

MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

Saturday 10th March	<i>(first Mass of Sunday)</i>
08.00 St Edmund's	Ilona Hipp †
Sunday 11th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (p652)
08.30 St Edmund's	Bernadette Ely †
10.30 St Edmund's	Richard Beaumont †
10.30 Our Lady's, Lawshall	Mary Sutcliffe †
15.00 St Edmund's	<i>Adoration & Benediction</i>
18.00 St Edmund's	For the Parish
Monday 12th March	Lent Feria
07.30 St Edmund's	Monica Gittings †
Tuesday 13th March	Lent Feria
08.50 St Edmund's	<i>Adoration of Blessed Sacrament</i>
09.30 St Edmund's	Deceased Club Members †
09.30 Our Lady's, Lawshall	Anne Dove †
Wednesday 14th March	Lent Feria
10.00 St Edmund's	Bernadette Booker †
<i>followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Confessions</i>	
Thursday 15th March	Lent Feria
19.30 St Edmund's	Antony Pratt †
Friday 16th March	Lent Feria
07.00 St Edmund's	John Fiddy †
10.15 Our Lady's, Lawshall	Ida Pratt †
19.00 St Edmund's	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Saturday 17th March	St Patrick
10.00 St Edmund's	Ellen Kaye †
18.00 St Edmund's	Duncan Bowie †

MASSES AT 'MONTANA' GREAT BARTON

Sunday 10.30; Monday - Saturday 08.15;

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL LANGUAGE MASSES

Saturday 17th March Polish Mass at 16.00 at St Edmund's.

Saturday 18th March Malayalam Mass at 14.30 at St Edmund's.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday after 10.00 Mass; Saturday 10.30—11.00 & by appointment



St Edmund's Newsletter

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Registered Charity No. 278742 www.stedmundkm.org.uk

Twinned with St John's Parish, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Sunday 11th March 2018 - 4th Sunday of Lent - Year B

MOTHERING SUNDAY— RETURNING HOME

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called, '*Laetare Sunday*' - recalling the opening words of the Introit or Entrance Antiphon to the Mass that you will find in your Missals:

'Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;

exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.'



In the midst of Lent we are called to focus on the joy that is to come—the joy of the work of salvation that God is working at Easter. In the Liturgy of Holy Week we will be invited to return to the very heart of our faith—the Passion, death and Resurrection of Christ.

- In Christ's Passion, the Son of God unites Himself intimately with the suffering of fallen humanity.
- In His death the sins of that same humanity are forgiven: '*Father, forgive them!*'
- In His Resurrection, the power of God's love is revealed, a love in which eternal life is opened up to us once more. The final and definitive triumph of God's love for us.

During the Great Vigil of Easter, the waters of baptism will be once again blessed in our Font. In these waters our journey of discipleship begins—our first halting steps in the footsteps of Christ who was baptized in the Jordan. In these waters we are born again as sons and daughters of God—and members of His family the Church. In the Sacrament of Baptism the Church brings us to this new birth, and is then called upon to nourish and encourage us on the oath to maturity. Just like a mother! In fact it was on this Sunday, recalling the notion of the motherhood of Jerusalem in the Entrance Antiphon, that Christians in the past returned to their roots—to the Parish Church and the Font in which they were baptised—to the 'mother' that brought them to new life as followers of Christ. And thus was born '*Mothering Sunday*'.

As people moved from home, the return to their 'Mother' Church also often involved the return to the family—and so to the mother, who had brought them to birth, nourished and encouraged them as they grew. Thus Mothering Sunday became wider in scope—a special day of thanksgiving for Motherhood, not just of the Church but of our mothers too!

It is worth, however, remembering the origins of this day in our English culture (*the*

origins of 'Mothers' Day in the United States is different) for it reminds us that the task of bearing, nourishing, encouraging and leading to maturity is one for the whole community of the faithful. All of us are called to this task of 'mothering', even though not all of us may be called to be mothers.

