

Pews News



22 March 2026: Lent V
Today's Services:
10:00 Mass with Junior Church
followed by Annual Church Meeting

Welcome to
Guildford St Nicolas Parish Church
Rector: Canon Neil Roberts

Children are welcome here

Please do not worry about children making noise or moving around. Junior Church is for children aged 4-11 and takes place next door during the service. Younger children are welcome to join if accompanied by their grownup or they are equally welcome to stay with us in church. If you haven't been to us before, adults please follow the Junior Church team out with your child and they will make you feel very welcome.

Making yourself comfortable

Kneelers can be found in the narthex or under the back pews. If you need to use the toilets in the Parish Centre during the service, a sidesman will unlock the Centre for you. Please join us for refreshments in the hall afterwards before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting which starts at 11:30.

Safeguarding

St Nicolas' is committed to providing a welcoming, respectful and safe environment for all, including children and adults who may be at risk of abuse and neglect. The care and protection of children, young people and adults involved in church activities is the responsibility of everyone who participates in the life of St Nicolas' Church. If you are concerned that someone is at risk of, or is being abused, or presents a risk to others, please contact Jo Radley or Jill Sandham on safeguardingteam@saintnics.com

Please be aware that our services are generally live-streamed so if you do not wish to appear on camera, please sit in the designated rows. The congregation will not be filmed during the distribution of the Sacrament.

PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS THIS WEEK

Tuesday 13:30 - 18:00 * Thursday 08:30 - 18:00 * Friday 13:30 - 18:00

parishoffice@saintnics.com 01483 564526

This week's services, readings & intentions/parish streets

M	12:00 Streaming of Bishop Andrew's Funeral Service	John 8:1-11	The Firs, The Mount
Tu		John 8:21-30	Walter Hilton, Paul Couturier, Oscar Romero The Piccards The Ridges
W	10:00 Morning Prayer	Luke 1:26-38	Annunciation of Our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary The Valley Rive Turnham Close
Th	10:00 Morning Prayer	John 8:51-end	Harriet Monsell Upper Guildown Rd Upperton Road
F	10:00 Stations of the Cross 11:00 Mass	John 10:31-end	Walnut Tree Close West Mount
Sat		John 11:45-end	Wherwell Road Wodeland Avenue Woodcote
Next Sun	08:30 Holy Communion (BCP) 10:00 Palm Sunday Mass & Procession from GURC		Palm Sunday

Today's Services

10:00 Mass with Junior Church: Celebrant: The Rector; Preacher: David Greenwood

Voluntary: Passion Choral - *Johannes Brahms*

Processional: Hymn 393 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

Mass Setting (choir): Messe Basse - *Gabriel Faure*

Reader: Daniel Vines **Reading:** Exodus 17:1-7

The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these

bones live?’ I answered, ‘O Lord GOD, you know.’ Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD.’ So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, ‘Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.’ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, ‘Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, “Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.” Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.’

For the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130: (sung responsively)



1. Out of the depths I cry to / you O Lord.

Lord / hear my voice:

O let your ears / be at-tentive

to the voice / of my pleading. **R**

2. If you O Lord should mark what is / done a-miss

Lord who / would survive?

But with you is / found for-giveness,

therefore you / shall be feared. **R**

3. My soul is waiting / for the Lord,

I count / on God's word.

My soul waits / for the Lord

more than the watchman / for the morning. **R**

4. O Israel / wait for the / Lord

for with the Lord / there is mercy:

and fullness / of re-/ demption.

and he shall redeem Israel from / all their sins. **R**

Reading: Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law – indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

For the Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual: Hymn 66 Forgive our sins as we forgive

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it, he said, 'This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.' Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble, because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.' After saying this, he told them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.' Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow-disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.' When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.' When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary, and told her privately, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to

him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?' Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.' Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him.

Intercessions

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Korea.

Diocese: The Parish of St Mary's Oatland.

Those who have asked for our prayer: Holly Gregory, Edward Wild, Jeremy Pedrick, Chrissie Patterson, Ruth, Andrew, Julia Wake, Jerry Floyd, Rodney More, Louis Remillard-Lam and Jeremy Whittaker.

The Recently Departed: Bishop Andrew.

The Year's Mind: Lee Beasley, Percy Reginald Lobb (Rector), David Worthy, Brian Taylor (Rector), Iain Davidson, Derek John Sayer (priest) and Robert John Stares.

