

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 3rd February	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>For parents of deceased children</i>
	9.00am	<i>Pollicelli Family RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
	12.30pm	<i>Tridentine Mass</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Mary Faherty RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 4th February	10.30am	<i>Angela Kenney RIP</i>
Tuesday 5th February	10.30am	<i>Denise RIP</i>
Wednesday 6th February	10.30am	<i>Jessie Beasley RIP</i>
Thursday 7th February	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 8th February	10.30am	<i>Robert and Patrick Moore RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Wanda Lapham RIP</i>
Saturday 9th February	10.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Sunday 10th February	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Ellen and Eric Braconnier RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Pablo and Lola Navarro RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	10.45am	<i>Carolina Denicola RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	(Preston Hall) 9.00am	<i>Keith Gordon 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*

LECTIO DIVINA: Please note that, due to Adoration taking place every Friday, we will no longer be holding Lectio Divina on Wednesday evenings.

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

Edith Pointer, Harry Wright, Maria Abbasi, Lena Guy, Hugh Cameron, Doreen Ingrams, Norah Jones, Gerry Cullen, Patrick James, Catherine Collins, Patrick Delaney, Hannah Williams, Brian White, Myra Campbell, Charles Mill, Dorothy Snowden, Joseph Chow, Pietro Pia, Shaun O'Hara, May O'Connor, Noel Nolan, Tony Plumbly, Richard Hammond, Anne Dooner, Lydia Bennett, Carmela Pirozzolo, John Homewood, Alfred Sancto, William Pointer, Phyllis Greenwood, Philip Hook, Teresa Di Marco, Joan McCormick, Maria Minns, Juliette Baynton.

DOWRY TOUR OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM: St George's Cathedral, Southwark 21st-23rd February 2019. Full Tour schedule at www.dowrytour.org.uk

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd February 2019 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (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: Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 771540

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

LOVE IS.....

There is little excuse for being unaware of certain days and seasons that are approaching, especially if you walk down the high street. Shop windows are arrayed with displays telling to get ready for the next public celebration. As soon as New Year had arrived, the decorations were down and shop windows had turned red and filled with love hearts – getting ready for Valentine's Day. Traditionally we associate the day with 'young love' – when the experience of having a strong attraction for somebody else is so fresh and exciting. In fact, many cards are anonymously sent. It's not often that couples who have been married for a long time use Valentine's Day with such vigour to show their feelings towards one another. They have an anniversary where they are called to remind one another of the happiness in living out the vows they made to one another at their wedding. Yet in all these items associated with Valentine's Day, we will always see a red love heart – but why a heart? We associate our heart as what gives us life, so love in its truest meaning is a complete giving of one's life for another. It is not just a feeling of excitement you get when you're near another person – but it is a daily choosing to embrace and live by the virtues that we hear at St. Paul's letter in the second reading, 'Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous, boastful or conceited; it delights in the truth, always ready to excuse and to endure whatever comes. Love does not come to an end.' This passage is a classic for wedding ceremonies and it is a clear message to the couple that love does not fade with the exciting honeymoon period or only exists in the good times of life but that every day of their lives it must grow stronger. God is love and God is eternal, therefore love is eternal. St. Valentine, who is often ignored on his feast day, is a third century martyr who expressed a love that reflects the perfect love of Christ shown by choosing to give his life because his love for Jesus Christ was so strong – Are we ready to be people of love and literally give our hearts and life for the one who we must more than anything – Jesus Christ? If you are a married couple and want to use St. Valentine's day well, please see the notice in the newsletter about a special gift you can give each other.

ADORATION: Our continued thanks to everybody who have committed to one hour every week to come and be with the Lord every Friday. Please consider what extra time of prayer you wish to give- Adoration provides us with a wonderful opportunity to be with the Lord. If ever you wish to come to Adoration but feel you need guidance or direction in prayer, then there is a booklet that you are welcome to use as you enter the church with certain prayers and meditations that may be useful.



DO WE HEAR WEDDING BELLS? 2019 may be the year that you plan to get married. Many Congratulations if that is so. Please remember that there is a lot of preparation that needs to take place so you are required to inform the church at least six months before the actual wedding date. If you plan to celebrate your wedding at another church then that is fine but all preparation for our parishioners must take place here at St. Francis. Please approach one of the clergy here and they will happily guide you.