It is right therefore, that we give God thanks today for the gift of our mothers, and also all those, especially women, who have 'mothered' us in our faith, those women whose faith, courage, constancy, friendship and support and example help us on the road to Christian maturity.

HAPPY MOTHERING SUNDAY!

With every blessing, Fr. Mark

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

FOR OUR SICK: Sue & Tony Aldous, Pat Austin, Imelda Brown, Ann Campbell, Gerald Curry, Pat Dowson, Bea Edgar, Helen Edrupt, Nicolette Finch, Malcolm & Janis Fincham Jacques, Sr Flora, Marion Fitzgibbons, Teresa Gleeson, Rita Grimer, David Higgins, Patti Hickson, Donald Hunt, Priscilla Lupton, Francis Nisbett, Dee Peters, Richard Reid, Bernard Reynolds, Claire Robinson, Mary de Roeper, David Smeeth-Cardy, Evelyn Stirling, Yohanan Suraj, Jason Stronza, Shelagh Szulc, Robin Taylor, Susan Toole, John Triggs, Tim Udall, Pauline Wells, Romaine Wright, Jim Whyte. May the Lord bring them comfort and healing.

FOR ELINA AGRICOLE & PETER WICKENS who died recently. May they rest in the loving peace of the Lord .

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES ARE AT THIS TIME. Madeleine Grimmer, Richard Beaumont, George Foss, Timothy Reardon, Maria Czackowski, Peggy Whitehouse, Muriel Nunn, Jack Sanderson, Gerald Dale, Denis O'Leary, .George Newcombe, Fr John McNally, Anthony Falco, Angela Morris, Jane Corbett, Reginald Olivier, Arthur Biggerstaff, Fr Frank Bullivant, Peter Faiers, Michael Bullen.

THANK YOU for your generosity last week. You gave **£1466.31** in the collection and **£655** in standing orders and **£99.01** from Lawshall.

Please return your CAFOD Fast Day envelopes as soon as possible.



PARISH QUIZ - MANY THANKS to all who contributed to making the recent quiz evening such a success. A SPECIAL THANKS to John Shepherd, our Quiz Master and to the catering team who produced a wonderful hearty meal of jacket potatoes and chilli-con-carne. The event raised a total of £300 for our Parish Funds.

HELPING HANDS' GROUP if you are, or know of anyone who is housebound, lonely or in need of practical help, shopping, changing a light bulb etc, or just a visit, or lift to the doctors., contact Sue Fullman 488147 or Mike Sinnott 764236.



ENCOUNTER JESUS - Monday 19th March Come and spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. From **19.45**, enjoy 45 minutes of praise followed by a time of quiet. All are welcome to come and pray in a relaxed atmosphere for the whole time or just a few minutes - whatever you can manage.



POLISH LENTEN DEVOTION—THE REPROACHES

An invitation to *Gorzkie Zale* every Sunday of Lent at 12.00pm in the Chapel.

Zapraszamy na Gorzkie Zale w niedziele Wielkiego Postu o godzinie 12 w nawie bocznej.

'THEOLOGY ON TAP'.

Introductory Meeting

Friday 6th April at 19.00 in the Presbytery



It is hoped that a new parish group can be set up if there are any young adults aged from **18 years upwards** who would like to meet up on a regular basis for a social get together and to explore aspects of our faith . Please get in touch with Louise Green on **724125** if you are interested.

THE CATENIAN ASSOCIATION was founded in 1908 and now has nearly 10,000 members world wide. There are Circles throughout Great Britain, Australia, India, Malta, Ireland, South Africa and the Holy Land. Membership is open to any Catholic man who regularly practices his faith and is able to receive communion. Each Circle has its' own social program, often including wives and family. There are local Circles which meet monthly in Cambridge and Bury St Edmunds. More information is available on www.thecatenians.com or contact: edmundjacques@gmail.com



The Catenians
Strengthening family life
through friendship and faith



HELP NEEDED WITH CHURCH FLOWERS! Whether you have lots of experience, are a keen amateur, or would like to try - your help would be much appreciated by our team of arrangers at St Edmund's. Encouragement and guidance given - Please contact the Parish Office 754358.

