

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th April 2019 Fifth Sunday of Lent

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217
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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 0J 01622 754551

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

****Please note the change of Mass time for 8th April**

Sunday 7th April	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Padhraic McDonagh RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Ernest Winterhalter RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	12.30pm	<i>Tridentine Mass</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Phyllis Coatsworth RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Gerald Shepherd RIP</i>
Monday 8th April	11.30am **	<i>Funeral Mass for Christine Jeyes RIP</i>
Tuesday 9th April	10.30am	<i>Shelagh Child RIP</i>
Wednesday 10th April	10.30am	<i>Kath Topping RIP</i>
Thursday 11th April	10.30am	<i>Funeral Mass for Lira Mendes RIP</i>
Friday 12th April	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 13th April	10.00am	<i>Stuart McLeod RIP</i>
Sunday 14th April	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Private Intention</i>
	9.00am	<i>Wanda Lapham RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Donato Luisi RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Mary Holliday RIP</i>
	(Preston Hall) 9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</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:

Isabella Morgan, Mary Tolley, Mary Bowles, George Jason, William Nightingale, Barbara Akehurst, Jack Harrington, Adrian Cunliffe, Bernard Kelk, Ellen Ryan, Henry Price, Sarah McDonald, Margaret Lynch, James Powell, Mary Dunne, Maria Roberto, Clive Rugman, James Clements, John Reynolds, Elizabeth Rawlinsong, Cecilia Philp, Ronald Gorman, Horace Primavese, Lily O’Cock, Ellen Carter, Joseph Saeger, John Fenn and Thomas O’Connor.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Friday 7.15pm (In English and Polish)

REQUIEM MASSES:

The Requiem Mass for **CHRISTINE JEYES** will take place Monday 8th April 11.30am.

The Requiem Mass for **LIRA MENDES** will take place Thursday 11th April 10.30am

PALM SUNDAY: As next Sunday 14th April is Palm Sunday, both 9.00am and 10.45am Mass will begin in the area outside the priesthouse with blessing of palms and procession. Therefore there will be no parking in the driveway that morning.

PAYING FOR ANOTHER’S SIN

During the First World War, there was a small town in Russia that was experiencing poverty and starvation, so theft for food became an increasing problem amongst the people. It was announced by the General of the Army that if anybody was caught stealing any food, they shall be publicly flogged. The very next day somebody was caught stealing a loaf of bread - it was the General’s mother. They brought his mother to him and all eyes were set on him to see what he would order. He took off his jacket and shirt and offered himself to be flogged instead. He took upon himself what should have been given to another. What the woman had done mattered very much – it is a very serious sin. Yet Jesus has chosen to take this sin and all ours throughout our lives upon himself and take to the cross – an innocent victim has paid the full price. May we go and sin no more.



SOMETHING EXTRA FOR LENT: The last Lenten Session is on Thursday 11th April at 7.30pm in the Church. The subject will be “The Mystery of Love and Sacrifice”. This is open to all to learn a little more about our faith. The Sessions last no more than an hour, followed by refreshments. There will be a different speaker each week. Please support this Parish initiative. The car park will be open.

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD: What a joy it was to have the opportunity to spend some quality time with the Lord last Friday/Saturday, and how uplifting it was to see so many take up the opportunity! It's so easy nowadays to focus on the negative, but this experience gave an entirely different snapshot of religious life. From the three Masses, through the community prayers, litanies and sung chaplet to rosary meditations, ad hoc hymn singing and Light Fever, support exceeded expectations. It was good to share the experience with the priests and parishioners of neighbouring parishes and to have the young people of FLAME helping to make Light Fever such an uplifting and evangelical experience. Thank you to all who created this community experience that enhanced the spiritual well-being of our parish. If you missed out, for whatever reason, you are welcome to join us next time. 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.



EASTER LILIES: Envelopes and intention sheets are available in the porch for Easter lilies. Please put the names of your loved ones on the slips, put it in the envelope with any donation, and post through the letterbox of Grove House by Thursday 18th April. Lilies will be purchased for the Easter Masses. Any donations will be used for Masses for the Holy Souls.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR HOLY WEEK: Please could all servers who are available to serve at the Holy Week services sign up on the list in the sacristy. Also, ensure that you download from the parish website or take one of the information leaflets outlining all the times of services and rehearsals.

CHRISM MASS: Wednesday 17th April at 11.30am in the Cathedral. All welcome. The Mass at St Francis that day will be at 6.30am followed by croissants and coffee.

FEED THE HUNGRY AT EASTER: Thank you for your very kind donations which are much appreciated by recipients. Please continue to send regular donations. For Easter, we are collecting Easter eggs, biscuits, cakes and luxury items to give to the families we support locally and any surplus will go to the St Francis Centre in Poplar for disadvantaged children. There will be a special collection of these items on the weekend of 13th/14th April at all Masses.

A TIME FOR RECOLLECTION: There is an invitation for all Readers and Ministers of Holy Communion to attend a day of Recollection at St. Andrew's Church, Tenterden, on Saturday 27th April from 1pm – 4pm.

PARISH TRIP: To Mount Ephraim Gardens, near Faversham, on Thursday 30th May 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'.

REPOSITORY: A new selection of resources for Lent now available, including “Walk with Me” and “Day by Day” booklets. Easter cards are now in stock.

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 3rd 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 3 pm, 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 27th April.**



PILGRIMAGE TO LINDISFARNE FOR YOUNG ADULTS (20s and 30s): 24th April - 28th April 2019. A walk along part of St.Cuthbert's way, reflect and pray with other young adults and spend time on the beautiful island of Lindisfarne. Accommodation in basic bunkhouse near St Cuthbert's cave. Cost -£85 to cover food, accommodation. For more information email: lynnefcj@hotmail.com or find us on facebook (FCJ Young Adult Network)

CALLING ALL WOMEN 18-35 YEARS OF AGE: Are you wondering if there can be something else for you in life or ever been curious how other people live? Well you are invited to 'COME AND SEE' with the Benedictine Religious Sisters in Ramsgate over a weekend 12th-14th April. There will be time to speak to the community about their life of contemplation as well as join them for work and prayer. It is a wonderful opportunity to explore you own vocation or to simply think and pray in a very friendly and peaceful environment. To find out more about the visit then contact website www.minsterabbeynuns.org or contact email sraelrederwin@gmail.com

DEW ASSOCIATION: We would like to thank parishioners for your continued generosity in these difficult times. The second collection next Sunday 14th April to support the cyclone victims in Zimbabwe, who are being helped by the Carmelites. The area affected is in Mutare, where the Bishop is Rt. Rev. Paul Horan, who did part of his novitiate at Aylesford.

Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1,961.53 <i>plus an average of £295 Standing Orders</i> 2nd Collection: £586.68	2nd Collection today: Church Hall Development Fund 2nd Collection next week DEW Association (as above)
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 14 – Number 83 – Prize £15</i>	