



REPENT OR PERISH

LUKE 13: 1-9

The parable of the Fig tree on the stained glass in St Mary Abbot's church on Kensington High Street

Two examples are given by Jesus today when talking about sin and suffering in our world.

Firstly, he speaks of the time Pilate constructed a much needed aqueduct for Jerusalem, with many people outraged at his use of sacred money to build it. So Pilate instructed his soldiers to mingle amongst the crowd with clubs hidden beneath their cloaks. Their job was to beat the Galileans into submission. A task they took on with such enthusiasm, that many were killed. The ones who were killed, says Jesus, weren't necessarily more wicked than those who lived.

In the second example, Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree. The Book of Revelation compares the falling of the stars from the sky at the end of the world, with the falling of the figs from this tree. The fig tree in this story is a reminder of the two kinds of human being: those who give and those who take. Those who only take have to justify their existence. To accept Christ's message is to be open to conversion. ■

REFLECT

March 19th is the day we celebrated one of the great Saints in our Church, St. Joseph. He was the consistent presence in the background of the Gospels, where Jesus found his home, his stability, his growth and learning and wisdom. Joseph the silent worker, preaching by his actions, preaching by his simple presence.

Francis of Assisi once invited a young friar to go with him into town to preach. Francis and the young friar spent all day walking through the streets and then came home. When the day's journey was done, the young friar was disappointed and asked "Weren't we supposed to preach today?" Francis replied, "Son, we have preached. We were preaching while we were walking. We were seen by many and our behaviour was noted. It is of no use walking anywhere to preach unless we preach wherever as we walk!" He summed up his idea in these words, "Preach the Gospel everywhere, and if necessary, use words." To him witnessing to Jesus wasn't merely quoting some words out of the Bible from time to time but one who lives by the word of God each day.

The gardener in the Gospel asked the owner of the vineyard to give the barren fig tree another chance to produce fruit. He promised to dig around it and manure it, to give it one last chance to prove itself. It suggests that we too need to nurture our faith and commit ourselves to being helpful to the lives of others.

Perhaps like St. Joseph, we're that simple presence – offering hope and comfort and love to those around us. ■

SAY

Lord, if we possessed a part of the patience that you give to us, then this world would be transformed.

LEARN

'Lent is a season of conversion and a time of freedom.' (Pope Francis)

DO

Take the opportunity this Lent to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



HASLEMERE
HINDHEAD
CHIDDINGFOLD

Parish Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent - 23rd March 2025

In the early years of the seventeenth century John Donne, of recusant Catholic stock and later an Anglican clergyman, married Ann, the daughter of Sir George More of Loseley Park. His *Holy Sonnet 14*, penned not many years later is amongst the poems provided in the liturgy of the hours for the season of Lent.

This Sunday the liturgy urges us to the work of repentance – of turning away from sin and earthly things (the lesser goods of this world) and setting our hearts on God and the things of heaven. The parable of the fig tree teaches us that an opportunity is there for us ('now is the favourable time') but that we should not hang around. Paul, writing to the Christians of Corinth, urges them not to rest on their laurels and take things for granted. In the coming weeks we will hear a reassurance of mercy, but this week we are confronted by the urgency of the work of conversion.

Donne's sonnet recognises how hard conversion and true repentance can be. We are reluctant to let go of what we know, even if we sense that it might not be good for us, or that it is getting in the way of something so much better. Perhaps in our prayer this week we might simply pray for God's help to rely on him more deeply.

***Batter my heart, three-person'd God, for you
As yet but knock, breathe, shine, and seek to mend;
That I may rise and stand, o'erthrow me, and bend
Your force to break, blow, burn, and make me new.***
*I, like an usurp'd town to another due,
Labor to admit you, but oh, to no end;
Reason, your viceroy in me, me should defend,
But is captiv'd, and proves weak or untrue.
Yet dearly I love you, and would be lov'd fain,
But am betroth'd unto your enemy;*

The Holy Season of Lent

Stations of the Cross Every Friday 6.30pm during Lent at Our Lady of Lourdes. Please do come along and join us.

Holy Year Penitential Service Friday 11 April - with Bishop Richard, 7pm St Joseph's, Guildford.

Lent Small Groups – 'We Dare to Hope' The Lent groups are up and running and you are still very welcome, you will be warmly welcomed even if you can only come along to occasional sessions.

