

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th May 2019 Fourth Sunday of Easter (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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATIONS

We are very much looking forward to celebrating our First Holy Communion Masses next June. It's always a highlight of the parish's year and we thank very much our Catechists who give their time so generously in helping the children prepare for this great moment in their lives. We are blessed with so many children and young families in our parish and Fr. Liam would very much like the opportunity to meet as many as possible. Therefore, there will be a new format for applying for your child's First Holy Communion. If you have a child who is currently in Year 2 or above at school (will be 8 years old by 31st August 2020) and you would like them to celebrate their First Communion next year, then you are invited to receive an application form from Fr. Liam on Tuesday 25th June. The church will be open from 4pm – 7pm that day and Fr. Liam would like to meet both parent and child in the St. Clare room. As well as having an opportunity to meet you all, this will give us a chance to talk a little about the actual classes and to ask any questions you may have. There will be certain fundamental things a child needs to know before the classes actually begin in September, such as; Does the child know the name of the church they attend? Do they know what 'Mass' is? Do they know the name of the Parish Priest here? Do they know how to make the sign of the cross? Do they know the Our Father etc... This will all help the time of preparation be so much easier and happier for the child. When a child begins their classes without knowing any of these, it makes things very tough for them. The Catechists, too, have a very hard job filling up the gaps of knowledge that we expect them to already have. If the gaps in a child's understanding are too much, then it may be that the child is not ready to begin yet. May I remind the parents that when their child was baptised they promised to bring them up as the primary teachers of the faith – so please carry out this promise to help the child prepare the best way they can and grow in friendship with Christ. The application forms will only be given by Fr. Liam personally on this day – they are not available through the parish office, website or St. Francis School. Fr. Liam very much looks forward to meeting you all. Thank you.

DEACON TOM COYLE: Tom and Lyn Coyle moved last year to Chester to be near their family. Tom is a Deacon in the church there. Tom is facing a major heart operation on 17th May with a valve replacement and a double bypass. Please remember him in your prayers for a successful outcome.

MISSION APPEAL: Next weekend 18th/19th May we shall be glad to welcome the Spiritan fathers on their Missionary Appeal. They shall be celebrating each Mass and speaking of the works they do throughout the world. The second collection next weekend will be for the Missionary work of the Spiritan Fathers.

CONFIRMATION 2019: Applications are now being invited from young people in Year 9, and above, who wish to join this years Confirmation Programme, working towards receiving the sacrament in October of this year. Application forms, which contain full details about the programme, will be available after Masses. If you have any questions please see Deacon Ian, or e-mail him via the parish office. Closing date for applications is 31st May.

YOUR LAST CHANCE: There is a pilgrimage to the Holy Land planned to take place 29th September – 7th October 2019 and is advertised in a number of other parishes. Fr Liam Gallagher has been invited to be the Spiritual Leader for this pilgrimage. If you wish to travel on this magnificent pilgrimage costing £1,435, then please contact Maria who will be able to give you all the information you need. Details are on the poster in the porch and the flyer. Please note that there is a lot of walking over uneven rocky terrain involved so please put give this serious consideration

BRAVO! A big standing ovation for all who helped organise and run our most enjoyable 'Movie Night at Mumus' last week. Thank you to all who came and supported us – I know we all had a very enjoyable evening.

MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: July 13th at St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + 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.

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

MASS OFFERINGS: We need some volunteers on a Monday morning to help counting the weekends offering. If you are interested please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH TRIP: Booking deadline 17th May for the trip Mount Ephraim Gardens, near Faversham, on Thursday 30th 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 to 'St Francis Parish'.

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 18th May**



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE? The R.C.I.A group 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.

VOCATION WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN: Discernment & Vocation. 24-26 May 2019 in Liverpool. The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. **FFI contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org**

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: The fourth Sunday of Easter is traditionally celebrated as Vocations Sunday. Please use this prayer, especially over this weekend as a prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood;

God Our Father

Look in love upon our homes, our families and our communities.

Raise up from among us worthy priests,

to teach the Gospel to all people, to minister at your altar,

and to care for your flock.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit

and help us to be worthy and faithful ministers of your Gospel.

Through Christ our Lord, Amen

<p>Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1,,483.14 <i>plus an average of £295 Standing Orders</i> 2nd Collection: £565.32</p>	<p>2nd Collection today: Ecclesiastical Education 2nd Collection next week Spiritan Father's Mission</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Thank you for your generosity</i> Parish Lottery winner – Week 19 – Number 283 – Prize £20</p>	

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 12th May	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Mass for Vocations</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Peter, Paddy, Brian & Bernard Collins RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Alan Porter RIP</i>
Monday 13th May Our Lady of Fatima	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 14th May St. Matthias	10.30am	<i>Sylvia Litchfield RIP</i>
Wednesday 15th May	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
Thursday 16th May St. Simon Stock	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Friday 17th May	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Private Intention</i>
Saturday 18th May	10.00am	<i>Alvaro Garzon, Alvaro Ivan Garzon and Betty Hall RIP</i>
Sunday 19th May	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Christine Jeyes RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Kevin Maher RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Michele Zita RIP</i>
	4.00pm Polish	<i>Private Intention</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Private Intention</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Margaret O'Malley 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:

Gary Ratcliffe, Constance Good, John Collins, Dermot Barrett, Mrs Chater, Peter Floyd, Basil West, Honora Malins, James & Rebecca Hiew, Gerald Eotes, Betty Biggins, Barbara Prodgers, Ciara-Jane Cutting, Elizabeth Ellard, Meczyslawa Kaminska, Kevin Bell, Marie Lembo, Paul Topping, Mercedes Kemp, Owain Couchman, Ian Carolan, Filippo Policelli, Margaret Brooks, Hilda Shepherd, Anne Farrell, James Dowling, Florence Klus, Kate O'Neill and Christine Whittall.

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'

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