STOREHOUSE FOODBANK supplies between 4 and 8 families every day with enough food for three meals for three days. Donations can be placed in the box in Church. **Personal toiletries (incl toothpaste) Long Life milk, Pasta Sauce, Breakfast Cereals, incl porridge, tinned vegetables (incl potatoes) and biscuits, fresh sliced bread and tinned meat are needed every day.** Thank you to all at St Edmund's for your support.



WEEKLY FOOD FOR THOUGHT FOR YOUTH

Theme: A time to forgive as we have been forgiven

With joy I welcome you beloved friends to the fourth Sunday in the Holy Season of Lent. How has the journey been so far for you? A bit difficult for you right. Don't worry, even if you see yourself going back on that promise you made to God this Lent, don't just give up. You can always start again by asking Him for forgiveness and then the strength and courage to continue the journey. Remember, giving up can never be an option for a child of God.

We all probably have at least one relationship in which the memory of an unforgiven hurt continues to linger and prevents us from fully loving some person. Many of us harbour resentment and anger because of some difference of opinion, some real or imagined slight, and some unkind word. But then Jesus stated clearly that God will forgive us to the extent that we are willing to forgive others (Mt 18:35, 6:12-15)

The scriptures rightly instruct us to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven us (Mt 18:33; Col3:13). God's forgiveness and our forgiveness of others are inseparably linked. I can't ask God to forgive me and then refuse to forgive another person who has offended me. It doesn't really work that way. Even before coming to ask God for forgiveness, we must have forgiven and let go any heavy load we have in our hearts against anyone. As we come to know God's love for us, His forgiveness is often one of the first graces we experience. Christ came into the world to forgive us and free us from sin so that we may enjoy eternal life. God has forgiven us - not just for our own sake but so that we can extend His love and mercy to others. As we forgive others and are reconciled with them, we are doing the work of Christ, and the love of God is revealed to the world around us.

What is the obstacle that hinders us from forgiving the way Jesus does? It is sin, which resides deeply in us. It is not until we know God's forgiveness that we are able to forgive and love others, for "the one to whom little is forgiven, loves little" (Lk 7:47). When God's love takes root in our minds and hearts, we will be transformed. Instead of being controlled by our selfish natures, we will be able to show mercy and compassion. As we repent of our sins and experience the tender forgiveness of Christ, we will be empowered to forgive as Jesus did - He forgave even those who nailed Him to the cross (Lk 23:34)

At this point beloved friend, think of one relationship in your life where you know you need to forgive. Picture that person in your mind. Ask Jesus to help you love that person just as deeply and fully as He himself does. Then forgive that person and hold nothing else against him or her. Do this for other relationships where forgiveness and healing are necessary.

You can conclude with this prayer, "**Father, raise my thoughts to the heavenly realm so that I am not controlled by resentment and anger. Give me the grace to repent of my sin and to forgive others just as you have so graciously forgiven me, Amen**".

Wishing you a lovely and peaceful week ahead. **Fr Alvan fralvanibe@yahoo.com**

THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 11th MARCH

20.00 - 23.00 **ST EDMUND'S SOCIAL CLUB** in the Crypt. Bar open.

MONDAY 12th MARCH

19.30 **PARISH COUNCIL** meet in the Presbytery.

WEDNESDAY 14th MARCH

12.30—13.30 **LENT LUNCHESES** every Wednesday until 28th March.

Please do come along to the Presbytery for some delicious home made soup!!



16.30 **CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** meet in the Presbytery.

19.00—21.00 **LENT COURSE (3)** in the Crypt - Come and rediscover or deepen your relationship with Jesus, Saviour and friend? All over 15 years of age are welcome. Bring a friend and experience anew the joy of the gospel. The cost of the course is £2. There will be a 15 minute interval, so feel free to bring goodies to share!



