to have changed often."

The second is that **the Lord hears the cry of his people**. He doesn't punish them for this wobble. Instead, he recognises their distress and gives them bread from heaven to eat. We know and understand that the bread that he gives us is the Eucharist, nothing less than his own body and blood. It is his response to our distress in the uncertainty of the journey. (For some reason we forget the supply of quails – I wonder if there might be scope for the eating of small roast birds with honey wafer biscuits as part of our liturgical year....).

The third is that Moses and Aaron are commanded to keep a portion of the manna and to have it on display so that Israel might remember that the Lord fed them in the. This action, I think, foreshadows our practice of **Eucharistic Adoration**, in which we extend the remembering of the deeds of the Lord. The short responsory at Benediction takes us back to Exodus as we sing "You have given them bread from heaven. Containing in itself all sweetness." (*Panem de caelo praestitisti eis. Omne delectamentum in se habentem*, for those who know it better in Latin.)

Lastly, **Israel ate manna for forty years**. This was no feeding of 5,000 on one evening. The journey from Egypt to the promised land was not a short one. Israel continued to be a people on the move, foreshadowing the pilgrim people of God that we are. Throughout this journey the Lord gave them each day all that they needed. **And he will give us all that we need for our journey**.

Mass Responses for Third Sunday of Lent

PSALM RESPONSE: You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord; whoever believes in me will never die. 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: The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

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Prayer for our Diocese and our Parish

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.*

Day of Prayer I would like to summon the parish to take part in a day of more intense prayer for our parish and for our diocese on **Saturday 9th March:** at St Joseph's from 10am to midday and at St Edmund's from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. There will be Adoration and a short reading and prayers every half hour.

There will be further opportunities for prayer each month for this intention.

Fr Rajesh celebrates Mass in our parish this weekend, whilst Fr Jonathan is in Haslemere.

Salesian Zambia Porridge Appeal This weekend there will be 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.

CAFOD Family Fast Day & Big Lent Walk

Thank you for participating in Family Fast Day. Your donations will make a massive difference to hardworking families in need, such as fishermen in Liberia, by providing them with items like life jackets and GPS tracking systems, enabling them to fish safely and productively and feed their families. Please pray for our sisters and brothers around the world who are needy and hungry and donate by envelope, or online at cafod.org.uk or by sponsoring our parish team of walkers at: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/st-edmund-godalming> So far our parish team has cumulatively walked 1,265km and raised £800. The team includes families from St Edmund's school and the FMDM Sisters. 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 information or to arrange a standing order or sign up for our parish Gift Aid scheme, please contact Eileen: ga.godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

The Holy Season of Lent

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

9am at St Edmund's on Thursday
7-7.30pm at St Joseph's on Friday
Saturday 9 March: 10am-12 noon St Joseph's
12.30-2.30pm at St Edmund's.

St Edmund's Church is open each day to 5pm.

Reconciliation There are some 'Simple Guides to Confession' available at the back of church, do pick one up. Opportunities this week are: Monday 4 at St Pius X, Merrow, 7.30-8.30pm; Saturday 9 March: 10-11am St Joseph's, Milford; 1pm-3pm at St Joseph's, Guildford 10.30-11.30am at OLL, Haslemere.

Join a Lent Small Group for some faith sharing with Season IV of Invited. This week Fr Thomas Mannion OP reflects on community, the church and how we fit in. 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/acs6cjtj>.

Films are also available via the Diocesan Website.

Pray-as-you-go You can download this 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 recently.

Stations of the Cross Fridays at 6.20pm at St Joseph's. And there is a Stations option online at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/stations-of-the-cross/>

Lent Retreats at Franciscan Centre Praying the Passion, Living the Gospel 15-17 March; Individually Guided retreat 17-24 March; Easter Triduum 28-31 March. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/upcoming-events/>

March CTGD Prayer Breakfast is at 8.30am on 23 March at Godalming United Church.

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!

What is your view on the future of our Churches?

There will be an open parish meeting on 12th March, 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. There may be some additional papers and these will be made available at the end of the week.

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

Meanwhile please read the documentation - Fr Jonathan's letter and the detailed Buildings Review report on the future of our churches - and complete the questionnaire by Easter. Every person's view is important to us and thank you to those who have so far completed the questionnaire. All the information is at: <https://www.stedsgod.com/news/our-churches>

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

Pray for our parish Please do come next Saturday if you are able. It is encouraging to hear that a number of people are also praying the Angelus daily at noon and 6pm for the parish.

Week of Guided Prayer – Save the date!

We are hosting a week of guided prayer from 16 to 21 June, with individual spiritual direction, time to pray and reflect together and workshops on prayer. Further details to follow.

Easter Triduum Highlights 2024

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

Good Friday - 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.

'These are the Feasts...' On Saturday 23rd March a Day of Retreat at St Joseph's, Guildford, a day of reflection and prayer on the beauty and meaning of the Liturgy of Holy Week. More details to follow.

This Sunday there is coffee after 8.45am Mass – come and meet others in our parish family!

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; for peace on earth; the sick and unemployed

The sick and those who care for them Simon McCann, 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 Ernould, 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 Barry Craggs who died recently, and for Georges Gebhardt, Robert Taylor, Margaret Edwards, Mary O'Meara, Colm Whittle, Frederick Stowell, Hilda Stratford, Kathleen Jones, Ferrante Manganoni, Michael Evans, Jim Wheeler and Colin Graham whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Schedule of Masses
Third Week of Lent
3rd March 2024**

Saturday 2nd March	10.30-11am Reconciliation (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Eugene Baggar RIP</i>
Sunday 3rd March 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>Ursula Polack RIP</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 4th March	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 5th March	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Wednesday 6th March	7.00pm Elstead Mass (Flinders, 19 Spring Hill, GU8 6EL) –
Thursday 7th March	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>For the protection of human life</i>
Friday 8th March	10.30am Requiem Mass Osborne Acquaye RIP (St Joseph's) 7.00-7.30pm Adoration (St Joseph's)
Saturday 9th March	10.00am – 12.00pm Adoration for the Parish (St Joseph's) <i>(With reconciliation from 10.00-11.00am)</i> 12.30pm – 2.30pm Adoration for the Parish (St Edmund's) 6pm Mass (St Edmund's) –
Sunday 10th March 4TH 'LAETARE' SUNDAY OF LENT	8.45am Mass (St John's) – 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Michael John Canning RIP</i> 12.30pm Baptism – Timothy Nicholls (St Edmund'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*