



ST FRANCIS' NEWS

11th June 2017



THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)

CANON LUKE WRITES Today we celebrate the mystery that lies at the centre of every celebration and indeed our whole lives as Catholic Christians: The Most Holy Trinity, Father Son and Holy Spirit, One God. However hard we try we will never be able to fully comprehend the how of the Trinity, for God is not some puzzle or conundrum to be solved. Rather it is far more important for us to embrace the truth of God, which He has revealed to us; allowing faith to draw us where the eye and the mind cannot see, but only the heart perceive.

One greeting used by the priest at the start of Mass is the prayer from today's Epistle: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you." We praise and adore the God who has revealed himself as a Trinity, a communion of persons. Communion with the Trinity is the goal of all our worship and the purpose of the history of salvation that is set before us in the Scriptures and continues in the Eucharist and sacraments of the Church.

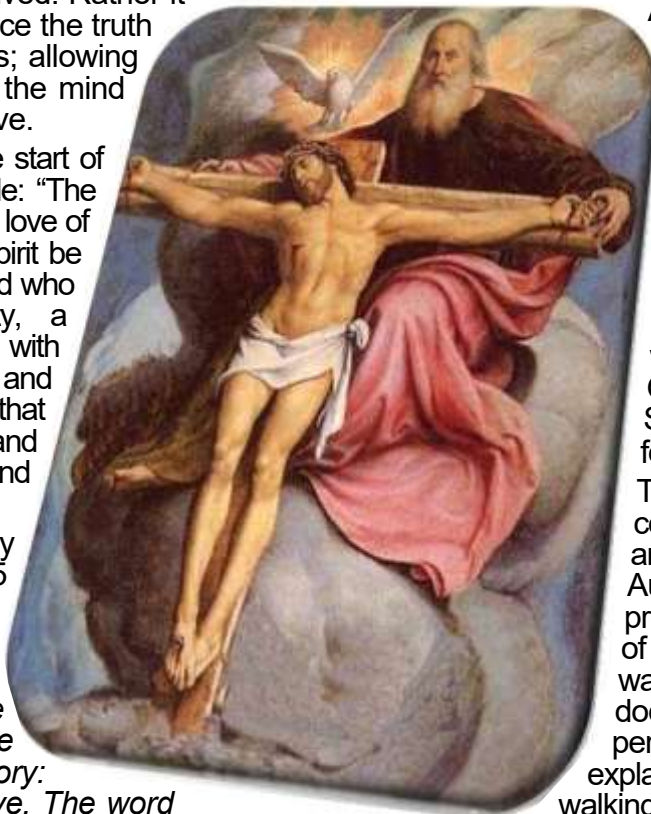
Pope Benedict XVI succinctly expressed this in his 22nd May 2005 Angelus address

'Today, the liturgy celebrates the Most Holy Trinity almost to underline that in the light of the Pascal Mystery is fully revealed the centre of the universe and of history: God himself, eternal and infinite Love. The word that summarizes all revelation is this: "God is love" (1 John 4:8,16); and love is always a mystery, a reality that surpasses reason without contradicting it, and more than that, exalts its possibilities. Jesus revealed to us the mystery of God: he, the Son, made us know the Father who is in Heaven, and gave us the Holy Spirit, the Love of the Father and of the Son. Christian theology synthesizes the truth of God with this expression: only one substance in three persons. God is not solitude, but perfect communion. For this reason the human person, the image of God, realizes himself or herself in love, which is a sincere gift of self. We are contemplating the mystery of the love of God shared in a sublime way in the Most Holy Eucharist, the Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ, the representation of his redeeming Sacrifice'.

Today's First Reading gives us a insight to the beginnings of God's self-revelation, as He passes before Moses revealing Himself as a 'God of tenderness and compassion.' Despite Israel's apostasy from the Lord by creating and worshipping the golden calf (Exodus 32); God does not condemn them to perish, but proclaims His

mercy and faithfulness to His covenant. God cherished Israel as His firstborn among the nations (Exodus 4:22). Through Israel, the heirs of His covenant with Abraham, God planned to reveal himself as the Father of all nations (Genesis 22:18).

