

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 Twenty-Second Sunday (C)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217

Email: maidstone@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Liam Gallagher

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Pawel Sobol

**Deacon:** Rev. Ian Black

**Parish Office hours:** 9.00am – 12.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

## **Catholic Schools**

St Francis Primary School: Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 771540

St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park, Maidstone, ME16 0JP 01622 754551

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If you have ever hosted a big meal or party to celebrate a great event, then you

will have written up a guest list. Nobody randomly goes out and invites complete strangers but people who are significant in our lives. As you write the list you realise that setting a limit can be difficult – where do you draw the line? It can also get political. A wedding guest list is probably the best example. Receiving an invitation should make us feel honoured to have been asked but maybe sometimes we feel it is to be expected. Most wedding receptions begin with a sit down meal

and people look for their names on a chart outside the hall. There is of course the top table with bride, groom and parents. Placing the rest of the guests can also be difficult – it can seem that your significance is shown by how close you are to the top table, so naturally grandparents will be closer to the top than maybe a work colleague. It doesn't matter who is there or where they are sitting but the hosts, bride and groom have a duty to show appreciation to all who have turned up. Jesus had been invited to a meal in today's Gospel – where do you think he was sitting? Do you suppose he went straight for the top table presuming he should sit there? Or do you think he stood and waited to be placed? We would tend to wait rather than be presumptuous about a high place and we would put this down to proper social etiquette. Christ is raising such behaviour as necessary for the virtue of humility – the desire to put everybody first. That is how we act with honour. Wherever Jesus was placed, it was the place of honour. The reason being is that it is not the place that honours the guest, but it is the guest that honours the place – and wherever Jesus is, that is the place of honour. Whoever we invite, we must believe we invite Christ himself and whenever we are a guest, we must act as if Christ – that is where the true honour is found.

**NEW ARRIVAL:** We are delighted to announce that another priest has been appointed for our parish of St. Francis. Father Damian Esene, currently serving in Camberwell but originally from Nigeria, will be joining us from 9<sup>th</sup> September. I know our welcome will be warm and encouraging.

**THANK YOU AND FAREWELL:** To Fr. Cajetan Ihewulez who has been with us for the past 5 weeks while Fr. Liam and Fr. Pawel have been away on holiday. Fr. Cajetan is Rector (Head Principle) of a seminary in Nigeria for his community of the Spiritan Fathers. We give him all due gratitude for his faithful service this past month and ask for many blessings upon him in his role back home.

**LIGHT FEVER:** The next Light Fever will be on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019, following the 8pm Mass, until 11pm. Everyone is urged to come and pray in the church with the Blessed Sacrament for at least some of the time. For anyone who doesn't know what happens, hymns and meditations are being sung/read while people pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Passersby are invited into the church to light a candle and sit and pray or talk to someone/a priest in the porch. It is an incredibly powerful experience and all you have to do is be there! Please do come.

**TEA AND COFFEE:** We are very grateful to all who give an hour of their time every Friday for Adoration and our Parish Adoration Team who organise it. They now wish to invite everybody for tea, coffee and cakes after Saturday 10am Mass in St. Clare's room next Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The funds raised will help go towards literature and various resources that we provide for people to help them during their hour of prayer, so please do come and join us. Everybody is invited but this will give a good opportunity for all adorers to meet up together. Also if you think you can give one hour every Friday between 7am-10pm for prayer at our church then please do come along and speak to one of the team members.

**ARE YOU SEEKING AN ANSWER TO YOUR MANY QUESTIONS? R.C.I.A WILL HELP YOU:**

If you are a non-Catholic or know somebody who is non Catholic but wishes to find out more about the faith; or maybe you are baptised a Catholic but have not progressed any further with Confirmation, then let us invite you to come to our R.C.I.A. group. **The 1<sup>st</sup> session is on 10<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm in the Priests' House.** If you think that this is something you would like to do then please approach one of the clergy after Mass and they will be happy to help you. There is no commitment in enquiring.

**PARISH SUNDAY LUNCH:** A Sunday lunch has been arranged for the parish for 22<sup>nd</sup> September at Mumu's. It will be £20 per head. If you wish to come for what will be a splendid afternoon feast of friendship then please give your payment in an envelope marked clearly with your name in to the parish office.

