



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

Parish Team:

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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

4th 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent

Sundays: Cycle C Weekdays: Year I 30 March 2025



This Sunday we listen to one of the most challenging yet beautiful Gospel passages - The Prodigal Son. As we will hear, the prodigal son came home empty handed. He had no trophies to show his father, no achievements with which to earn his praise, his welcome, and his love. He was a failure. Worse – he was a sinner. He deserved to be punished – and he knew it. Yet punishment was the last thing he needed. To punish him would be like pouring water on a dying fire.

What happened? When his father saw his lost son coming towards him, his heart went out to him, and the next minute they were in each other's arms. It is an extraordinary experience to be loved in one's sinfulness. Such love is like a breeze to a dying fire, or rain falling on parched ground. Those who have experienced this kind of love, know something about the heart of God. So, this wonderful parable reveals how steadfast is the heart of God. God's heart doesn't blow hot and cold. God never closes his heart to any of his children. No matter how far from home they may wander, no matter what they do, if they come home, the one thing they can be sure of is a warm and generous welcome.

God bless,
Deacon Ian

This Week



This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. We wish all mothers and those with a mothering role a lovely day.

Volunteers needed: Holy Week readers, and adults and children for Foot Washing! Please use the sign-up sheets at the back of church. Thank you.

Change to Mass this Week. On **Tues 1st April** the Mass time will move to Noon.

Please pray for **Michael Hogg** and **Graham Smith** who are preparing for the Easter Sacraments. At the Easter Vigil this year Michael will be Baptised and Graham will be received into full Communion with the Catholic Church. Both will then be Confirmed and receive First Eucharist.



Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law – THIS Thur 3 April, 6.30 pm. The Catholic Union is holding a [webinar](#) on

the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes. Please register your attendance [here](#) and the zoom link will be sent to you in due course. Read more about the event [here](#).



Lenten Movie Night. Enhance your Lenten journey with this *incredible true story of St Faustina and the message of Divine Mercy* - **Sat 5th April, 19:00 - 21:00, St**

Alphege Hall (Effingham). Everyone welcome - just turn up! Bring a small plate to share if you wish. Snacks and drinks provided.

Also, save the date: Divine Mercy Sunday 27th April, Holy Hour at 3 pm at HS. More details on this and the Divine Mercy Novena to follow next week.

Lent

SERVICE TIMES DURING LENT

Wednesdays at HS

Stations of the Cross - 11.30 am

Mass - Noon

Divine Mercy Chaplet follows Mass

Saturdays at OLOS

Stations of The Cross - 5.15 pm

Vigil Mass – 6 pm

LENT TALKS. Fr John Seddon's fourth talk is **THIS Wednesday 2nd April from 7.30-9.00 pm.** (The remaining topics Fr John will cover are Life after Death and Objective Truth.) Tea and Coffee will be available from 7.00 pm in St Alphege Hall. Please let Chris know chris@tailby.net if you are coming so we can arrange for the correct number of handouts.

LENT LUNCHES. Organised by Churches Together in Effingham and **held in St Lawrence's church hall**, the last lunch will be **THIS Wed 2nd April** and is hosted by our Parish. **The lunch starts at 12.30 pm.**

CELEBRATE'S LENT PACK FOR FAMILIES. Designed to support family faith life. Get your free CELEBRATE Lent online family pack [here](#).

'MY GOOD DEEDS - A LENTEN CHALLENGE'. A few hard copies are still available in church. See how many good fruits you can grow this Lent. Then bring to church and pin it onto the display board during Holy Week.

Next Week

The funeral service for **Richard Lake RIP** will be on **Tues 8th April** at 11.00 am at OLOS with a reception in the hall afterwards.

Do and Raise will be selling some little chicks with chocolate eggs and some Easter flower boxes after the Masses next weekend, 5/6 April. Cash sales only. Money raised will be donated to LeatherHEAD START.