It seems to me that God's testing of Abraham, and Abraham's faithful obedience, is in the Evangelists mind in the passage we hear in today's Gospel. In commanding Abraham to offer his only beloved son (Genesis 22:2ff) God was prefiguring the fullest revelation of His love for the world. As Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, God did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all (Romans 8:32).



There is a pertinent story concerning the great bishop and doctor of the Church: St Augustine of Hippo; preoccupied by the doctrine of the Blessed Trinity, he wanted to understand the doctrine of one God in three persons and to be able to explain it logically. One day walking along the sea shore and reflecting on this matter, he saw a little child. The child made a hole in the sand, ran to the sea with a cup, filled the cup with water, ran and emptied the cup into the hole in the sand. Back and forth the child went, filling the cup and pouring it into the hole. Augustine drew near and said, 'Little child, what are you doing?' He received the reply: "I am trying to empty the sea into this hole." To which he replied "How do you think that you can empty this immense sea into this tiny hole and with this tiny cup?" The child retorted, "And you, how do you suppose that with your small head you can comprehend the immensity of God?" With that the child disappeared!

When we allow ourselves to be drawn into the mystery of God, then we shall drawn from the limited confines of the human mind to the wide expanse and deep wisdom of the heart. This Love we may never fully comprehend but we can certainly allow ourselves to be enfolded in its embrace.

CHURCH & PARISH HALL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

FUND Raised to date: £112,570.71
Total Cost of ROOF: £136,000.00
Debt to be paid £23,429.29



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL Raised to date: £6861.39
Approximate Cost: £9,000.00

Thanks to all who have contributed to this project; if you wish to make a donation please put it into a clearly marked envelope and drop it into the collection / Parish Office. Work will begin soon.

PARISH CENTRE Things are slowly moving forward since planning permission was granted; the detailed spec is complete, which now enables the various legal agreements / heads of terms to be completed. Although building costs will be paid by the developer we will have to pay for fees, additional works and the furnishing of the centre. Costs paid to date: £3,120.00. Unfortunately we have had to spend £1,140.00 on further boarding up due to constant break-ins and vandalism by various groups of teenagers. Hopefully this and Police involvement will calm things down a bit.

OTHER MAINTENANCE ISSUES:

Further work on the roof (due to an un-reparable internal down pipe): two additional gullies and down pipes to be added and work on the boiler house concrete roof and flashings will take place soon: Cost: £4,770.00 + VAT

The Boiler House Chimney stack needs urgent work (loose bricks / lead flashing); we have managed to obtain 50% of the cost from an insurance claim as it remains inconclusive whether the cause was storm damage or general wear and tear. Cost: £3,102.00 inc VAT (£5,604.00 less £2,502.00 (Insurance) scaffolding for these two jobs will be erected this week

The wooden panelling on the Sanctuary is rotting and needs removing, defective plaster replacing & redecorating. This work will probably take place in June Cost: £9,845.00 + VAT

ROOF FUND COLLECTIONS are now called CHURCH & HALL DEVELOPMENT FUND to include all these projects

A big 'Thank you' to the Syro-Malabar Community who presented £300 to Canon Luke for the Church Development Fund at their recent celebration of First Communion & Confirmation with their bishop

NEW HYMN BOOKS

Thanks to a £500 legacy from Bernard Burns and a few generous donations we now have new hymn books for St Francis and Preston Hall. Please help us to take good care of them so that they will last for a good number of years. please make sure they are returned to the bookcase after use.

BAPTISM PREPARATION

First Thursday of each month 7.00 - 8.30pm
Next Date: THURSDAY, 6th July 2017
TO ATTEND, PLEASE APPLY THROUGH THE PARISH EMAIL
OR SUBMIT A BAPTISMAL APPLICATION FORM

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

Application forms for the forthcoming First Holy Communion Programme will be available 18th - 25th June from the priest after all Masses. Please read the instructions and declaration carefully before completing and signing the form. Completed forms must be returned in person to Grove House on **Tuesday 27th June between 5.00 and 7.30pm.** Canon Luke, Fr Peter and Cecilia will be present to process the forms and finalise which catechist group you child will be assigned to.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

This year's Confirmation programme begins this Sunday 11th June with 6.00pm Mass

Canon Luke & Fr. Peter's Farewell

We will celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on Saturday 22nd July at 12.00noon; this will be followed by an informal reception and barbecue in the car park in front of Grove House. More information to follow for those who are able to help with the catering etc.