Offertory: Hymn 461 There's a wideness in God's mercy

Anthem: Ex ore innocentium – John Ireland

The words are those of Hymn 84

Voluntary: O Mensch, bewein' dein' sünde gross – JS Bach

Live Streaming Link

Our YouTube livestream: <http://youtube.com/@SaintNics>



This Week / Next Week

10:00 Mass with Junior Church followed by 08:30 Holy Communion (BCP)
by Annual Church Meeting 10:00 Palm Sunday Mass & Procession
from GURC

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector
Reader: Daniel Vines
Intercessor: Caroline Coleman
Chalice: Hilary Fletcher
Sidespeople: Jill Sandham, Rory Fenner
Coffee: Angela Goodwin, Debs Tizard

On Duty @ 10am

Celebrant: The Rector
Reader: Cath Anderson
Intercessor: Donald Thompson
Chalice: Catherine Ferguson
Sidespeople: Patrick Andrew, Peter Oldroyd
Coffee: Cath Anderson, Pauline Oldroyd

This Week's Notices

Bishop Andrew's Funeral

Bishop Andrew's funeral will be held at the Cathedral tomorrow, Monday 23rd March at 12 noon. We will be streaming it for people in Guildford Deanery and look forward to hosting people to join together in worship and remembrance. **Would you be available to help that day by greeting visitors, serving coffee, etc? Please let Fr Neil know today if you can help.**

We continue to use this prayer for Bishop Andrew:

Heavenly Father, we give you thanks for Andrew, our brother and bishop:
for his faith and faithfulness to you in life and in leadership.

As we mourn his death and commend him to your loving arms,
give us the same faith, hope and love rooted in the death and resurrection of your son, Jesus.

We pray especially for Beverly, Hannah, Sam, Joe, Lydia and the whole family.

Comfort them with your Holy Spirit and protect them in their grief.

And bring us, at the last, with Andrew and all your children,

to that eternal joy where you live and reign in glory forever,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fridays in Lent

You are welcome to come to all or some of our **Fridays in Lent:**

Coffee Shop from 10

10 Stations of the Cross

11 Mass

12 Lent Lunch

1 Lent Study Group

A resource for use throughout the year is the Church of England app 'Everyday Faith'. It provides daily reflections, including selected Bible readings, a simple prayer to prepare you for the day ahead, and thoughts based on a weekly theme. See details here

<https://www.churchofengland.org/faith-life/exploring-faith/everyday-faith#na>

Lent Study Group

'Living the Mystery of Faith' focuses on Matthew's Gospel and has been compiled by the Diocese of Chichester. The booklet is available on this link <https://www.chichester.anglican.org/documents/lent-course-2026/>

In the final session of our Lent study group, we come to the great turning point in Matthew's Gospel. Jesus takes the disciples to a place steeped in pagan worship and asks them the most important question: "Who do you say I am?" Peter responds with a glorious affirmation of faith. But then he cannot accept what Jesus tells him: that being the Messiah means suffering and death. He wants a victorious king, not a suffering servant.

This week, we will consider via Matthew 16:13-20 this tension and how it is easier to love a Christ who gives a crown but much harder to follow a Christ who shows us the way to the cross.

Join us at 1pm on Friday, 27 March as we conclude our Lenten journey through Matthew's portrayal of Jesus and His ministry.

Father Neil

150th Anniversary Composition

We are very excited to be commissioning a piece of music for St Nicolas' 150th anniversary by the Guildford composer and world renowned Will Todd. Music has played an important role in the very fabric of our church from hymn writing Rectors to the present. **I am therefore inviting sponsorship opportunities for this important project which will be used, I am certain, for the next 150 years. If you would like to make a contribution to the estimated cost which will be around £6000, then please have a quiet word with me.**

Fr Neil

Good Grief Club

The next meeting of our bereavement support group is at The Cosy Club this Thursday, 26th March at 2pm.

