

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 6th January	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Private Intention</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Private Intention</i>
(Preston Hall)	6.00pm	<i>Robert Augustine D'Souza RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Elizabeth Batty RIP</i>
Monday 7th January	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 8th January	10.30am	<i>Catherine Collier RIP</i>
Wednesday 9th January	10.30am	<i>Marianne Esther Corfe RIP</i>
Thursday 10th January	10.30am	<i>Teresa Dias De Franca RIP</i>
Friday 11th January	10.30am	<i>Charles Johnstone RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Denise Boddington RIP</i>
Saturday 12th January	10.00am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
Sunday 13th January	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Virgie & Frederick D'Silva RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Private Intention</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Private Intention</i>
(Preston Hall)	6.00pm	<i>Private Intention</i>
	9.00am	<i>Alan Crowe 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*

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

James Fury, Rita Shine, Patrick Tunbridge, Mary Temple, Leonard Childs, Andrew Maher, Anna Deeley, Kathleen Dominey, Joseph Kane, Albert Bruce, Margaret Ewers, Charles Knott, Baby Amy Eiffert, Margaret Lockyer, Charles Woolley, Joseph Callaghan, Maria Scott, Catherine Sevenoaks, Patrick Capon, Janet Willis, Anne Ryan, Mary Chown, Annie Roche, Tony McCarthy, Jenty Millen, Noel Kirgan, Kenneth Wade, Catherine Collier, Jana Scholefield, John Ratcliffe, Peter Appleby, Doris Bell, Alice Henderson-Bell, Jim Jaques, Emily Fisher, Baby Marcie Durban, Mabel Finn, Monica Casey, Teresa de Franca, Maria Fernandez and William Mendez

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

6th January 2019 The Epiphany of the Lord (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

WE THREE KINGS

'...Some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising. It went forward and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary and falling to their knees they did him homage. (Matthew)



DEEPEST GRATITUDE: The clergy of St. Francis wish to express their sincere thanks for all the cards and gifts they have received from so many of you. Thank you ever so much. Once again, the preparation and hard work of various people has enabled all of us to celebrate the Season of Christmas with great joy and reverence. Thank you to all who prepare the church with cleaning, maintenance, crib scene and flowers. All looking beautiful! Appreciation also to ministers, servers and choir who give their time generously and allow our services to run so smoothly. This is just a taste of what so many do for us throughout the whole year. It was especially delightful to see such a large attendance this Christmas – the proper way to celebrate the birth of Christ. Fr Liam and Fr Pawel also thank you for the generous Christmas offering of around £7,300.

FEED THE HUNGRY: We have constantly asked for any contribution people can give throughout the year for the poor and needy of our local community but strong attention had been given to this appeal during the weeks before Christmas. The response has been staggering. Well done and thank you for the kindness and charity that you have shown by the huge amount you have donated. We can be certain that a number of people's Christmas has been made just a little bit better because of how giving you have been. There is still a need for the usual items especially toilet rolls, bio washing capsules and crisps. Thank you again.

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.



HOSPITAL VISITS: A few months ago we had asked people to help donate towards a prayer pack that our hospital volunteers would take to various wards for anybody who wished to receive them. Our thanks again for your support in this and appreciation especially to our volunteers who carry out this important service for the sick. 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.

WANT TO MEET UP? 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.
 All are very welcome to come, meet new people and have some fun. Please contact the parish office for more details.

PARISH LOTTERY –From Saturday 12.1.19 to Sunday 27.1.19 there will be collectors in St Francis church porch manning most of the masses. At St Luke's there will be an opportunity to pay and collect lottery cards on Sunday 20.1.19. We would ask everyone who currently

pays by cash to consider using Banker's Orders, or alternatively cheques. If these options are not possible please bring the correct money to insert into the envelopes provided. Thank you.

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS The next prayer vigil is on Friday 18th January after 10.30am mass at the church. Rosary and prayer outside the Marie Stopes abortion clinic, Brewer St. Return for refreshments at approximately 12.30pm. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the mass. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church.

FLEDGLINGS GROUP - The next Fledglings day is on Saturday 19th January. If you have a child who is at any primary school then 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. They will meet up with other children of our parish to learn about their faith, make new friends and have lots of fun.

SOUTHWARK DIRECTORIES: The New Southwark Directories for 2019 are now available in the Repository for only £3. These give every piece of information that you wish to know regarding the Diocese of Southwark; names and contact details of all clergy, information and statistics of every parish, all the different organisations and groups that are involved throughout the Diocese and a daily calendar which gives the dates of every feast and season of the year.

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 shall happily guide you.



NEW POST: In the near future, the Centre for Catholic Formation (CCF) in Tooting shall be advertising a post for a 'Kent Area Formation Advisor'. They are looking for a somebody with experience of Catechesis in the parish setting, preferably with First Holy Communion and with a high degree of theological literacy.

<p>Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1,684.35 2nd Collection – £488.83 Diocesan Development Fund <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i></p>	<p>2nd Collection today: Church and Hall Development Fund 2nd Collection next week Catholic Children's Society Southwark Crisis Fund (Crib Offerings)</p>
<p><i>Thank you for your generosity</i> Parish Lottery winner – Week– Number – Prize £</p>	