



# Catholic Parish of St Edmund, King and Martyr, Godalming

with St Joseph's, Milford



**Our Parish  
Community**

A family for all

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter – 28 April 2024**

*Almighty ever-living God,  
constantly accomplish the Paschal Mystery within us,  
that those you were pleased to make new in Holy Baptism  
may, under your protective care, bear much fruit  
and come to the joys of life eternal.*

A few years ago Pope Francis gave copies of Francois-Xavier Bustillo's book *Tesimoni, Non Funzionari* (witnesses, not officials) to each of the priests at the Chrism Mass in Holy Week. The central concern of this book is the life and mission of the church (and its priests) at a time of crisis and epochal change. One of the tools that he offers is an invitation to replace productivity with fruitfulness. He says something like:

"The absence of results does not mean an absence of fruitfulness. The Church mustn't seek productivity, but fruitfulness. The Church is not a business where you have to produce and have success whatever the cost. The Church must be fruitful. Fruitfulness does not depend only on the will, intelligence or creativity but depends above all on the master of the vineyard, the Lord. Each of us has been given talents, not to be buried in a field but to be made fruitful. That does not make us immune from failure. In the parable of the sower the seed falls on the path, on rock, in the weed and in good soil. Only a quarter falls in good ground and bears fruit. In the tale of the ten lepers only one gives thanks to Jesus. In these passages there is not failure but modest fruit. Jesus works above and beyond simple results."

Bearing fruit is central to the Gospel and the Collect of today's Mass. It is the visible result of our taking part in the hidden life of Christ, through the Holy Spirit. It is also central to the dynamic of grace – of how God works in our lives. Much of the world around us has its eyes on success and achievement and it can be really tempting to always look to ready measures of success. (I know how tempting it is for me to be really happy when the church is full and a bit down on a Sunday when we are more thinly spread.) In contrast, we know that the things of real value are the fruit of patient and persistent living in Christ.

At this time I would like to invite us to deepen our reflection on the quality of our life together and to recommit ourselves to the patient and persistent work of the daily encounter with the risen Lord in the Sacraments, in prayer and lived charity that forges our parish into a community of saints, into a strong, lively and welcoming school of discipleship. And then we will bear fruit, fruit that will last.

### **Mass Responses for Fifth Sunday of Easter**

PSALM RESPONSE: You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: Alleluia, alleluia! Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty. Alleluia!

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

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Parish Safeguarding phoneline: 07534 146908

St Edmund's Parish is part of the Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity No.2528

### **Week of Guided Prayer 16-21 June**

A Week of Guided Prayer is a way of making a directed retreat in the midst of our busy day and is often called a 'Retreat in Daily Life'. It will allow you to step away from the noise and haste of everyday life and into the quiet beauty of the Franciscan Centre.

Participants commit to spending 30 minutes each day in prayer, as well as coming to Ladywell each day to talk about their prayer experience with a trained Spiritual Director and to enjoy the wonderful grounds and prayer spaces. Your Spiritual Director will listen attentively and offer suggestions for allowing you to go deeper into your relationship with God. The 30-minute one-to-one sessions run from Monday to Friday, at a time convenient to you and your Director.

The week begins on Sunday 16 June at 2.30pm at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell, with a group session to introduce participants to the format of the week; to give some explanation of praying with scripture; to spend some time in prayer together; to introduce participants to their Spiritual Director for the week; and to share some social time and light refreshments together. On Wednesday 19 June there will be a group session at Ladywell on "Discernment" at 7.30pm. The week ends on Friday 21 June at 7.30pm, coming together again to share our experiences and to bring the week to a prayerful close.