NOT FOR THE EYES OF FR. PETER & CANON LUKE!



A collection is being organised for Canon Luke and Fr Peter. Envelopes are now available for donations; these should either be placed in the collection or handed to June in the Parish Office (**not** to Canon Luke or Fr. Peter!)

Corpus Christi Procession

This will follow on from the 10.45am Mass next Sunday - the procession will be led by the children of the parish who have recently received their First Holy Communion. **Reminder:** children to come in First Communion dress.

CONFETTI

Biodegradable rose petal confetti now available in the Repository, ideal for the First Holy Communion procession on Corpus Christi, Sunday 18th June.

Marathon—Fruits

Heartfelt thanks and congratulations to Cecilia Mayne on completing another London Marathon—she raised £300 for our Syrian Refugee Appeal & £213 for the Children's Chapel.

Gift Aid

Would the members yet to collect their box of envelopes please collect them from the sacristy or presbytery. Would the member who has mistakenly taken box 25 please return it to the presbytery. Thank you.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY

Many thanks for your generous support...

Last Sunday - All Masses:

1st Collection: £1,847.23*

2nd Collection: £ 913.22 Church & Hall Development Fund

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

2ND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday: Catholic Trust for England & Wales

Next Sunday: Day for Life

Parish Lottery Winner: Wk 23 No. 307 - Mrs S Connolly- £15

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS

You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday, 16th June 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 approximately 12.30pm. There will be 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.

SUMMERTIME SONGS

A concert in aid of the NSPCC and Childline will take place at Maidstone Utd Spitfire Lounge, Maidstone Football Ground, on Sunday, 18th June at 3pm. There will be tea & cakes and a raffle. Tickets: £17.50 per person, available from Mary Ratcliffe, tel. 01622 752163

Summer Youth Day

This event for Year 7 - Year 11 youth takes place at Aylesford Priory on Saturday, 24th June. There will be music, drama, art, workshops, a BBQ and Mass. The cost is £10 pp. Bookings: 01227 272900 info@scys.org.uk

Brightlights Festival

This is an annual event for Catholic young adults (ages 16-30) taking place June 23rd - 26th in the beautiful grounds of Alton Castle in Staffordshire with live music, liturgy and worship. To find out more information or book tickets, visit brightlights.org.uk, call 0300 075 0115 or find us on social media: T/FB/IG: BLFestival. You may also contact us directly at info@brightlights.org.uk, or by telephone.

FEED THE HUNGRY Thank you to all who very generously contributed to the recent appeal. All the food has been sent out this week, and has been very gratefully received. We still need the weekly donations of milk, bread, cereals etc., please.

School Direct Places

Kent Catholic Schools Partnership are offering School Direct Places in Primary and Secondary teaching starting September 2017. For more information: 01732 358000 tsa@st-margaret-tonbridge.kent.sch.uk www.kcspteachingschool.com

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

JUNE 2017 - UNIVERSAL

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arms trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

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 meets every third Saturday of the month at St Francis Primary School. Next meeting: **Saturday, 17th June.**

FLAME YOUTH GROUP The junior youth group meets this **Saturday 6.00-8.00pm** in the Presbytery.

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

KU POGLEBIONEJ WIERZE The Polish evangelisation group next meeting: **Thursday, 15th June, 7.30pm.**

EVANGELISATION GROUP The English evangelisation group next meeting: **Thursday, 22nd June 7.30pm.**

LIFE ASCENDING Next meeting: Day Out at St Thomas' Church, Headcorn, **Wednesday 12th July, 9.30am-3.30pm** Please bring own lunch. FFI please contact Keith Hunter on 01622 746792.

Donate 8

- Church cleaners urgently required on a Friday from 4.30 pm or at a mutually convenient time.

- Flower arrangers urgently required!!!