THURSDAY 15th MARCH

20.00 **SVP** meeting in the Crypt..

FRIDAY 16th MARCH

19.30 **TAIZE EVENING** in the Crypt. Join us for an hour of meditative music and contemplation.

SATURDAY 17th MARCH

11.00 **FIRST RECONCILIATIONS** in the Church

SUNDAY 18th MARCH

14.00 - 15.00 **BAPTISM PREPARATION COURSE** in the Presbytery.

16.30 - 17.45 **CONFIRMATION CLASSES** continue in the Crypt.



THE REPOSITORY is open after Wednesday 10.00 Mass, 10.30 & 18.00 Sunday Masses for **cards**, statues, gifts, Sunday Missals, gifts etc.

St Edmund's Youth Ministry invites you to

A LENTEN DAY RETREAT

Saturday 24th March

at Moreton Hall School, in preparation for Easter.

Ages 14+ are all welcome. Bring a friend

Further enquiries from Fr Alvan fralvanibe@yahoo.com



THE WORD OF GOD John 3:14-21

14 Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, 15 so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. 16 Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. 17 For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. 18 No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. 19 On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. 20 And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; 21 but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'



REFLECTION

In Lent we frequently turn to the Gospel of John, for it contains a rich commentary on the events of the life of Jesus. In the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus in chapter 3 of the gospel Jesus explains privately to a Jew the significance of the coming of the Son of God. Nicodemus was described at the beginning of this chapter as a teacher. This teacher is willing to be taught by Jesus. The evangelist will not tell us whether Nicodemus accepts the teaching or not. After some early exchanges, we then hear no more words of Nicodemus, but only the teaching of Jesus.

The raising up of the Son of God speaks both of his death on the cross and of his resurrection. His death is considered glorious. It leads inevitably to resurrection and triumph. The coming of the Son and his self-giving in death and resurrection are the clearest proof of the love of God for the world. People are called to respond in faith. As St Paul teaches, it is by God's grace that we are saved, through faith. God saves us if only we will allow it. To refuse Christ knowingly is to refuse salvation.

The symbol of light is common in John's gospel. From the very start of the gospel we learnt that the Light came into the world to challenge the darkness, and that the darkness could not overpower the Light. The theme of light returns here. Nicodemus comes to Jesus during the night. Like him we are free to

embrace the light or to prefer darkness. Reference to 'the truth' is also frequent in John's gospel. We will live by the truth, if we allow Jesus to lead us ever deeper into that truth.

Where do you need the light to shine in your life?

What does 'living by the truth' mean?

Let us pray for those who are discovering the truth of Christ.

Let us pray for those who struggle to see and accept the light.

Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, written by Fr. Adrian Graffy



ST EDMUND'S INTERNATIONAL CHOIR

As we plan for the International Mass at Pentecost, we hope to have an International Choir, which will comprise all the different nationalities of our Parish. As the Choir will be singing at all our International Masses we will need at least 3 representatives from our different communities to come along and join in. Please contact Patricia Mason or Fr Alvan

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

24th to 31st August 2018 Led by Bishop Alan

You are warmly invited to join Bishop Alan on our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes this year. The Pilgrimage brings together the Glanville Group from Cambridge, several other dioceses and the young people from Stonyhurst College. Lourdes is a very special place, not just a place a miraculous healing but also a place where everyone learns to give and to receive from each other in a wonderful way.

Information and Booking Forms are available in Porch. If they run out, please contact the Parish Office.

There are limited funds available at the disposal of Diocesan Team to help those struggling to cover the cost. Details from the Parish Office.



GOING INTO HOSPITAL? If you are, **PLEASE** let us know other-wise the Chaplain will not know you are there; the only way we can find you is if you tell us, **so please let us know if you would like a visit.** If you or one of your relatives needs a priest in emergency, i.e. **imminent danger death**, please ask a member of staff to ring the switchboard & bleep the Catholic Chaplain. We have the pager with us at all times.