

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

5<sup>th</sup> May 2019 Third Sunday of Easter

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217  
Email [maidstone@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@rcaos.org.uk) Website [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk](http://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

## QUEEN OF THE MAY



Traditionally we remember the month of May as the month of Mary. This Sunday at the end of the 9am Mass, we shall be having a procession around the Church with the children and will crown Our Lady's statue.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The church car park at the bottom of County Road will be closed all day on **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May** for essential maintenance.

**LENTEN TALKS:** Thank you to all who attended. The final one entitled – “The Joy of Salvation” will be on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm in the church.

**MONEY TALKS:** Very soon we will be making available our Gift Aid envelopes for the new coming year so please get ready to take your envelopes home with you. This is the appropriate time to express our sincere gratitude towards our Finance Committee who give so much of their expertise and time for our parish to help us with our building and maintenance and also keeping our accounts updated and in order. They are also responsible for the organisation of our Gift Aid scheme, for which the new envelopes will be available for very soon for the new year. We wish to also thank everybody who are part of this scheme to help with our parish income every year. If you are a tax payer, but not yet part of our gift aid scheme, then please ask about being included for this coming year.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?** This Easter we were delighted to receive and welcome Stephen into the Catholic Church. Stephen, like so many others over the years journeyed through the R.C.I.A group who meet on a Tuesday evening. It is for any non-Catholic who wishes to ask questions or find out more about the Catholic faith or if anybody is thinking about the possibility of becoming a Catholic. We are very grateful to our Catechists who give their time and share their faith with others and guide our enquirers through their own personal journey. Thank you to them. We shall be starting our sessions again from September so if you think that this is something you would like to do then please approach one of the clergy at the end of Mass and they will be happy to help you.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** During the month of June we will be celebrating our First Holy Communion for our children. Please note that if you have a child who is currently in Year 2 or above of school ( will be at least 8 years old by the end of August 2020) and you would like them to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2020, then applications forms will be made available in the near future. Please note that applications can only be made through the parish and not St. Francis school.

**ADORATION:** Please don't forget that we have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday from 7am – 10pm. If you wish to give one hour every week to the Lord in silent prayer then please give your name to one of the clergy and the hour you are able to commit to. Thank you all again.

**FLEDGLINGS:** We are 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 Francis Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB. Children may be left at 10 am and collected at 3 pm, but can generally fit around another Saturday activity. All that is required is a smile and something for a shared lunch. For details please ask a member of the Clergy Team or one of the musicians at Mass. **The next meeting is on 18<sup>th</sup> May.**



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**PARISH TRIP:** Booking deadline 17<sup>th</sup> May for the trip Mount Ephraim Gardens, near Faversham, on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May. This is to help raise money for the Church Hall Development Fund. Included is a private tour of the gardens and afternoon cream tea. You are asked to drive your own car and possibly car share. £25 per person. Arrival time 1pm. Gardens close 5pm. Marked envelopes including your contact details should be handed to the parish office stating 'Mount Ephraim Trip'. Cheques payable to 'St Francis Parish'.

**HEART OF KENT HOSPICE SUNFLOWER APPEAL:** Our annual Sunflower Appeal provides friends and families with the chance to remember their loved ones by dedicating a sunflower marker in their memory. We would like to invite you to come into the Hospice (Preston Hall , Aylesford ME20 7PU) from 11.00 am – 1.00 pm on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> June to appreciate our garden and view the sunflower markers which will be blessed in a short service at 11.30 am. Please consider dedicating a sunflower in memory of your loved ones. Dedications and donations can be made on line by visiting [www.hokh.org](http://www.hokh.org) or by picking up a dedication form at one of our shops or at Hospice reception or by calling us on 01622 790195.

**MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** July 13<sup>th</sup> at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible. Get in touch with the parish office and provide your names, the anniversary you are celebrating, your home address, email address and telephone, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop.

**MASS FOR VOCATIONS:** 6pm on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Celebrate the Mass and join the Catenians at Frederic's Cafe, in Market Buildings for dinner. Contact the Parish Office if you are able to come. There is limited seating, so please let us know a.s.a.p.

**FEED THE HUNGRY:** Please continue to send regular donations of crisps, toilet rolls, milk and bread. Your generosity is really appreciated. Thank you.

**DEW ASSOCIATION:** Thank you for your great generosity in the funds you raised to help cyclone victims in Zimbabwe, and for helping us to make a positive difference to people who are in great need.

**CAFOD Volunteer Day:** Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 9.30 – 14.30 Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. This volunteer meeting will include an opportunity to hear a first-hand account of our work overseas and an introduction to our new Climate Campaign "Our Common Home". We will finish the meeting with a Laudato Si-inspired Creation Mass. For more information and to book a place, please contact Sarah Cadwallader on 0208 466 9901 or email [southwark@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwark@cafod.org.uk)

<b>Last weekend:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection:</b> £1,801.80 <i>plus an average of £295 Standing Orders</i> <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:</b> £583.81	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b> Church Hall Development Fund <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection next week</b> Ecclesiastical Education
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 18 – Number 2 – Prize £15</i>	

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 5th May</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Lydia Bennett RIP
	9.00am	Soledad Godinez RIP
<b>(HMP)</b>	10.15am	Holy Souls
	10.45am	Maria Antonia Cacciacarri RIP
	6.00pm	Eric and Rita Emerson RIP
<b>(Preston Hall)</b>	9.00am	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 6th May</b>	10.30am	Alfred Houghton RIP
<b>Tuesday 7th May</b>	10.30am	Pat Deasey RIP
<b>Wednesday 8th May</b>	10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Thursday 9th May</b>	10.30am	Pauline Gilman RIP
<b>Friday 10th May</b>	10.30am	In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.
	8.00pm	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
<b>Saturday 11th May</b>	10.00am	Stuart McLeod RIP
<b>Sunday 12th May</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Mass for Vocations
	9.00am	William Joseph RIP
<b>(HMP)</b>	10.15am	People of the Parish
	10.45am	Peter, Paddy, Brian & Bernard Collins RIP
	6.00pm	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
<b>(Preston Hall)</b>	9.00am	Alan Porter RIP
<b>Confessions:</b>		<i>Monday – Friday 10am – 10.15am</i> <i>Saturday 10.30am – 11.15am, 5.30pm – 5.45pm</i>
<b>Exposition of Blessed Sacrament:</b>		<i>Friday 7am – 10pm</i>
<b>Rosary:</b>		<i>Monday – Saturday after morning Mass</i>
<b>Morning Prayer:</b>		<i>Every Saturday 9.30am</i>

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

Florence Ludgate, Luis Parra, Marion Cistone, Patrick Groarke, Blodwin Wilson, Mary Walsh, Oliver Egan, Elizabeth Hales, Antoine Salerno, Vicente Abaco, Eddie Paul, Mary Gorman, Christopher Maurice, Peter McBennett, Chris Willson, Margaret West, Shaun Ellesmere and Margaret Colyer.

**REGINA CAELI:** At the Sunday 9am and 10.45am Masses during the Easter Season, instead of the 'Hail Mary' at the end of the bidding prayers, we shall sing the 'Regina Caeli' – the words of which are below with interpretation.

*Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;*

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

*Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,*

The Son you merited to bear, alleluia

*Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:*

Has risen as he said, alleluia.

*Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.*

Pray to God for us, alleluia