FFI contact:

donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the sick & housebound of our parish: Rachel Allen, Liam Archer, Cody Barker, Donald Batty, Eric Braconnier, Pauline Brown, Kathleen Buckman, Pat Cassidy, Judy Collins, Luke Collins, Marcin Czubik, Jean Farrell, Joanna Frazer, Louise Gill, Victor Giovanelli, Judy Henstone, Mary Holliday, Kathleen Homewood, Aneta Jankowska, Teresa Jankowska, Brian Johnson, Bridget Kearney, Patrick McKee, Perry Kemp, Xavier Lazell, Patricia Maher, Antonina Makowicz, Dorothy Marne, Margarie Morgan, Michael Munikwa, Violet Nadarajah, Marcus Nicklin, 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: Anthony Murphy; Joyce Attwood.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Mulligan, Mary Neale, Terence Coghlan, Maurice Longhurst, Patrick Hennessy, Leo Gobel, Pauline Campbell, Bishop James Danell, Nadine Tester, Kathleen James, Simeon Browne, Tom Bachrach, Michael Kehily, Baby Rebecca Thompson, Angela Filmer, Rose Tucker, Henrietta Taylor, James Arnold, Arthur Fleming, Vincent Mangion, Joseph Byrne and Christopher Nolan.

PARISH DIARY & MASS INTENTIONS

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (A)

ST FRANCIS

6.00pm(Sat) Kath Topping RIP

9.00am Daniel Ruau — wellbeing & Birthday
led by St Francis' School

10.45am Joy Fisher RIP
*with baptism of Lucinda & Alexander Quiban
and Dominykas Adomaitas*

6.00pm **D'Silva Family** followed by the first Confirmation session

ST LUKE'S CHAPEL, PRESTON HALL

9.00am Tom Smith RIP (Mass in the Hospice)

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: People of the Parish

MONDAY 12TH JUNE

10.30am Margaret Devitt RIP

TUESDAY 13TH JUNE

ST ANTHONY OF PADUA

10.30am 1. Pauline Campbell RIP

2. Antonina's Welfare

WEDNESDAY 14TH JUNE

10.30am 1. In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
2. Intentions of Bernard & Annie Rice

2.00pm Mass in St Francis school (Year 3)

7.30pm Exposition, Lectio Divina & Benediction

THURSDAY 15TH JUNE

10.30am Kathleen Martin RIP

4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone: Maurice Rayée RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

FRIDAY 16TH JUNE

ST RICHARD OF CHICHESTER

10.30am Bill and Norah Coram — wellbeing

8.00pm Private Intention

SATURDAY 17TH JUNE

10.00am Private Intention

12.30pm Baptism of Mateo Ligocki & Jacob Bednarz

2.00pm Remembrance Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite

SUNDAY 18TH JUNE

CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI (A)

ST FRANCIS

6.00pm(Sat) People of the Parish

9.00am **Ben's 17th Birthday**

10.45am Tom Egan RIP *with Corpus Christi Procession*

6.00pm In reparation for abortions in Brewer Street

ST LUKE'S CHAPEL, PRESTON HALL

9.00am Stuart McLeod RIP (Mass in the Hospice)

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Terry Free RIP

FATHER
ETERNAL LOVE

He created us to know His love

SON
ETERNAL
MERCY

HOLY SPIRIT
ETERNAL POWER

He descends upon us to give us new life



SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION

ST FRANCIS, MAIDSTONE

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

SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.15AM; 5.30 - 5.50PM

SUNDAY 5.30 - 5.50PM

ST LUKE'S, PRESTON HALL

BY REQUEST UNTIL THE CHAPEL IS BACK IN USE

MORNING PRAYER

SATURDAY AT 9.30AM

EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

USUALLY THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5.15PM

EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY EVENING 7.30PM - 8.30PM

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*

SEMINARIAN
Joseph Gulliford

PARISH PRIEST
Canon Luke Smith

ASSISTANT PRIEST
Fr Piotr Kucharski

ORDINARIATE PRIEST
Fr Paul Gibbons

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday 9.00am-12noon - Monday 6.00-8.00pm - Friday 4.00-6.00pm

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