Keeping the Church Open

Could you help to keep the church open to visitors? We need at least 2 people each weekday morning from after Morning Prayer at 10am until midday. Hilary has a rota and needs more volunteers, **particularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays**. If you are able to help, even occasionally, please let her know or email parishoffice@saintnics.com

Rosary - an Introduction

If you would like to learn more about the Rosary and how to use it in prayer, then one evening after Easter the Rector will be leading a short introduction. If you would be interested, please sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

Open Church Day - Wednesday 1st April, 11am-3pm

Open Church is a new way of doing Messy Church for families. As we know, Messy Church has been incredibly successful but we need to encourage the whole family to be involved rather than just for children. Is anyone able to help with our Open Church Day on Wednesday 1st April? If anyone has an activity they would like to lead, a short time slot would be great, eg tour of the church, learn to knit, bicycle maintenance, prayer activity, craft activity, Bible study Nicky is open to suggestions. Please get in touch with her if you would like to know more and have any ideas.

Nicky Geraghty missionenabler@saintnics.com 07903028299



**ST NICOLAS
GUILDFORD**

OPEN CHURCH

1ST APRIL

11AM-3PM

with **MESSY CHURCH**

OPEN DOORS, OPEN HEARTS - COME IN AND EXPLORE.

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE.

11am	Easter Reflection for adults with Fr Neil Easter Messy crafts
11:45am	Intergenerational worship
12pm	Lunch - pay what you can
1pm	Guided meditation
2pm	Devotional tour of the church

For full details on all activities, please visit our website.

www.saintnics.com

Annual Church Meeting

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place TODAY in the Hall after Mass. See the noticeboard in the narthex for all the notices relating to the meeting.

Tuesday Group

At Tuesday Group this week, Catherine Ferguson will be giving a talk on the history of St Nicolas' Church. This is a slightly shorter version of the talk she gave in January, the first of our 150th Anniversary lectures. Tuesday Group would particularly welcome anyone who would like to join them at 10am for this most interesting talk.

The Bishop of Guildford's Lent Appeal

The Bishop of Guildford's Communities Fund was first set up in recognition that pockets of poverty can exist in the most unlikely places – relational and spiritual poverty alongside physical deprivation. Our funding comes mostly from collections at special bishop-led services (confirmations, licensings and the like) and the Lent Appeal. Given that the Trustee body is voluntary and does all of the administration involved, all of the money that is given goes directly towards its charitable purposes.

Last year we raised around £28,000 in all, which enabled the Fund to support projects run by parishes or church-linked organisations providing real practical support to the communities they serve. Ten grants ranging from £500 to £3,000 helped fund meals for the vulnerable, cafés for the isolated, youth and community workers and other wellbeing initiatives.

We urgently need to continue this work, not least at a time when charitable funding in general has been on the decrease and community need on the increase. Your generosity can bring hope to those who are struggling - people living with disabilities, battling mental ill-health, facing financial hardship, or experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage. Even a small gift can make a big difference, offering dignity, hope, and a brighter future.

It is so important that we all make a special effort this Lent to remember those less fortunate than ourselves and to support a wide range of initiatives through which the Church lives out the sheer 'goodness' of the Good News of Christ. Thank you in advance for your support.

Bishop Andrew

Please support Bishop Andrew's cause by donating in the wallbox in the narthex, to our bank account (see below for details) or please ask to use the card reader.

Salvation Army Food Bank

The Salvation Army welcomes your donations which can be left in the box near the font. If you are able to contribute, it will be very much appreciated. They particularly ask for tinned food.

Support

To support St Nicolas' Church, please make a bank transfer using the details below. Donations to our Good Cause can also be made direct, using the reference 'Good Cause'. Thank you.

PCC of St Nicolas Sort Code: 60-09-21

Account No: 59904003

We are members of the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), designed to support funding of our mission and ministry. The service allows you to:

- Give One-Off amounts by Credit/Debit cards & Apple/Google pay wallets
- Give monthly, quarterly or annually by Direct Debit
- Sign up to inflation-linked giving annually
- Enhance your gift by having Gift Aid at 25% added to your giving
- Give securely and donate anonymously, if you prefer
- Scan the QR Code which will take you direct to our page on their website



<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/guildford-st-nicolas-guildford/>

