

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 10th March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Terence McCarthy, Lilian & William Smith RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Maria Denicola RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 11th March	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
Tuesday 12th March	10.30am	<i>John Fitzgibbon RIP</i>
Wednesday 13th March	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday 14th March	10.30am	<i>Barbara Crisp RIP</i>
Friday 15th March	10.30am	<i>Brian McKie RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Frank Clare RIP</i>
Saturday 16th March	10.00am	<i>Stuart McLeod RIP</i>
Sunday 17th March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Bernard Collins RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Valeria Siodlarz RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Bernard Burns RIP</i>
	4.00pm (Polish)	<i>Private</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Tom Egan RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Holy Souls</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:

Mary Arrow, Josephine Baldock, Nina Driver, Bridget Banham, Gerald McMorro, Gerard Ryan, Thomas Malone, John Fitzgibbon, Jane Bates, Patrick Hogan, Christina Hyatt, Doreen Whooley, Walter Downe, Elvera Fyne, Frances Whitehead, Michael Mackie, Margaret Kehoe, George Kersey, Oonagh Porter, Sydney Mendes, Jane Dee, Mary Hull, Anne Donoghue, Alan Fairley, James Forde and Bridget Delaney

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: These will take place on 7.15pm every Friday evening during Lent. We will also be having Stations of the Cross at St. Luke's chapel, Preston Hall at 8.50am – we will reflect on two or three stations every Sunday so that by the end of Lent, we will have completed the journey

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th March 2019 First Sunday of Lent

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

WHEN TEMPTATION SHOWS WHO YOU ARE

Many centuries ago at a monastery there were three young novices who asked their Abbot some advice about how to conquer temptation. He asked them, 'If you were out travelling and found a purse filled with gold coins, what would you do?' The first replied, 'I would do my best to see that it was returned to its owner. If that proved to be impossible then I would offer it for a good cause because the money is not mine.' The Abbot then said to him, 'You are a fool!' The second novice said, 'I would keep it for myself, after all I didn't steal it and the owner was clumsy. They obviously don't miss it since it was just lying there.' The Abbot told him, 'You are a scoundrel!' The third replied, 'I have no idea what I would do until the situation came my way. I may believe I would do the right thing but the evil urge may overcome me and I might take what does not belong to me. Only by the grace of God would I resist even by taking one gold coin for myself.' The Abbot replied, Well done! That is the first important lesson about how to defeat temptation. Realising that we are weak and prone to evil means we turn to God to make us strong.'

Jesus' victory over the temptations in the desert was just a battle but not the complete war. Other temptations came his way. They continue to do so in our daily lives but God is with us in our struggles helping us to overcome them. St Augustine once wrote, 'It is through temptation that we come to know ourselves. We cannot win our crown unless we overcome, and we cannot overcome unless we enter the contest, and there is no contest unless we have an enemy and the temptation he brings.'



JOURNEY IN FAITH: On Saturday 9th March we celebrated the Rite of Election at St. George's Cathedral where hundreds of people preparing for Full Reception into the Catholic Church this Easter were welcomed by our Archbishop Peter Smith. Steven of our parish was amongst them and so we shall present him to our parish during 10.45am Mass this Sunday so we are able to support and pray for him in this final stage of his journey through Lent.

SOMETHING EXTRA FOR LENT: Lenten Sessions begin this Thursday 14th March at 7.30pm in the Church. 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.

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Please support our Fledglings children as they lead Living Stations of the Cross on Saturday 16th March at 2.30pm. You will only need to give up half an hour. Please bring your children.

PLENTY OF FISH: To help us reflect on our Lenten resolutions and as a visual reminder throughout Lent, all children are invited to write their resolutions on one of the fish at the display at the top end of the church and either pin it to the net or leave it unpinned. Our Fledglings group have started the way and now encourage all children to participate. Please do not put full names on the fish.

24 HOURS: Our church of St Francis will remain open for twenty-four hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession. This will take place from 7am Friday 29th March to 10am Saturday 30th March. Don't miss this annual event enabling us to spend 24Hrs or part of with Our Lord. Put the date in your diary now and sign your name on the list which will be available from the beginning of March.

A CHILD'S JOURNEY TO EASTER: There are worksheets for the young children to take home with them with various activities and ideas for everyday in Lent to walk with Jesus and be truly ready for Easter.

CAN YOU BE PART OF SOMETHING INCREDIBLE?: Ever since October we have been holding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday 7am – 10pm and this is thanks to the people who commit an hour every week. If you have given your name for a particular hour then please do help us by ticking your initials that are on a register as you enter the church. This is so we are able to discover where there are gaps and where we may need more support. We cannot, after all, hold Exposition and nobody is in the church. If you have not yet given your name but would like to consider giving an hour then please let one of the clergy know. The time we are especially looking for support is between 2pm-4pm. With the season of Lent especially coming our way (and the warmer and lighter days) maybe this is something you can help our parish community with. If you had originally given your name but things have changed and you are no longer able to give please let us know.



CAFOD ENVELOPES: Please take a CAFOD envelope home with you to be ready for CAFOD Fast Day, where we are encouraged to reduce or go without a particular meal for the day and the money that is saved we put in to the envelope and offer it at the second collection

on Sunday 17th March. This helps us stop, think and reach out to those in need throughout the world.

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 will be on Saturday 16th March.

FEED THE HUNGRY: Many thanks for very generous donations. We are continuing to support a number of families also Trinity and the Day Centre. Current needs are milk, bread, crisps and washing tablets. Thank you

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. Thank you for your help.

REPOSITORY: A new selection of resources for Lent now available, including "Walk with Me" and "Day by Day" booklets. St Patrick's Day cards and gifts are also in stock.

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS: You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday 29th March 2019 following the **10.30am** mass at St Francis Catholic Church, Week Street, Maidstone. 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 beginning at the end of mass continuing during the afternoon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church.

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'.*

Last weekend:

1st Collection: £1,655.98

plus an average of £275 Standing Orders

2nd Collection: £649.13

2nd Collection today:

DEW Association

(Nigerian Destitute Families)

2nd Collection next week

CAFOD Fast Day

Thank you for your generosity

Parish Lottery winner – Week 10 – Number 19 – Prize £20