If you would like to take part, please register via the following link or contact the parish office.  
<https://stedsgod.churchsuite.com/events/wwcf6kzd>

### **Solemnity of the Ascension – 9th May**

This wonderful feast has been restored to its traditional Thursday, and it is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be celebrated at:

\*7.00pm (Wednesday Vigil) St Joan's, Farnham

\*10.00am St Edmund's School

\*8.00pm St Joseph's, Milford

**Month of Prayer for Vocations** As we look towards Pentecost and prepare for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we have a special focus on prayer for the mission of the church and the priesthood in our diocese. There is **Saturday morning Adoration** for this intention, and a leaflet to aid prayer so please take one home. The second collection this weekend is for the Education of Future Priests (and is Gift Aided). Please also pray for Deacon Edward Hopkins who is currently serving in the Guildford parish while completing his studies at Allen Hall Seminary and is to be **ordained priest at Arundel Cathedral on 22 June**, along with Gustavo Campanello.

### **Thank you for responding to the Mission Appeal**

from the Xaverian Missionaries and for your welcome last weekend to Fr John Convery SX. Much of what they do in the Missions and at home depends on the generosity of church here in the UK; please pray for their work and return your envelopes or donate via the devices.

**CAFOD Sudan Emergency Appeal** With war in the Middle East and in Ukraine the year long war in Sudan has failed to grab the headlines, yet it has forced millions of people to flee their homes, creating one of the world's largest humanitarian crises. CAFOD has launched an emergency appeal and a second collection for this will be taken next weekend. You can read more about how CAFOD is responding and donate directly (and Gift Aid) at <https://cafod.org.uk/?form=sudancrisisappeal>

**Cake Sale for Kasanka Thank you** to all who baked, bought and ate cake last weekend, and helped us raise an astonishing total of over £715! The funds will enable the St Francis school to instal secure fencing to keep the children safe. Our fund-raising continues with **Pete's Plant Sale**, after Corpus Christi Mass at Ladywell on 2 June, and we hope to meet our target of approx. £1,500 - so we need lots of plants to sell. Please get growing and contact Jo Pomeroy on 07920 180495 if you can help. Thank you. NB No houseplants please!

### **Consultation on the future of our Churches**

Please pray for the parish core teams who meet on Tuesday this week to look at the feedback from the consultation. We should know after that meeting how this will be fed back to the parish.

**Grandparents' Pilgrimage** to the Shrine of Our Lady of Consolation and St Francis, West Grinstead, 26 June, 10.30am-3pm. A day of sharing and prayer with other grandparents, led by Bishop Richard, with Mass, rosary, tours of the secret chapel. Book asap as places go quickly: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/h4bozjok>

**Fr Chris Ingle's Ruby Jubilee** Fr Chris warmly invites parishioners to join him for a celebration Mass on 17 May at 6pm at St Michaels, 19 Hayling Rise, Worthing BN13 3AL. Please RSVP by email: [worthingstmichael@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:worthingstmichael@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish prayer group** This group is open to all parishioners and meets every Monday (except on Bank Holidays) at 7.30pm (note new time), at The Old Farmhouse Barn, Elstead. For more information contact Richard on 01252 702230.

**Lifts to Mass** Please get in touch if you are able to give an elderly parishioner a lift to Mass.

**Pilgrimage to Walsingham** There are coach spaces available to join with the Haslemere parish visit to the shrine on 18 May, leaving St Joseph's Milford at 6.50am, returning by 8.30pm, £45. Contact: [haslemere@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:haslemere@abdiocese.org.uk)

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje** The Guildford Catenians invite you to join them on pilgrimage from 7-14 October. Medjugorje has been a very special place for many in our parish and the Catenians hope parishioners will take this opportunity to share the joys, faith and spirit of this special place. Info: [greg.melly@ntlworld.com](mailto:greg.melly@ntlworld.com)

**Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at this year's Big Church Festival at Wiston Park** (25 & 26 May). Join with over 30,000 people to worship together at the Wiston Estate, in the company of some of the best Christian artists in the world. Lots of family activities plus overnight camping. <https://www.bigchurchfestival.com/>

**Worth Abbey June Gathering** The Abbot and Community invite you to Worth Abbey, 11am-4.30pm on 1 June, to share monastic prayer in the Abbey church, enjoy the beauty of guided walks through woods and fields, visit St Bruno's retreat centre. Also many activities for children and young families [www.worthabbeypilgrims.com](http://www.worthabbeypilgrims.com)