GUILDFORD USA SINGERS



Songs for Easter

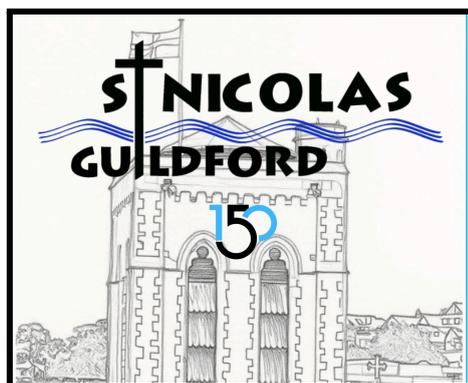
on
Wednesday 25 March
2.00 p.m.

at
ST NICOLAS CHURCH
Bury Street, Guildford GU2 4AW

Entry is free
Voluntary retiring collection towards Church funds

u3a





150th Anniversary Programme

A few highlights - more dates to follow

- Holy Week & Easter** We will be joined by The Right Reverend Peter Hancock
- Thursday 7th May**
7:30pm Lecture: Dr Michael Shapland, senior archaeologist
University College, London
The Hill of the Dragon: A medieval wayside shrine and regional assembly site by St Catherine's Chapel (in the Parish Centre)
- Thursday 4th June**
8pm Corpus Christi Mass - preacher, Fr Victor Stock, former Dean of Guildford Cathedral
- Saturday 20th June** Midsummer Dinner with comedian Paul Kerensa
- Thursday 8th Sept**
7:30pm Lecture: Charles O'Brien FSA
"The Ugliest Church in Surrey?" - a reassessment of St Nicolas' and its Victorian designers
- Friday 25th Sept** Gospel Choir Concert as part of Guildford Jazz Festival
- Sunday 4th October** Dedication Festival Mass & Lunch
- Tuesday 10th Nov**
7:30pm Lecture: Canon Nicholas Thistlethwaite
Victorian Church Music

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 23rd March

12 pm Live Streaming of Bishop Andrew's Funeral

Wednesday 25th March

2 pm U3A Guildford Singers Songs for Easter concert

Friday 27th March

from 10 am Coffee Shop

10 am Stations of the Cross

11 am Mass

12 pm Lent Lunch

1 pm Lent Study Group

Sunday 29th March : Palm Sunday

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Palm Sunday Mass & Procession from GURC

Monday 30th March

8 pm Mass

Tuesday 31st March

8 pm Mass

Wednesday 1st April

11 am - 3 pm Open Church Day

8 pm Mass

Thursday 2nd April : Maundy Thursday

8 pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper, Stripping of the Altars &

Washing of Feet, followed by the Watch

Friday 3rd April : Good Friday

7 am Morning Prayer

1 pm The Liturgy of Good Friday

Saturday 4th April : Holy Saturday

7:30 pm Easter Vigil & First Mass of Easter

Sunday 5th April : Easter Day

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Easter Sunday Mass

Sunday 12th April : Easter II

10 am Mass

Saturday 18th April

7:30 pm Guildford Opera Company Spring Concert

Sunday 19th April : Easter III

8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP)