A WONDERFUL ST. VALENTINE'S GIFT: Dear married couples. You can give each other a gift for St. Valentine's Day by exploring your relationship more deeply to gain valuable insights into your communication. Couples who have attended the course have noted the positive changes it made to their marriage. There is no group sharing and this is not marriage counselling or guidance but a chance to make your marriage even better. Please contact 07983524727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

FLAME 2019: In conjunction with St. Simon Stock School, the Parish will be taking a group of young people to Flame 2019 at Wembley Arena on Saturday 2nd March. They will be joining with over 10,000 other young people from all over England and Wales. It will be a day of praise, music and celebration of our faith, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. If you are aged 15-18 and would like to join us please contact Deacon Ian via the Presbytery (note or email). We only have a very small number of places so it will be on a first come basis.

JUST IMAGINE: if you entered a church that was dirty and untidy – what would you think? That this building is not important to the people who attend here and work here to leave it in such a state? That is not the message we wish to give our community – a clean and tidy church is a very welcoming sight. We are, therefore, truly grateful to all who volunteer their time to clean the church, but they always welcome more help. If you think that you can give some time to help our church continue looking so clean and pleasant, then please come to the church 4pm-6pm on Friday. Even if you cannot make every Friday, I am sure the times you can make will be gratefully accepted. If you think this is a way you can serve your parish then please speak to one of the clergy. Many thanks.

FEED THE HUNGRY: There is still a need for the usual items especially toilet rolls, bio washing capsules and crisps. Thank you.

ANY CHILDREN WHO ARE AT PRIMARY SCHOOL? - They are very welcome to come and join our parish Fledglings Group which takes place every month on a Saturday 10am – 3pm at St. Francis School. The next session will be on Saturday 16th February. They will meet up with other children of our parish to learn about their faith, make new friends and have lots of fun.

HOSPITAL VISITS: Sometimes a parishioner may have been in hospital for a certain amount of time as a patient but we haven't been aware. May we ask that if you are going to be in hospital and you would like a visit, then please let the clergy know. Never think, 'Oh they are too busy and they don't want to worry about me.' Ministry to the sick was frequent in the Mission of Christ and we, as the Church, carry that on. Thank you for your help.

GIFT AID: Please inform Dennis Edwards (Gift Aid Coordinator) if your tax situation has changed (i.e. 'I have stopped paying tax on my income'). Please make contact through the office or via the office email. Thank you.

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS: The next prayer vigil is on Friday 15th February 2019 following the 10.30am mass at St Francis- rosary & prayer outside the Marie Stopes Abortion Clinic, Brewer St. Return for refreshments at about 12.30pm. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at the end of mass and during the afternoon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church. Thank you for your prayers and support.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE: Karting Event 2019 Thursday 25th April from 5.45 pm Buckmore Park, Maidstone Road, Chatham, ME5 9QG. The cost of £300 per team of three includes 90 minutes endurance driving per team and a hog roast buffet. For full details please visit www.hokh.org or contact Claire Whybrew on 01622 790195 – claire.whybrew@hokh.co.uk

PARISH FILM NIGHT: We are delighted to announce that we will be holding one of our popular film nights. We are planning to hold this on a Thursday evening late April/early May at the upper cinema room in MUMUS. Len Watson will be showing a selection of clips from some great films and then giving a commentary on them. Before we book this event we need an indication of the how many people would be interested in attending. A form will be available in the Church porch which we ask you to complete and hand it into the Parish Office ASAP – if you like cinema you will definitely enjoy this particular event. Entrance £7pp – All proceeds to Church and Hall Development Fund.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE: Have breakfast for Heart of Kent Hospice 21st – 24th March Catch up with family, friends or colleagues over breakfast and help to support the outstanding care that Heart of Kent Hospice's nurses provide to patients and their families. Why not organise a breakfast or get your team at work to join you for breakfast. For further details or to download our toolkit or to see the list of all participating cafes and restaurants were certain breakfast items will add a donation to Heart of Kent Hospice please visit www.hokh.org. Contact us on breakfast@hokh.co.uk or call us on 01622 790195.

Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1,429.72 <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i> 2nd Collection -Area Bishop's Fund: £385.96	2nd Collection today: Church & Hall Development Fund 2nd Collection next week DEW Association: Philippines Orphan Children
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 5 – Number 88 – Prize £15</i>	