St Teresa of Avila, Chiddingfold: **Sundays 10.30am** at Gill Kenny's house [9 Ash Combe, Chiddingfold

St Anselms, Hindhead: **Mondays (2-3.30pm)**

Our Lady of Lourdes (Garden Room), Haslemere **Tuesdays 7-8.30pm**

House Group **Wednesdays 2pm** (Frances Clayton) Shillinglee Park House, GU8 4TA

Ladywell, Godalming on **Friday Afternoons** starting. Tea and coffee from **1.30pm**. godalming@abdiocese.org.uk

Easter Lilies. You are invited to donate a Lily to those, living or deceased, whom you wish to remember at Easter, Please take an envelope and return with the name and donation in the collection plate. Lists of those names will be placed in the Church for prayers to be offered. The lilies will be used for our Easter display. As there will be no service at St Anselm during Easter itself the Lilies will be put in place the following weekend.

If you are going to use the Digital Collection Plate, please write the name of the person/s for whom you are making the donation on the list at the back of the church.

Adoration and Confessions at St Joseph's, Milford at 10am on Saturday 29th March.

There are some small **CTS Going to Confession cards** available at the back of church. Please do take one if you think it would encourage you to celebrate this wonderful sacrament.

Worth Abbey is offering internships to men aged between 18 and 35 to help them deepen their spiritual search and tune in to God's loving presence in their lives. <https://worthabbey.net/interns/>

Upcoming Retreats at the Franciscan Centre Ladywell 28th-30th March: Understanding Scripture, Jesus' Journey to God – The Passion in Luke. 17th-20th April: Easter Triduum Retreat. <https://franciscancentre.org.uk/upcoming-events/>

Livesimply at **St Edmund's** in Godalming are inviting us to join with them in supporting CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2025 and commit to walking 5k each day for the 40 days of Lent. They are aiming to walk 9000 kms which is the distance between Godalming and Marsabit in Kenya (which is the focus of this year's CAFOD Lent fast day story) donate online at [St Edmunds JustGiving page](#).

Youth Discipleship Group Every other Friday from 7pm-9pm for young people in Year 11 to 13. The next session is on **28th March**. For info or sign up:

DavidBeresford@franciscancentre.org.uk

Young Adult Jubilee Pilgrimage to Rome Join our pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate the special Jubilee year. Celebrate with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope.

lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk

for information. CLOSING DATE 31 MARCH

P/T Parish Admin Asst vacancy in Guildford parish 5h pw. Info: <https://www.cpg.church/jobs.html>

Please pray for Suzanne, Paul & Tristan who have completed the Rite of Christian Reception and will be received into full communion by making a Profession of Faith, receiving Eucharist and being confirmed on **Sunday 6th April** at Our Lady of Lourdes.

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers for the Easter Period at Our Lady of Lourdes. Please do sign up if you can help. Sign up sheets are at the back of all churches.

Communion under both kinds. We are planning to resume this practice of Communion under both kinds after Easter. To make this possible, we will need additional Eucharistic Ministers. If you are interested in serving in this ministry or can recommend someone, please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Jonathan.

The 100 Club is one of the main ways in which the whole Parish can continue to raise money on a regular basis for charitable donations. The cost of one ticket is £5 per month but you can have more than one ticket plus there is a chance of winning a cash prize.,£150, £100 & £50. Forms are available at the back of the Churches.

Associates of the Daughters of the Cross Would you like to learn more about the role of an associate? Associates are women and men who respond to a call from God to Gospel holiness. They maintain individual lifestyle, but they pledge support to the Daughters of the Cross — their mission, ministries and spirituality. Inspired by the example of Blessed Marie Therese, the founder of the Congregation, they aim to serve the crucified Christ in his most suffering and weakest members Associates takes a covenant, or promises, to the mission of the Congregation. They re-

Parish Steering Team – Join us in Leadership

Do you have a gift for vision and leadership and a calling/passion to help support and grow your parish? We are looking for volunteers to join the Steering Team for the new larger parish and work alongside the priests to develop our parish mission in the light of to the Diocesan Pastoral Plan.

Through this role, you can help us to shape the long-term parish vision, foster faith renewal initiatives, support project implementation and build a collaborative leadership culture.

We are looking for parishioners with a commitment to prayer and mission; a collaborative mindset; a decision-making capability and a willingness to travel between parish hubs. Four-year term positions available for Chair, finance lead, and hub representatives.