10 am Mass

Thursday 23rd April

7:30 pm Curry & Questions

Friday 24th April

8 pm Fizz & Friends

Saturday 25th April

7:30 pm Harlequin Chamber Choir Concert

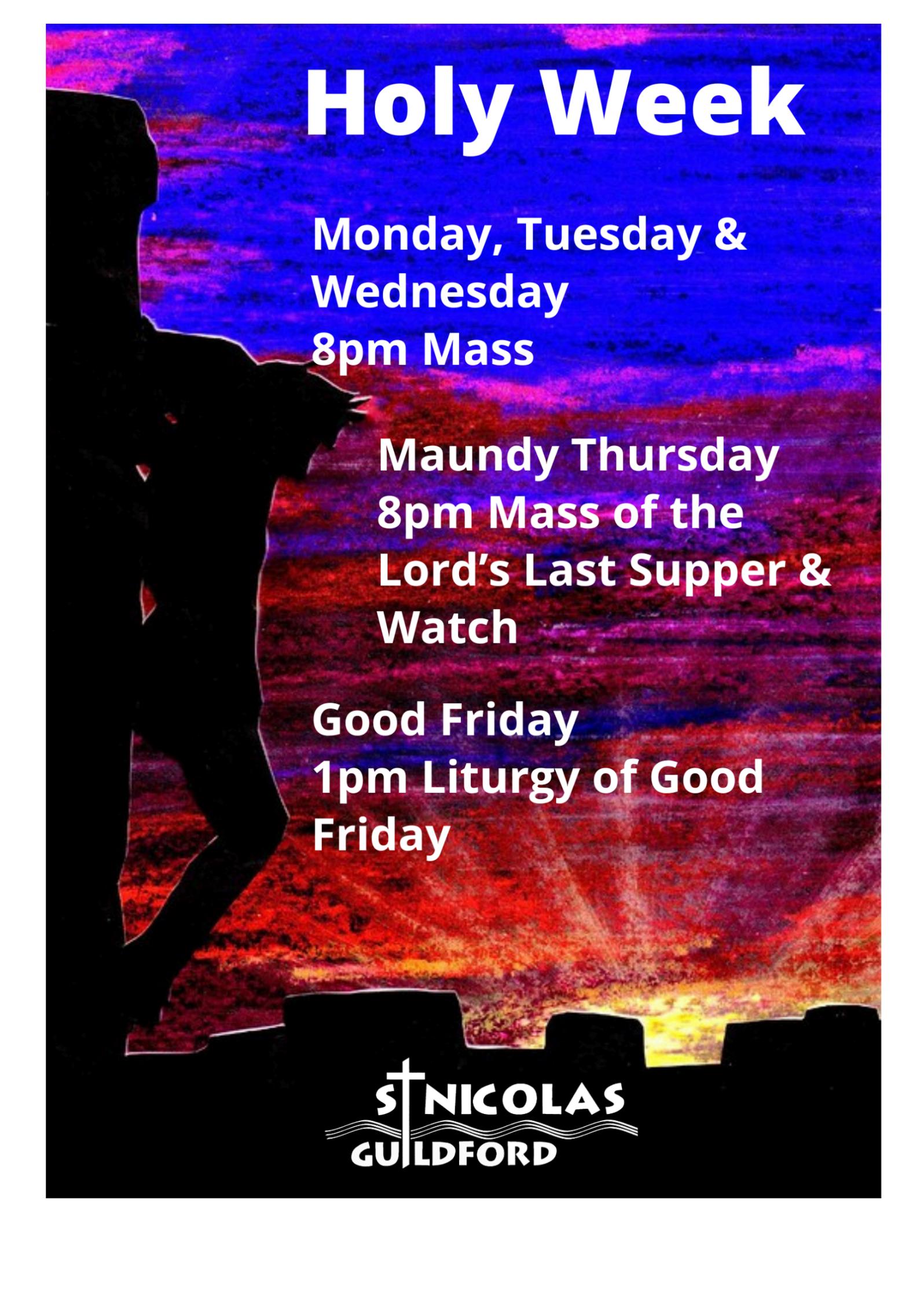
YOUR SOCIAL CALENDAR

Fizz & Friends Fridays	24th April	22nd May
	26th June	17th July
Curry & Questions	Thursday 23rd April	
Beer & Banter	Saturday 11th April - time TBC	

THIS WEEK

22 - 29 March 2026

Sunday	10 am Mass with Junior Church followed by the Annual Church Meeting 1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy
Monday	10:30 am – 12:00pm Zero@St Nics Community Fridge 12 pm Streaming of the Funeral Service of Bishop Andrew
Tuesday	10 am Tuesday Group <i>Guest Speaker: The history of St Nicolas' Church</i>
Wednesday	10 am Morning Prayer 10 am Café Play 2 pm Guildford U3A Singers 'Songs for Easter' Concert
Thursday	10 am Morning Prayer
Friday	10 am Stations of the Cross 10 am – 12:30 pm Coffee Shop 11 am Mass 12 - 1:30 pm Lent Lunch 1 pm Lent Study Group
Saturday	
Sunday	PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Holy Communion (BCP) 10 am Palm Sunday Mass & Procession from GURC 1 pm Romanian Orthodox Divine Liturgy



Holy Week

**Monday, Tuesday &
Wednesday
8pm Mass**

**Maundy Thursday
8pm Mass of the
Lord's Last Supper &
Watch**

**Good Friday
1pm Liturgy of Good
Friday**

**ST NICOLAS
GUILDFORD**

Easter

Holy Saturday

7:30pm

**Easter Vigil & First
Mass of Easter**

Easter Day

10am

**Mass with
Children's**

Easter Egg Hunt



**ST NICOLAS
GUILDFORD**