



ST FRANCIS' NEWS

18th June 2017



CORPUS ET SANGUIS CHRISTI (A)

SEMINARIAN JOSEPH WRITES

The idea of being led through the wilderness for forty years where the heat itself would surely be insufferable, let alone the danger of fiery serpents and scorpions, doesn't bear thinking about. Yet, in today's First Reading, Moses makes it adamantly clear that only through these trials were the Israelites to understand that "man does not live on bread alone but... on everything that comes from the mouth of the Lord". This very total dependence on God is a tough lesson for all of us to learn. I am sure that we, in many of our own trials, day by day, have all fallen short of doing this - even, perhaps, accepting at times that total dependence on God is not possible.

In fact, for any human person how can it be possible to rely completely on God? I am sure that even if we focused all our strength and attention upon Him and persevered with all prayer, reverence, fasting - you name it, we would still fall short. We know nonetheless, through this passage in Deuteronomy, that this is what we are called to and it must, therefore, be possible. In light of this, let us turn to today's Gospel, where Jesus describes Himself as "I, who am sent by the living Father". Is Christ, who we know through St John to be the 'Word', thus to be acknowledged in Deuteronomy as He who "comes from the mouth of the Lord"? Might we see this Scripture fulfilled in Christ who has come to be what we eat, indeed, what we "live on"?

Jesus tells us plainly, "if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you will not have life in you". We are called to live on Christ, to depend on Him completely. In our biblical history we are aware that the law given by God through Moses could not be faithfully kept over the centuries, despite numerous warnings and reminders by the prophets. The sacrifices poured out year after year in the temple were not enough to save us. Instead, God became flesh and poured Himself

out for us once and for all. Jesus, who is sent by the Father, assures us that as He "draw(s) life from the Father, so whoever eats [Him] will draw life from [Him]". So we can be confident that Christ is everything we need, overjoyed by the wonder that He has given Himself to us completely, His Body and His Blood, and comes to make His home in us.

Through their trials, the Israelites were called to a greater dependence on God. Through the trial of the Cross, Christ offers Himself to us unfailingly. Our dependence on Him is only possible, therefore, through His grace working in us. And He has given Himself to us to eat so that communion with Him and consequently with each other might be achieved. Let us invite Him to come and dwell in us and let us unite our trials with His passion, so that we can declare with St Paul in his letter to the Philippians that "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13).

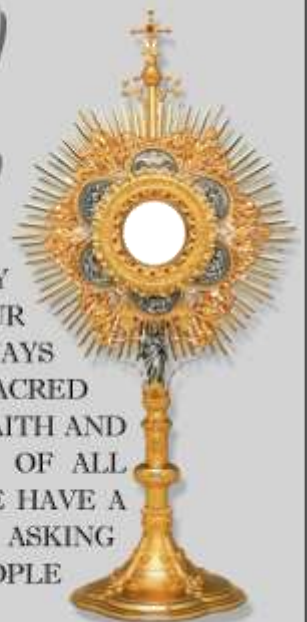
WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

TODAY WE HAVE A PROCESSION TO HONOUR AND GIVE GLORY TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST REALLY PRESENT IN THE EUCHARIST. IN THE PROCESSION THE PRIEST CARRIES A MONSTRANCE, WHICH HOLDS THE BODY OF CHRIST. THE RITUAL AND MUSIC HELPS US TO GLORIFY GOD AND TO LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT HE DOES FOR HIS FAITHFUL PEOPLE.

CORPUS et SANGUIS
CHRISTI
procession

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?

EUCHARIST MEANS 'THANKSGIVING' AND TODAY WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE PRESENCE OF OUR LORD IN OUR MIDST; THAT HE REMAINS ALWAYS WITH US IN THE SACRAMENT OF HIS MOST SACRED BODY AND BLOOD. WE WANT TO SHOW OUR FAITH AND OUR LOVE FOR JESUS, WHO IS THE SOURCE OF ALL GRACES. AT THE END OF THE PROCESSION WE HAVE A SPECIAL BLESSING, CALLED BENEDICTION, ASKING JESUS TO BLESS NOT ONLY US, BUT ALL THE PEOPLE OF MAIDSTONE AND OUR WORLD.



CHURCH & PARISH HALL DEVELOPMENT FUND

FUND Raised to date: £113,447.61
 Total Cost of ROOF: £136,000.00
 Debt to be paid £22,552.39



CHILDREN'S CHAPEL Raised to date: £7092.81
 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 hopefully begin within the ten days.

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. Further break ins this week!

CAR PARK GATES the mindless act of vandalism two weekends ago will cost £2,100.00 to rectify; thankfully we have made a successful insurance claim and the repairs should take place this week.

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 has been erected and work should commence this week on these two jobs

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

The Pentecost Raffle raise £565.00 Thanks to all involved

Singers and Musicians for 6pm Mass

Please come and sing / play with us if you are free. We are a friendly, informal group with no rehearsal or commitment requirements. We need new members to boost our numbers, especially over the Summer months. Come and talk to any of us after the 6pm Mass or just join us before Mass. Alternatively, phone Andrea: 07769 203168 or Lydia: 07941 687013.

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 next First Holy Communion Programme are available until 25th June from the priests after all Masses. Please read the instructions / 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.

