



Parish of Effingham and Fetcham
Our Lady of Sorrows and Church of the Holy Spirit

Parish Team:

Fr Charles Howell and Deacon Ian Wells

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Live-stream on YouTube "Effingham and Fetcham Catholic Parish":

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLGeHumF6yae4QGCSVg0UA>

A Very Warm Welcome to Parishioners and Visitors

3rd Sunday of Lent

Sundays: Cycle A Weekdays: Year II 8 March 2026



Jerusalem vs Samaria?

Today's gospel is the encounter between Jesus the Jew and the Woman of Samaria, at Jacob's Well in the Samaritan Town called Sychar. There are examples in the Christian world where, in honour of this original holy place, other healing springs or wells are given the name Jacob's Well, which is how the village just north of Guildford got its name.

The dialogue between Jesus and the Woman is engaging and entertaining, sassy, spiky, sparky, and sarky - where is your bucket, Sir! But we only truly grasp the tension and fizz of this encounter when we remember the mutual hostility and prejudice between the Jews and Samaritans at the time of Jesus. (...For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans...) Jesus is treading on multiple red-lines here: not only a Samaritan, but a woman of ill-repute coming to draw water at midday (= the sixth hour = the wrong time to carry water) hoping to avoid meeting anyone. And in doing so Jesus announces a radical new reality that we still haven't fully grasped. **Holiness is, first and foremost, located in *people* and not *places*.** Jerusalem or Samaria – who cares? What matters is Spirit and Truth.

As I write this, Christians, Jews, and Muslims, all of us Children of Abraham, are at war across the Middle East and beyond. We might apply the same principle. Rome, Canterbury, Arundel, Westminster, Lourdes, Medjugorje, Jerusalem, Mecca, Medina – who cares? What matters is Spirit and Truth. Let us pray that all people of Spirit and Truth may rise up, and by their very presence sanctify their own place and time.

Prayers for us all,

Fr Charles

This Week

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Summers RIP** who died earlier this week and remember her family in your prayers too. Details of her funeral will follow in due course.

The Right Revd Andrew Watson, Bishop of Guildford died earlier this week. Please pray for his wife and family and those who knew and worked with him, including many of our Churches Together friends.

Evensong at St Teresa's. This will be celebrated at **5.30 pm on Wed 11 March** in the chapel at St Teresa's School. Parishioners are most welcome to join the choir, students and parents for this service. There is no need to book just come along.

Next Week

Advance Notice: Mothering Sunday is next week (the 15th March!)



Faith Discussion Evening, Wed 18 March 6-8pm. At St Teresa's School, an

evening of thought-provoking discussion, fellowship and spiritual insight, led by Fr Toby Lees, Fiorella Nash and the Franciscan Friars of Renewal. Topics being discussed include "how to grow Faith in our modern world, How AI and how social media is making it worse and does St Francis still have anything to teach us?" Why not come along and have an evening of stimulation. There are flyers at the back of the church.

Lent

Sacred Silence in the Liturgy of the Word

This Lent we are introducing Sacred Silence within the Liturgy of the Word. There will be a few pauses for reflection between the readings. Please simply follow the cues given by the reader and Fr Charles. This valuable practice will soon become second nature in our parish.

Service Times During Lent

At CHS

Wednesday Mass at 12 noon
Stations of The Cross at 11.30 am
Divine Mercy Chaplet after Mass

At OLOS

Saturday Mass at 6 pm
Stations of the Cross at 5.15 pm

As usual, we are seeking volunteers to lead the Stations and Divine Mercy. Sign-up sheets will be at the back of the church again this weekend.

Lent Reconciliation Service

On Friday 27th March we will be hosting a joint service with Cobham starting at 7.30 pm. There will be a number of priests available to hear your Confession.

The Life of Jesus in Art

Churches Together are hosting five evenings at St Alphege Hall on Mondays through Lent, **the third in the series is THIS MONDAY**. The talks will look at the Spiritual and Historical significance of the various events in Jesus' life, from his Baptism to his Resurrection, as recorded through great Christian paintings. Questions will be welcomed throughout. **The evenings will start at 7 pm with refreshments.**



The new **CELEBRATE Family Activity Pack for Lent** is now available to download

from <https://www.celebratetrust.org/onlinefamilyactivitypacks>. There are engaging ways to

count down the days in Lent, reflective prayer and discussion, craft, games, books and movies to help families draw close to God. CELEBRATE has also



created a **Lent game 'Journey to Easter Joy'** - which encourages children to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving, in fun and interactive ways this Lent. Available to download at <https://www.celebratetrust.org/celebrate-prayer-resources>

Leatherhead Parish are now running a Lent group on Thursdays 7.30-9 pm in the Parish Meeting Room.

