



# ST FRANCIS' NEWS



5th November 2017

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

FATHER LIAM WRITES On Thursday 26th October our parish celebrated The Mass of Induction, during which there was a ceremony in which I was formally presented to you all as your new Parish Priest.

During the ceremony of Induction, Bishop Paul Mason presented me with the keys of the parish – reflecting the moment when Christ hands Keys of the Kingdom to Peter. So much trust is shown whenever we hand keys to somebody – imagine if you are going away on holiday and you might want to leave the keys of your home to somebody to keep an eye on things. You are obviously going to go give them to somebody you know who is trustworthy and reliable. Our homes are precious to us so we can't make a decision like that half-heartedly. So the Bishop places a lot of trust in the new Parish Priest to look after his people. Ultimately it is all of us placing all our trust in God – that we pray he will guide his priests and his people in all the work they do together in building his Kingdom in the local community. When the Lord comes again let's hope I have proven worthy to hold the keys and look after his people here in St. Francis.

It was also a great pleasure to see His Worship, the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr. Malcolm Greer and Mrs. Greer at the ceremony. He promised his support and encouragement to the parish in any way he could. It is a great help in doing the work of the Lord when Church and Civil authorities can work together in allowing the Lord's work to be done in our local community. It was also pleasing to hear he was born and raised in Frindsbury, Strood as I was – so the Medway

influence is starting to come over to Maidstone. The Mayor very kindly wrote an email of gratitude the very next day – they seemed very taken by the evening.



May I now offer my deepest appreciation for all who attended the ceremony – it is your way of demonstrating your welcome, encouragement and support - all of which all three of us, Fr. Samuel, Fr. Paweł and myself are in need of, especially as we all started together last September. Thank you for the guidance we have needed. Thank you to all who prepared for the ceremony in any way – whether it was the administration of invitations, booklets etc., or the cleaning and flowers of the church – which looked terrific. Thank you to readers, servers, offertory and the choir for your ministries during the service – all helped to make the evening a true celebration. Thank you to all who contributed and organised food and cleared up at the end at

the URC hall. I promise all is noted and all is deeply appreciated by me.

Lastly I just want to express thanks for showing kindness to my mother and my family that night. My father passed away in the Summer and it was very noticeable for us that he wasn't there. Yet I know they left the evening filled with joy and reassurance by the welcome you showed them.

So here we go – off on a journey together with so much to do. Let us pray with one another, for one another and place all our trust in the hands of God.

CHURCH & PARISH HALL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND

News and figures regarding our church and parish hall development shall be brought to you on a monthly basis. We thank you for your continual support and prayers in this matter.

NOVEMBER HOLY SOULS

Traditionally, November is the month of prayer for the Holy Souls. Each year we invite members of the parish to list their family and friends who have died. November lists and envelopes are provided at the back of church. The lists will be placed in a box on the altar at each Mass throughout November. Your donations in the envelopes will be used as Mass Stipends for the Holy Souls each day in November and throughout the year, both here and in other parishes. Envelopes with names and donations can still be handed in to the Parish Office or clergy throughout November. Your **Gift Aid number** should also be written on the envelope, if applicable.

**Additional services** will also be taking place in church. Please find the details below:

**Sunday 5th November**

3.00pm - Blessing of graves at Maidstone Cemetery

**Tuesday 14th November**

12pm - Deanery Requiem Mass at St. Thomas More Church, West Malling.

**Sunday, 19th November**

4.00pm - Mass in Polish followed by Divine Mercy Chaplet in Polish

BAPTISM PREPARATION

**Next Date: Thursday, 9th November 2017**  
**7.00 - 8.30pm**

TO ATTEND, PLEASE APPLY THROUGH THE PARISH EMAIL OR SUBMIT A BAPTISMAL APPLICATION FORM

SERVICES & DEVOTIONS

**Polish Mass:** We are delighted to welcome Fr. Paweł Sobol to the parish of St. Francis as our new Assistant Priest. Traditionally the Polish Mass has always been celebrated on the First Sunday of each month. However, Fr. Paweł is unable to be here on the first Sundays as he travels back to Poland each month to carry on with his studies. Therefore, in future the Polish Mass shall be on the third Sunday of each month, so the next Polish Mass to be celebrated at St. Francis will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 4pm.

**Lectio Divina:** As the first Wednesday of November is 1st November, All Saints Day, there shall be no Lectio Divina for November as there will be Mass that evening.

Advent Wreaths

The children from Fledglings children's group will be making Advent wreaths on Saturday 18th November and will be selling some for the Church Development Fund. If anyone wishes to pre-order one at a cost of £5, please give your name to the parish office or to one of the musicians at any of the Masses. Pictures of last year's wreaths are on the table in the porch.

CALLING MONDAY REGULARS!

After all the week-end Masses the Church is often in a bit of a state on Monday mornings, and a good clean and tidy up is needed.

If a few people who regularly attend Mass on Monday mornings were willing to help at the end of the rosary, all of the necessary jobs could be done in 20 or 30 minutes.