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)

ST FRANCIS LOTTERY

How can you **make a valuable contribution to Church funds**, plus have a chance every week of **winning a cash prize** of between **£10** and **£1,000**, for the equivalent of just **FIFTY PENCE A WEEK?** By becoming a member of **St Francis Lottery!** The winner of the top prize of **ONE THOUSAND POUNDS** will be published in the Newsletter on 2nd July, and the new series will start on 7th July 2017. why not join – the next winner could be **YOU!** Collectors will be in the porch after 9.00am Mass, before 10.45am Mass, and before both 6.00pm Masses, on the weekends 24/25 June, 1/2 July and 8/9 July to receive payments for the new series and to tell you more about becoming a member. It is simple to join, just complete a short application form. Cheque, cash or Bankers Order payments are £13 in advance for the whole 26 week series, or if preferred, £6.50 every 13 weeks if paying by Bankers Order.

We look forward to welcoming you as a new member
 Good luck!

Gift Aid

Would members yet to collect their box of envelopes please do so from St Francis Sacristy. 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: £1,692.86*

2nd Collection: £ 541.89 Catholic Trust for England & Wales

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

2ND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday: Bishops of England & Wales Day for Life

Next Sunday: Dew Asstn: Georgia, Education of Deprived Children

Parish Lottery Winner: WK 24No. 154- Mrs N Southwell £20.

DAY FOR LIFE—18th June 2017

Day for Life is celebrated yearly by the Catholic Church in Ireland, Scotland, England & Wales. It is a day dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The proceeds of the Day for Life collection assist the work of the Anscombe Bioethics Centre and other life-related activities supported by the Church. Prayer cards are available at the back of church.

ALTAR SERVERS' SUMMER BREAK

8th-11th August, Woldingham, Surrey, cost £135. This is an excellent few days for boy and girl servers aged 10-15. Meeting in a holiday atmosphere, include talks, discussions, prayer, daily Mass, as well as sport, Chessington World of Adventures, Laser Elite.

Download form from www.stanselm.dartford.wordpress.com, or contact Fr. Stephen Boyle, tel: 01322 002275, email stanselm01@googlemail.com.

PACT

PACT, the Catholic charity for prisoners and their families (www.prisonadvice.org.uk) is offering free training and support for parishioners interested in volunteering with them in prisons or the local community. No previous experience necessary. All enquiries welcome. To find out more, contact: ParishAction@prisonadvice.org.uk.

St Simon Stock 50th Anniversary

All are invited to the St Simon Stock Catholic School 50th Anniversary celebrations on Saturday, 8th July, which will begin with a Celebration Mass at 12noon. Entry: Adults—£1, Under 18s—50p. All proceeds go to school charities.

FEED THE HUNGRY Thank you to all who very generously contributed to the recent appeal. We still need the weekly donations of milk, bread, cereals etc., please.

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: after the summer holidays.

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 Knightrider Street, Maidstone, this **Friday, 8pm - 9.30pm**.

KU POGŁĘBIONEJ WIERZE The Polish evangelisation group next meeting is a joint celebration with the English group; a Thanksgiving Mass for the past year of formation on **Thursday, 29th June, 8.00pm**.

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 Brigid Attwood.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Ellen Delaney, Josephine Humphries, Alexander Pearson, Margaret Duffett, Kathleen Mullen, Ray Evenden, Winifred Langan, Honora Rowe, Lewis Russell, Robert Sands, Mary Shilling, Pauline Chambers, John Harkin, Mary Deney, George Rogers, Alice Phelan, Arthur Kent, Christina House, Leonard McKenzie, Sylvia Staggs, Margaret Taylor, Enid Foley, Teresa Kilbride, Peter Smith, John Mannerings, Kathleen Oliver, Henryk Kaftanski, Max O'Neil, Lilian Pinfold, Alban Avery, Jenny Powis, Bridget Dallimore, Brendan McDonald, Jane Kieran, Catherine Dabin, Theresa O'Callagan, Elsie Bruton, Cathleen Healey and Patrick Connerty.

PARISH DIARY & MASS INTENTIONS

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
THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

9.00am Stuart McLeod RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Terry Free RIP

MONDAY 19TH JUNE

ST ROMUALD

10.30am Tadeusz Grysza RIP

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE

ST ALBAN

10.30am 1. **Nick & Sarah Ryan's Wellbeing**

2. David & Patricia Bradley RIP

WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE

ST ALOYSIUS GONZAGA

10.30am 1. Mr Abraham & Mrs Thomas RIP

2. Intentions of Len & Vivien Watson

7.30pm *Exposition, Lectio Divina & Benediction*

THURSDAY 22ND JUNE *SS JOHN FISHER & THOMAS MORE*

10.30am Funeral Mass: Joyce Brigid Attwood
followed by committal at Vinters Park

4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone: Terry Free RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

FRIDAY 23RD JUNE *MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS*

10.30am Kathleen Martin RIP

followed by Litany to the Sacred Heart

1.15pm Funeral Service of Anthony Murphy at Vinters Park

8.00pm Intentions of Michael Reidy

followed by Litany to the Sacred Heart



SATURDAY 24TH JUNE *NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST*

10.00am **Herbert & Catherine O'Kill RIP**

2.00pm Baptism of Gabriela Smolinski

SUNDAY 25TH JUNE

TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

ST FRANCIS

6.00pm(Sat) **Vivian D'Silva RIP**

9.00am Sandrex Abero RIP *led by Fledglings*
with Flame & Fledglings Faith in Action Awards
presented by Bishop Paul

10.45am **Julia Whiting's wellbeing**

6.00pm Intentions of Julia Waters

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

9.00am Intentions of Miriam McCleod &

Carmel & Anthony Teuma RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

10.30am Ordinariate Mass: People of the Parish

Do you know of anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic Church? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) course will start again on Tuesday, 5th September. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please ask them to contact the Parish Office or Sheila Connolly on 01622 7429211.



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