Taizé Prayer at St Lawrence's Effingham. On Sunday 6th April at 6.00 pm. You are warmly invited to this reflective, quiet, contemplative service of Bible readings, prayer and praise in the style of the Taizé Community.

Forthcoming



SAVE THE DATES!

Carpet of Flowers/Corpus Christi Mass'

Following the success of last year's Parish visit to Arundel Cathedral we propose repeating it this year. The date is **Thursday, 19 June**. As last year, we will hire a coach and allow time for you to see the Carpet of Flowers and attend the Corpus Christi Mass celebrated by the Bishop. We will then join the Procession to the Castle and end the day with Benediction. We plan to leave OLOS at 2pm and return by 9pm. If interested in joining us, please reserve the date and we will gather names nearer the time. We will be limited to 50 people, the coach capacity.

Fr Charles's Silver Jubilee

On **Sunday 29th June** the parish will be celebrating with Fr Charles the 25th anniversary of his Ordination to the Priesthood. We plan as a Parish to mark this occasion with a Mass at 11 am at HS, followed by a Reception at Oakfield School.

General



Can you help? Volunteers are needed to help Elizabeth serve tea and coffee after the 9 am Mass on Sunday mornings. If you'd like to lend a hand, please have a word with her or email the parish office: effingham@abdiocese.org.uk. Thank you.



Red Missio Boxes. Calling all Red Box holders at OLOS – please bring in your boxes and leave them on the shelf outside the Sacristy so they can be counted – by end of April. Thank you.

**Easter Triduum
One liturgy – three days**



The times are as follows (all at HS):

- Maundy Thursday - 8pm
- Good Friday - 3pm
- Holy Saturday - 8.30pm

While the Triduum is not of obligation, it is without doubt the most important liturgy of the entire year. Be there if at all possible. It is the celebration that leads us to understand the heart of our faith, who we are, and why we do what we do.



Easter Cards for Sale. We now have some lovely Easter cards for sale at both churches, at very reasonable prices. Please put your money in the slot.

Please pray for all those in our Parish who are sick:

Derek Barham	Janet Morgan
Marie Bliss	Jim Morgan
Christopher Browne	James Nicholls
John Donovan	Sue O'Connor
Mary Doran	Brenda Parker
Sandra Flynn	Maureen Rennison
Mary Hefford	Bernard Shaw
Maddy Hewitt	Jenny Smith
Joanna Mills	Maggie Thomas

This Week's Services and Mass Intentions

Saturday Vigil	29 Mar	6.00 pm	OLOS	Anna Maria Conway - RIP
Sunday	30 Mar	9.00 am	OLOS	Shanks Family
Sunday	30 Mar	11.00 am	HS	People of the Parish
Monday	31 Mar	NO MASS		NO MASS
Tuesday	01 Apr	**NOON**	OLOS	Val Luthwood – Private Intention
Wednesday	02 Apr	11.30 am	HS	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Wednesday	02 Apr	NOON	HS	Holy Souls - RIP
Thursday	03 Apr	9.15 am	OLOS	Pauline Farino - RIP
Friday	04 Apr	NO MASS	HS	NO MASS
Saturday	05 Apr	5.15 pm	OLOS	STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Saturday Vigil	05 Apr	6.00 pm	OLOS	Bob & Anne Bowley - RIP
Sunday	06 Apr	9.00 am	OLOS	People of the Parish
Sunday	06 Apr	11.00 am	HS	Sharon Patefield - RIP

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

All Masses from OLOS 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
Chaplet of the Divine Mercy	Wednesdays in Lent at HS following Noon Mass
Children's Liturgy	1st & 3rd Sundays of the month in term time at HS, Fetcham 11.00 am

Next Week: 5th Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43:16-21 | Psalm 126(125):1-2b.2c-3.4-5.6.R.3 | Philippians 3:8-14 | John 8:1-11



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

Arundel and Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878