The group will be following the "Bible Timeline: The Story of Salvation". For more info, please click on the link: <https://ascensionpress.com/collections/the-bible-timeline-the-story-of-salvation-2025>.

What's Happening in the Deanery this Lent?

For a deanery-wide calendar of activities for Lent, please see the deanery website: www.epsomdeanery.com/lent2026

Alpha Youth



Got questions about life, faith, and what it all means?

Alpha Youth continues at St Michael's in Ashted, offering a chance for young people in school Years 7–9 to explore big questions in a relaxed, friendly space – with food, videos, and real conversations. The 2nd session is this Friday, starting at 6:30pm (approx. 2 hours per session) in St Michael's Catholic Church Hall. No question is off limits. Visit <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/alpha-youth-at-st-michaels-tickets-1980904089456?aff=oddtcreator>

General

Recent Second Collection Result
 CAFOD Lent Fast Day.....£898.18
 Thank you for your generosity

Abortion Legislation. Please pray for the House of Lords as the Crime and Policing Bill reaches the Report Stage in the Upper House. Our particular concern is clause 208. While seeking to remove women from the criminal law in relation to their own pregnancy the unintended consequence of this clause would be to encourage high-risk late-term self-administered procedures. More details, including campaigning and lobbying tools, can be found on the SPUC website: <https://www.spuc.org.uk>

Gift Aid Donor Envelope Boxes for 2026-27

Gift Aid donors who utilise envelopes will find their boxes of envelopes for the next tax year at the back of each church for collection. These envelopes should be used from the weekend of the 11th/12th April. If anyone has any queries the Gift Aid Organiser for the parish can be contacted by email at: GA.Effingham@ABDiocese.Org.UK



Children's Storybook. Experience Mary Magdalene's heartache, and then her joy in this beautiful retelling of the Easter story. Written by one of our parishioners, Madeleine Carroll, with striking illustrations, bringing the Easter message vividly to life. Price £4 each.

Where Can I find Help? Posters are located at both OLOS and HS. There are also leaflets at the back of each church to take away.

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick:	
Derek Barham	Janet Morgan
Marie Bliss	Jim Morgan
Christopher Browne	Brenda Parker
Mary Doran	Maureen Rennison
Pat Hammond	Bernard Shaw
Mary Hefford	Jenny Smith
Maddy Hewitt	Peter Stevenson
Valeria Kucharsky	Maggie Thomas
Joanna Mills	Ian Williamson
Ann McEntire	

This Week's Services and Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil	07 Mar	6.00 pm	OLOS	Tony Farino - RIP
Sunday	08 Mar	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	08 Mar	11.00 am	HS	The Wood and Daly Family – RIP
Monday	09 Mar	NO MASS		NO MASS
Tuesday	10 Mar	9.15 am	OLOS	Tony Farino - RIP
Wednesday	11 Mar	NOON	HS	Jean Wood - Thanksgiving
Thursday	12 Mar	9.15 am	OLOS	Zoe & Hazel – RIP, Ben & Thomas for comfort
Friday	13 Mar	NO MASS		NO MASS
Saturday Vigil	14 Mar	6.00 pm	OLOS	Martin Grant - RIP
Sunday	15 Mar	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	15 Mar	11.00 am	HS	Jose & Juanita Argame - RIP

HS = Holy Spirit, Fetcham OLOS = Our Lady of Sorrows, Effingham

Most Masses from both our churches are live-streamed on YouTube at "Effingham and Fetcham Catholic Parish" <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFLGeHumF6yae4QGCSVg0UA>

Confessions	Saturdays 5.00-5.30 pm OLOS, Effingham 1st Sunday of the month after 11.00 am Mass HS, Fetcham
Adoration	Thursdays following OLOS 9.15 am Mass to Noon, then 2-6 pm
Children's Liturgy	1st & 3rd Sundays of the month in term time at HS, Fetcham 11.00 am

Next Week: 4th 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

1Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a | Psalm 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R.1 | Ephesians 5:8-14 | John 9:1-41



Please get Newsletter items to the Parish office by 10.00 am Wednesday

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