



Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 4th February 2024

"The only thing I asked of the team was... can we stay committed to that process without being emotionally attached to the outcome?"

I know that cricket is a minority sport, and that many in the parish would follow their own national teams ahead of England, but last week England managed to pull off an unexpected victory against India. (They are very hard to beat at home and England were way behind at the half-way mark.) However, the comment above from the captain, Ben Stokes, reminded me of my spiritual reading last year. It was a translation of Francios Bustillo's *La vocation du prêtre face aux crises: La fidélité créatrice*. (Roughly, the vocation of priests in the face of a crisis – creative fidelity.)

One of Bustillo's invitations was to focus on being faithful to the mission and not too easily distracted by the outcomes. I have to confess that as a priest my mood is very easily lifted by seeing lots of people in church (it really isn't difficult to make me happy) and dampened on a quiet weekend. I think Bustillo was trying to allow us to devote our time, effort and energy to those things we can do and to trust that God will draw wonderful things from it. There is something quite freeing in that. It can allow us a joy and a liberty in our living and proclaiming of the Gospel, just in the same way that something similar has allowed to England cricket team to enjoy playing their sport. (And become rather good at winning too.)

Of course, this isn't new. When St Bernadette went to tell the priests that they should build a chapel and come in procession she did not manage to convince them, but she was content that she had passed on the message. St Teresa of Calcutta is often quoted as saying "God calls us to be faithful, not to be successful".

My letter last week perhaps brought into focus some of the changing context of being church and being Catholic that marks the present age. It could be dispiriting, and it would be if we thought God was calling us to be successful. But he doesn't – he just asks us to bear persistent and patient witness in our own context to the people whose lives we do touch. We don't need to go out and find them – we are already in touch with the ones we are most like to influence. Much of what we do won't feel remarkable to us, because it will be the simple daily response to the graces we receive through our regular encounter with the Lord.

Mass Responses for Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

PSALM RESPONSE: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

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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?

Please do take time to read the report on the future of our churches published last weekend, pray about the possibilities open to us and give your feedback on the options. You can find Fr Jonathan's presentation, a copy of the report and links for feedback on the website at:

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

Key headlines include:

*Possible development of St Joseph's Church and sale of St Edmund's Church

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*The likely ending of the regular Sunday morning Mass in Farncombe in the coming years.

Please do spread the word about this as we would like to have as wide a response as possible to inform this once in a generation decision.

This Saturday we welcome FHC families to the 6pm Mass at St Edmund's on Saturday.

Coffee after 8.45am Mass Please join us after Mass, and chat with others in our parish family.

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.

Next weekend... Fr Rajesh will preside whilst Fr Jonathan is in the Haslemere parish. There will be **Contemporary Music**, led by Nicki and Gonzo, at the 6pm Vigil Mass.

Next Sunday is World Day for the Sick, and there will be a collection for the **Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund** at Mass, for which you can use Diocesan Gift Aid envelopes.

Mass with Bishop Richard The Diocesan Trustees (including Fr Jonathan) are meeting at Ladywell Convent this week. Parishioners are invited to join them for 8am Mass on Wednesday.

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.

Adoration this week is at 9am on Tuesday at St Edmund's and 9am on Friday at St Joseph's.

Lent Small Groups For many years people have met in small groups in Lent for some sharing of faith. This year we are following the next Season IV of Invited, and 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. There are three 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/1plgtpdk>

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

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

Of your charity please pray for the repose of souls of those who have died recently and for the comfort and consolation of their families:

***Ted Bates** whose funeral takes place at Guildford Crematorium on 5 February, 2.15pm.

***Doreen Denyer**, whose funeral takes place at Guildford Crematorium on 7 February, 11.15am, and afterwards at Guildford Rugby Club. Please let Richard Grey know if you are coming, to help the family plan catering. There will be a Requiem Mass for Doreen at a later date.

***Raymond Barnewall**, whose Requiem Mass is on 7 February at St Teresa's in Chiddingfold at 3.30pm, with committal at Guildford Crematorium at 9.45am the following day.

***Jenny Banbury**, whose funeral takes place at Guildford Crematorium on 12 February, 10.30am.

***Fr Stephen Ortiger OSB**, whose funeral takes place at Worth on 17 February. Please advise the Abbey ASAP if you would like to attend.

* **Gerry Newell** and **Osborne Acquaye** whose funerals will take place later this month.

***Terry Punter**, who died this week: this Sunday would have been his and Margaret's Golden Wedding Anniversary.

SVP Afternoon Tea The February tea takes place on Tuesday 13, not the usual Wednesday.

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.

Diocesan Pastoral Plan - The Word Who is Life: The Call to Mission There are some shorter and a more readable A5 versions of the plan at the back of church. Please do pick one up. The Deanery clergy meet 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 If you are interested in one-to-one accompaniment with a spiritual director, or to find out more, contact Teresa Brooks: topcat52@btinternet.com

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/>

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; for the sick and unemployed and for 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 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 Rheen & Josie Whittle; those in our hospitals & care homes; and those who carry their illnesses privately.

The faithful departed in particular for Terry Punter, Osborne Acquaye, Gerry Newell, Jenny Banbury, Doreen Denyer, Walter 'Ted' Bates and Raymond Barnewall who died recently, and for Theresa Priseman, Ida Morteal, Alice Gotts, Salvatore Ferrucci, Joseph Bohan, Patricia Callaghan, Fr Jim McGuire, Paula Butcher, Margarita Nelson, Nancy Drapper, Patricia Dean, Ella Doughton and Patrick McDermott whose anniversaries occur at this time.

Schedule of Masses

Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

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>
Monday 5th February St Agatha	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
Tuesday 6th February St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs of Japan	9.00am Adoration (St Joseph's) 9.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Frank & Matthew Brown RIP</i>
Wednesday 7th February	8.00am Mass with +Bishop Richard at Ladywell Convent (Ashtead Lane, Godalming GU7 1ST) 3.30pm Requiem Mass for Raymond Barnewall RIP @ St Teresa's, Chiddingfold 5.30pm Mass in Elstead (The Old Farmhouse, Elstead, GU8 6DB)
Thursday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's) <i>– Deceased relatives of Brenda Brown</i>
Friday 9th February	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) 9.30am Mass (St Edmund's) – <i>Iwona Brzeska RIP</i>
Saturday 10th February St Scholastica	6pm Mass (St Edmund's)
Sunday 11th February 6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	8.45am Mass (St John's) – <i>People of the parish</i> 10.30am Mass (St Joseph's) – <i>Doreen & Tom Rogers RIP</i> 12 noon Baptisms (St Joseph's) – <i>Emily & James Donlon & Charlie Summerfield</i>

Sunday Cycle Year B / Weekday Cycle Year 1

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*