

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	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 Intention</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Tom Egan RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.30am	<i>Canon Joseph Simmons RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March</b>	10.30am	<i>Funeral Mass – Concetta Smitti RIP</i>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	10.30am	<i>Herbert Parker RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March</b>	10.00am	<i>Mary Holliday RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>John Daly RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Anne Roberts RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>John McElroy 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*

**BAPTISM:** We welcomed **DARCEY SHOESTRING** into the family of God through Baptism last weekend. We are delighted that **JUNE JONES** will be welcomed into the family of the Church through Baptism during 10.45am Mass this weekend

**REQUIEM MASS:** The Requiem Mass for **CONCETTA SMITTI** will take place this Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 10.30am. May she rest in peace.

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

Kathleen Augood, Philomena Policelli, James Walder, William Carmichael, Roy Watson, Subyla Mendes, John Dillon, Karol Trabik, Louis McSweeney, Patricia Skelton, John Maskall, Basil Curtis, Joanna Child, Alfred Smallbone, Antonio Martignetti, Teresa Sexton, Alfred Grigsby, Derek Vince, Margarette Sullivan, Neil Linstead, Tony Sands, Margaret Meads, Peter Nixon, Kevin Devlin and John Murphy

## ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Second Sunday of Lent**

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

### LET'S FACE IT!

The two main occasions when we hear a voice but cannot see their face is on the telephone and on the radio. We cannot help but try to imagine what a person actually looks like by the sound of their voice and we can often be quite surprised when we actually do meet them. It's only natural that we like to put a face to the voice. We hear Jesus, the Word of God, speak to us every Sunday without seeing him and that is all we need to live by His truth, but who can honestly say they haven't wondered what the physical face of Jesus actually looks like? Any images we have in our mind have probably been inspired by Christian art or movies. The look of somebody's face can often say so much about what is going on inside a person and can be such a giveaway. We may have heard somebody say, 'You should have seen the look on their face,' when they received a surprise or news that was either happy or sad. It gives everything away – that is why if you easily show your feelings on your face then never play cards – it's always best to keep that 'poker face'. If we do try to hide something then we put on a brave face or a false face – a mask to hide our true feelings and who we are. The worst kind is to be 'two faced', to be dishonest or deceitful. Today, we hear about the face of Jesus become radiant. This is not a false face of Jesus but a face that showed the inner glory of who he truly is. Jesus was never afraid to express his feelings of what he was going through but his face of glory was his inner radiant self. It is not looks that matter but the honesty of our face that shows our true self.



**JESUS' TRANSFIGURATION**

**JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND.** There is a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Scheduled planned to take place 29<sup>th</sup> September – 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Maria, the organiser, arranges this every year and is from Rainham parish, however it 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.

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

**SOMETHING EXTRA FOR LENT:** The next Lenten Session is on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**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 29<sup>th</sup> March to 10am Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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 the 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.



**THANK YOU:** We give thanks to our Fledglings group who performed the Living Stations of the Cross for us on Saturday. They led us so prayerfully through the journey of Jesus up to Calvary. Thank you too for all who helped and guided the Fledglings. Please read on if you

would like your child to learn more and make more friends in our parish as this is a special invitation from them..... '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 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.



**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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 30<sup>th</sup> 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'.*

<b>Last weekend:</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection:</b> £1,384.36	CAFOD Fast Day
<i>plus an average of £295 Standing Orders</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection next week</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection:</b> £619.58	Sick and Retired Priest Fund
	(to defray cost of levy)
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	
<i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 11 – Number 158 – Prize £25</i>	