Anyone interested in helping, please give your details to the parish office or see James in the sacristy.

Feel the Chill?

During the week we had some bad news – the pump on our boiler has completely broken down which therefore means that there is no heating in the Church at the moment. We apologise for this but promise that we are doing things as quickly as we can to put this right.

Parking Problems?

Not on a Sunday! Parking at Maidstone East Station is just £1 for all day.

Homeless/Winter Shelter

As weather is getting significantly colder, items required urgently are coats, blankets, sleeping bags and tents. Thank you to all who very generously contributed to the recent appeal. We still need the weekly donations of milk, bread, cereals etc., please.

Repository

2018 Catholic diaries now in stock.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

NOVEMBER 2017 - EVANGELISATION

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY

**Last Sunday - All Masses:**

1st Collection: £1,773.10\*

2nd Collection: £ 554.23 Diocesan Development Fund

\* This figure does not include standing orders etc. which averages £250 a week.

Many thanks for your generous support...

**2ND COLLECTIONS**

This Sunday: Church & Hall Development Fund

Next Sunday: Archbishop's Administration Fund

**Parish Lottery Winners** WK. 18 - No. 142 - Mrs E. O'Donnell - £10

## PARISH NOTICEBOARD

### HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS

You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday 17th November, following the 10.30am Mass at St Francis. Rosary and prayer outside the Marie Stopes abortion clinic, Brewer St. Return to church for refreshments at about 12.30pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11.00 to 12noon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

### CATHOLIC LEGACY WEEK

It is possible that you may be thinking about writing up a will or wish to have the possibility to revise it. Your Catholic Legacy is a group of 27 Catholic causes working together to encourage you to think about leaving a gift in your will to a Catholic charity. This week (5th-11th November) is Catholic Legacy Week, where all Catholics are encouraged to consider this. For more information, please call Hannah on 020 7095 5370 or visit [www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk](http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk). Leaflets are available at the back of the church.

### Prison Chaplain

HM Prison, Maidstone is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified minister or lay person to the post of Catholic chaplain. Candidates are to be experienced in working with people on the edge of society, have some pastoral experience, a love for the Church and an ability to work in a multi faith environment. The role is for 37 hours per week over 5 days. HMP Maidstone is a prison for foreign national male offenders. A large percentage of the men will be deported at some point. Often they are still in legal disputes about being deported. There is a fairly high turnover of men in the prison. Further details may be obtained from: Monsignor Roger Reader, Catholic Bishops' Prison Advisor, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1 1BX

### RETIRED CATHOLIC NURSE

Retired Catholic nurse required by family to give occasional hourly respite care for an elderly relative. FFI contact Peter on 07913904997.

### LIGHT UP A LIFE

The focal point of the annual Light Up a Life Appeal is a beautiful candlelit evening where music, readings and reflections provide an opportunity for us to remember our loved ones. Your loved one's name will also be entered in our Book of Remembrance if your dedication is received by 10th November.

**This year's Light Up a Life events will be held on**

Sunday 26th November – 4.30 pm at Heart of Kent Hospice ME20 7PU

Sunday 3rd December – 4.30 Aylesford Priory ME20 7BX

For full details of both events or to make a donation and dedication please visit [www.hokh.org](http://www.hokh.org), call us on 01622 790195 or email [Sophie.lewis@hokh.co.uk](mailto:Sophie.lewis@hokh.co.uk). Forms and stars will also be available at all Heart of Kent Hospice shops and at Hospice Reception. Alternatively you may make your dedication and donation by visiting [bit.ly/lual2017dedication](http://bit.ly/lual2017dedication).

### The FRIENDSHIP GROUP

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**First Monday (11am) of every month:**

Tenpin Bowling at Lockmeadow

**Second Monday (11.00am) every month:**

Coffee morning in *Society Rooms*

**Every Monday (1.30pm - 3.30pm):**

Scrabble in *Leah's Bistro*, High St.

**Every Wednesday (10am - 12noon),**

Line Dancing in URC Dunning Hall (Fremlin Walk)

**Having coffee on your own?**

Why not join us on **Wednesdays (10 am – 12 noon)**

URC Hall, Week Street for coffee and a chat.

It's good to talk!

FFI Mary Adam 677448



### PARISH GROUPS

**FLEDGLINGS CHILDREN GROUP** will meet on Saturday 18th November 10am-3pm in St Francis School.

**FLAME YOUTH GROUP** The junior youth group will meet this Saturday 6pm - 8.15pm in Grove House.

**PHOENIX YOUTH CLUB** for 15+ will continue to meet with the Baptist Church Youth Club in Knightrider Street, Maidstone, this Friday, 8pm - 9.30pm.

**LIFE ASCENDING** Next meeting will be the Christmas Lunch at Aylesford on Wednesday, 6th December. FFI please contact Keith Hunter on 01622 746792.