**'The Courage of the White Flag?'** is the title of this year's Anthony Storey Memorial Peace and Justice lecture given by guest speaker Fr Rob Esdaile, from the Woking parish; you can join on zoom at 6pm on 4 June, and to register for the lecture please email: [bhungin@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bhungin@yahoo.co.uk)

**Opposing the Decriminalisation of Abortion** The government's flagship Criminal Justice Bill has two important amendments that could fundamentally change our laws on abortion. The Church encourages us to write to our local MP asking MPs to oppose the decriminalisation amendment and support the reduction of the abortion time limit from 24 to 22 weeks (as babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving). <https://righttolife.org.uk/uptobirth>

**Assisted Suicide** Parliament is due to debate the petition on 29 April. Please write to your MP if you do not want assisted suicide to be legalised. <https://www.spuc.org.uk/livesworthliving>

**A Year of Encounter** is a joint initiative between CAFOD and SVP equipping us to ask important questions on issues of poverty and justice of those standing for election in our local area. A free online training session is offered on 4th May, 11am-1pm, and you can register at: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/using-our-catholic-voice-at-the-next-election-training-session>

**Job Opportunity at Ladywell** Support Assistant to the Pastoral Care/Community Events Team. Apply by 29 April. [Recruitment@ladywell.org.uk](mailto:Recruitment@ladywell.org.uk)

**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 41077481.

**March Offertory** The parish gratefully received a total of £10,687 from offertory and standing orders; and a further £673 for charities (Holy Places, CAFOD, Kasanka, parish flowers).

#### Some sources of practical support

**Bereavement support** The parish team can be contacted via: [bereavementatsteds@gmail.com](mailto: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 May** is that men and women religious, and seminarians, grow in their own vocational journey through human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses of the Gospel.

**Please remember to pray** for our diocese and parish; for vocations to the priesthood; for peace.

**The sick and those who care for them** Maureen Monk, Nicole Gebhardt, Kate Hall, Yvonne Cova, Penny Blackett, David Coombs, Liliane Hills, John McCarthy, Malcolm Baldwin, Alfonso Mora, Margaret Punter, Freda Apark, Alex Jolliffe, 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, 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 Ana Carvalho, Jim Naylor, and Jono Holmes who died recently, and Jaya Lake, Brenda Waugh, Pat Cooke, Annik Allison, Margaret Jones, Ian Hamilton, Carla Barford, Alice Rees and Malcolm Nye, whose anniversaries occur at this time.

## Schedule of Masses Fifth Week of Easter 2024

<b>Saturday 27th April</b>	10.00-11.00am Adoration & Prayer for Vocations (St Edmund's) <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>Bob Thearle RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 28th April</b> FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Alexander Moore RIP</i>
<b>Monday 29th April</b> ST CATHERINE OF SIENA	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Tuesday 30th April</b>	9.00am Adoration (St Joseph's) <b>9.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – <i>Philip Doyle RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 1st May</b> St Joseph the Worker	<b>7.00pm Elstead Mass</b> (Stonehaven, Lower Ham Lane, GU8 6HQ) <i>- Ernst Wilbert RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 2nd May</b> St Athanasius	9.00am Adoration (St Edmund's) <b>9.30am Mass (St Edmund's)</b> – <i>For Vocations</i>
<b>Friday 3rd May</b> SS PHILIP AND JAMES	<i>10.00am Mass available at St Joseph's Guildford</i>
<b>Saturday 4th May</b> THE ENGLISH MARTYRS	10.00am-11.00am Adoration & Prayer for Vocations (St Joseph's)* <b>6.00pm Mass (St Edmund's)</b>
<b>Sunday 5th May</b> SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	<b>8.45am Mass (St John's)</b> – <i>People of the Parish</i> <b>10.30am Mass (St Joseph's)</b> – Deceased relatives Brenda Brown

Sunday Cycle Year B

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

[www.stedsgod.com](http://www.stedsgod.com)

*\*Sacrament of Reconciliation available during Saturday Adoration at St Joseph's and by arrangement*

*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*