For further details speak to Fr Jonathan or see the Terms of Reference in the blog post on the Godalming parish [web-site](#)

spond in their own personal lives to the critical needs of our time: care of Earth, anti-racism advocacy, justice for women, justice for immigrants and nonviolence.

To learn more about the role of an Associate please contact :Sister Cecilia at Marie Therese Convent. Holy Cross Hospital Haslemere.

New Stock in the Repository We have Lenten reading material for all ages, Easter cards and gifts, First Holy Communion gifts and cards, Mothering Sunday cards, also a variety of rosaries. Please do come and browse after the 11am Mass.

Some Holy Year Events

Saturday 5th April Jubilee of Sick and of Healthcare Workers. We are blessed by a large number of people who dedicate themselves to the care of the sick. We are blessed by a large number of people who dedicate themselves to the care of the sick. At St Joseph's Guildford.

Walsingham Jubilee Year pilgrimage with Bishop Richard **Friday 6th to Sunday 8th June** To find out more and book: abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/ocoptzuo

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (24 July to 1 August), is led by Bishop Richard, and if you're thinking of going there's more info and forms at: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>.

Holy Year Pilgrimage to Rome Fr Jonathan will lead a pilgrimage to Rome from 17th to 21st November, organised by JC Journeys. To book see <https://www.jcjourneys.com/irj> or ask the parish office for a paper form. Cost £975

Godalming Community Gospel Choir Easter Concert 29th March at 7.30pm at SS Peter & Paul. Adults £10, children free. For info: www.gcgc.org.uk

The Godalming Choral Society is performing Mendelssohn's Elijah at Charterhouse Chapel at 6.30pm on 30th March tickets@godalmingchoral.org.uk

Pope Francis' prayer intention for March is for families in crisis, that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, re-discovering each other's gifts, even in differences.

Donation by QR Code

You can give to our parish (including any current appeals) by using the Digital Plate, our [Parish Website](#) also by using the QR Code which is displayed at all our churches.



Live Simply Tips

The Great British Spring Clean - 21st March to 6th April – get some exercise, enjoy the outdoors and pick some litter.

Please Pray For

The sick: Michael Gaul, Robin Dibden, David Craddock, Charlotte Lindsay, Malinda Gabuya, Derek Blades, Martin Parker, Henrietta Lenahan (Holt), Veronica Slocock, Arul Salathian, Diana Molyneux, Louise Milford, Hazel O'Flynn, Abigail Stafford Johnson, Livy Miller, Louise Reeve, Patricia Reidy, Jo Allen, Jane Adolph, Carmel & Roland Murray, Teresa Marshall, Alberto Costantini, Sebastian Codlin, and Betty Harding.

The Deceased: Magdalena Hern, Kitty Berneider, Charles Jury, Amy O'Mara and May Butcher.

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday 22 Mar	6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 23 Mar THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Monday 24 Mar	11.30am Mass (Holy Cross)
Tuesday 25 Mar THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 7pm Mass St Edmund's (Godalming)
Wednesday 26 Mar	9.00am Mass (Holy Cross)
Thursday 27 Mar	7.30am Mass (St Edmund's, Godalming)
Friday 28 Mar	10am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes) 6.30pm Stations of the Cross (Our Lady of Lourdes)
Saturday 29 Mar	10.00am – 11.00am Adoration and Confessions (St Joseph's, Milford) 6pm Mass (St Anselm)
Sunday 30 Mar FOURTH 'Laetare' SUNDAY OF LENT	9.00am Mass (St Teresa) 9.30am Mass (Holy Cross) 11am Mass (Our Lady of Lourdes)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.*

Or

*When I prove my holiness among you,
I will gather you from all the foreign lands;
and I will pour clean water upon you
and cleanse you from all your impurities,
and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.*

COLLECT

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Exodus 3:1-8a. 13-15

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Psalm 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8. 11. R. 8a

R: The LORD is compassionate and gracious.

1. Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.
Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. **R.**
2. It is the LORD who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R.**
3. The LORD does deeds of justice,
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses,
and his deeds to the children of Israel. **R.**

4. The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-6. 10-12

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ACCLAMATION BEFORE THE GOSPEL Matthew 4:17

R: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Repent, says the Lord,
for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

R: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.

Amen.