**CALLING ALL CHILDREN AGED 4 TO 11:** You are invited to join our group called **Fledglings** - a group of children, aged 4 to 11, who attend a variety of primary schools and are united by being part of St Francis' parish community. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month, sometimes in between, for games, crafts, activities and to learn about our faith, with a team of leaders and our priests. We meet at St Francis Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB. Children may be left at 10 am and collected at 3pm, but can

generally fit around another Saturday activity. All that is required is a smile and something for a shared lunch. For further details please ask a member of the Clergy Team or one of the musicians at Mass. **The next meeting is on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2019**

**FLAME YOUTH GROUP:** will be resuming their weekly meetings on **Saturday 7th September 2019** at 6pm. Further details are available from the clergy.

**WANT TO MEET UP?** All are very welcome to come, meet new people and have some fun.

First Monday of the month - 11.00am Bowling at Lockmeadow

Second Monday of the month - after 10.30am Mass there is coffee in The Society Rooms

Every Monday 1.30pm – 3.30pm there is Scrabble at Leah's Bistro in the High Street.

Every Wednesday 10am -12pm - Line Dancing in the URC Hall down Week Street.

Please contact the parish office for more details

**CHAPEL CHALLENGE:** The future of our priesthood depends upon the existence and upkeep of our Seminary, St John's near Guildford Surrey. It is where the past three Parish Priests of St. Francis studied and has been responsible for the formation of priests for 125 years. They are now looking for some help with the cost of re-decoration and refurbishment of its Chapel, dedicated to the Sacred Heart. There are no funds available for this much needed work which will cost in the region of £350,000. If you can help in any way, please send a cheque made payable to 'St John's Seminary' addressed to: Mgr Gerry Ewing, St. John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford, Surrey, GU5 0QX. Any contributions are gratefully received, thank you. Photographs of the condition of the Chapel can be seen in the church porch.

**FEED THE HUNGRY:** You may wonder where all your generous donations end up being used. Apart from supporting the Day Centre in Knightrider Street to look after the homeless, our parish supports families who, having struggled to pay their bills, have little left for food. Help is also now being given to ease the transition of those who are being housed after years on the streets. Education, in terms of prioritising bills, health care and reducing dependency on drink/drugs is greatly assisted by donations of bread, milk, toilet rolls, washing capsules and tinned meat, apart from other goods. Petty theft has also shown a marked reduction as people become part of the community rather than on the edge. Please continue with your very valuable donations. Furniture, household goods and toiletries are also very welcome. Any questions may be directed through the clergy or the musicians at Mass. Thank you.

<b>Last weekend:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection:</b> £1,401.61 <i>plus an average of £330 Standing Orders</i> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:</b> £411.17	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b> Church Hall Development Fund <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection next week</b> Catholic Education Services
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <b>Parish Lottery winner – Week 9 – Number 243 – Prize £15</b>	

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	9.00am	<i>Gerry Holliday RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Hugh, Phyllis and David Cronk RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Agnes Houghton RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>June Wood RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b> St Gregory the Great	10.30am	<i>Denise RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Requiem Mass: Sally Watson</i>
<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Jane and James Bowen RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Tolu Akintonde RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.00am	<i>John Whooley RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Bernard Burns RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Tommy Farrell RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Henry and Susan Simmons RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>June Wood RIP</i>

**Confessions:** Monday – Friday 10am – 10.15am

Saturday 10.30am – 11.15am, 5.30pm – 5.45pm

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament:** Friday 7am – 10pm

**Rosary:** Monday – Saturday after morning Mass

**Morning Prayer:** Every Saturday 9.30am

**REQUIEM MASS:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 10.30am is a Requiem Mass for Sarah (Sally) Watson. May she rest in peace.

**We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

John Penney, Rose Larkin, Sheila Humphrey, Joseph Byrne, Ellen McDonnell, Patricia Gorse, Angela Angiolini, Adele Hardingham, Francis Doyle, Timothy Buckley, Joseph Hoy, Denis Freeman, William Gilliard, Tony Fosberry, Andrew Delaney, Michael Senatore, Alice Pound, Marjorie O’Leary, Shaun Hilliard, Isobel Hargreaves, Eileen O’Neill, Loftus Jackson, Rimantas Balciunas, William Grigsby, Violet Honey, Helen Thomas and Alice Harkin.