### Donate 8

1) Volunteers are required to clean, prepare and paint the railings around the church car park. Saturday is preferred but weekdays will be considered. If you have a spare hour or two, let us know please.

2) Many thanks to the volunteers who came forward to help with flowers over the last few months.

3) Our church still needs cleaners to volunteer! Fridays at 4:30pm is not the only time cleaning happens! Please get in touch with us if you can help. Many thanks to all those who have given their time over the past year.

FFI contact:

[donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk](mailto:donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk)

## PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the sick & housebound of our parish: Rachel Allen, Monica Banyard, Cody Barker, David Barrow, Donald Batty, Sarah Boylan, Eric Braconnier, Pauline Brown, Kathleen Buckman, Pat Cassidy, Judy Collins, Luke Collins, Marcin Czubik, Jean Farrell, Joanna Frazer, Louise Gill, Judy Henstone, Mary Holliday, Kathleen Homewood, Aneta Jankowska, Teresa Jankowska, Bridget Kearney, Patrick McKee, Perry Kemp, Xavier Lazell, Patricia Maher, Antonina Makowicz, Dorothy Marne, Margarie Morgan, Michael Munikwa, Clare Myler, Violet Nadarajah, Marcus Nicklin, Jean O'Donnel, Mark Pearson, Deidre Pennell, John Penney, Claudia Quantrill, Margaret Ruaux, Peter Ruddy, Nick Ryan, Coleen Sargeant, Rebecca Sharp, Chika Uzowulu, Mary Wallace, Claire Watts, Rosemary West and all in our local hospice, hospitals and nursing homes.

For those who have recently died: Claudia Boothe, Reginald Ward

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Anna Bertha Mullen, Andrew Cloughton, Richard Monroe, Joseph Fitzgerald, Catherine Fitzgerald, Bridget Egan, Kathleen O'Driscoll, James Atkinson, Moira McCaffrery, Ann Coles, Francis Hugo, David Muller, Harry Sutcliffe, Ian Keith Parlett, Andrew Akehurst, Winifred Mackell, Joseph Charles Capone, Mary Elizabeth Grossmith, Michael Paul Brown, Mary Josephine Carmody, Wendy McKay, Victor Hakeman, Dorothy Arnold, Sara Jane Sime.

# PARISH DIARY & MASS INTENTIONS

## SUNDAY 5TH NOVEMBER

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)

ST FRANCIS

6.00pm(Sat) **Mardi Ziggmar's Wellbeing**

9.00am Leonard Church RIP

10.45am Pauline Gilman RIP

3.00pm *Blessing of Graves at Maidstone Cemetery*

6.00pm People of the Parish

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

9.00am Mary Ashton RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

## MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER

10.30am Encarnacion Bernardo RIP

## TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

10.30am In reparation for abortions

## WEDNESDAY 8TH NOVEMBER

10.30am Funeral Mass of Claudia Boothe

## THURSDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

10.30am Doris & Edmund Sullivan RIP FEAST OF THE DEDICATION

4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone: Terry Free RIP OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

## FRIDAY 10TH NOVEMBER ST LEO THE GREAT

10.30am Pauline, Myra and Bill Campbell RIP

8.00pm Favour Mercy Victory over hearing

## SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER ST MARTIN OF TOURS

10.00am Tom Egan RIP

3.00pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite

## SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)

ST FRANCIS

6.00pm(Sat) George Buhagiar RIP

9.00am Katarzyna Pociecha, Wujek z Rzeszowa,  
Stanisław Jurczyk and Radław Chmielowiec RIP

10.45am Irene Stanley RIP

6.00pm People of the Parish

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

9.00am John McElroy RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

FEAST OF THE DEDICATION  
OF ST GEORGE'S  
CATHEDRAL



### SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

ST FRANCIS, MAIDSTONE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10.00AM & FRIDAY 7.30PM (FOR 15MIN)

SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.15AM; 5.30 - 5.50PM

ST LUKE'S, PRESTON HALL

BY REQUEST UNTIL THE CHAPEL IS BACK IN USE

### MORNING PRAYER

SATURDAY AT 9.30AM

### EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

FRIDAY 11.00-12.00PM & FIRST FRIDAYS 8.30PM UNTIL 10.00PM

### HOLY ROSARY

PRAYED AFTER THE 10.30AM WEEKDAY MASSES



# The Parish of Saint Francis

Grove House, 126 Week Street,  
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1RH  
Telephone: (01622) 756217  
Email: stfrancis\_parish@yahoo.co.uk  
Web Site: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

### PARISH DEACONS

Rev. Tom Coyle  
Rev. Ian Black

PARISH PRIEST  
Fr Liam Gallagher

ASSISTANT PRIESTS  
Fr Samuel Davey  
Fr Paweł Sobol

ORDINARIATE PRIEST  
Fr Paul Gibbons

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday only 9.00am-12noon

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Francis' Catholic Primary School:**

Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB

Telephone: (01622) 771540

St Simon Stock Catholic School:

Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 OJP

Telephone: (01622) 754551