



ST FRANCIS' NEWS

23rd July 2017



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)

FATHER PETER WRITES Jesus in his teaching always presents God as the one who cares for all of us; that though He is a God of justice, even those who defy and disbelieve Him may hope for His mercy if they turn to Him in repentance.

This divine teaching continues in the three parables that Jesus tells in the Gospel this Sunday. Each describes the emergence of the kingdom of God from the seeds sown by His works and preaching. The kingdom's growth is hidden - like the working of yeast in bread; it's improbable, unexpected as in the way the tall mustard tree grows from the smallest of seeds.



But also this week's readings sound a note of questioning: Why does God permit evil to grow alongside good? Why does He permit some to reject the Word of His kingdom?

Because, as we sing in today's Psalm, God is slow to anger and abounding in kindness. He is just, Jesus assures us; evildoers and those who cause others to sin will be thrown into the fiery furnace at the end of the age. But by His patience, God is teaching us that above all He desires repentance, and the gathering of all nations to worship Him and to glorify His name.

Even though we don't know how to pray as we ought, the Spirit will intercede for us, Paul promises in his letter to the Romans. But first we must turn and call upon Him and commit ourselves to letting the good seed of His Word bear fruit in our lives.

Good and evil are sown in our hearts like tiny seeds which germinate, and in due time yield a harvest of good or bad fruit. Charles Read said: *"Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny."*

So we should not be deceived or lose heart when

we see weeds among the wheat, truth and holiness mixed with error, injustice and sin. For now, He makes His sun rise on the good and the bad (Matthew 5:45). But the harvest draws near. Let's work that we might be numbered among the righteous children who will shine like the sun in the kingdom of the Father.

Let me finish this short reflection with a story.

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that was going on inside himself. He said, "My son, the battle is between 2 wolves.

One is evil:

*Anger, envy, sorrow,
Regret, greed, arrogance,
Self-pity, guilt, resentment
Inferiority, lies, false pride,
Superiority and ego...*

The other is good:

*Joy, peace, love,
Hope, serenity, humility,
Kindness, benevolence, empathy,
Generosity, truth,
Compassion and faith..."*

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather:

"Which wolf wins?"

The old Cherokee simply replied:

"The one I feed."



CHURCH & PARISH HALL
DEVELOPMENT FUND

FUND Raised to date: £114,383.44
Total Cost of ROOF: £136,000.00
Debt to be paid: £21,616.56

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL Raised to date: £7152.09
Approximate Cost: £9,000.00

Thanks for the contributions 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. Unfortunately our chosen builders & decorators have let us down and are not responding to our communication. We are therefore considering alternative workmen ... Hopefully more news soon.

PARISH CENTRE THINGS ARE HOTTING UP AND MOVING FORWARD. PLEASE KEEP UP THE PRAYERS THAT WORK MAY SOON BEGIN. Planning permission has been granted; the detailed spec is complete, and the final queries are being ironed out, thus enabling the various legal agreements / heads of terms to be completed. Although building costs will be paid by the developer we have to pay for fees, additional works and furnishing of the centre. **Costs paid to date: £3,120.00.** Meanwhile the break-ins continue despite our every effort to prevent these mindless acts of vandalism!

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. **This work is almost complete:** Cost: £4,770.00 + VAT

The Boiler House Chimney stack has now been repaired. Cost: £3,102.00 inc VAT

The wooden panelling on the Sanctuary is rotting and needs removing, defective plaster replacing & redecorating. This work as you will notice as you enter church has begun and should be completed in the next two weeks. Cost: £9,845.00 + VAT

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

OTHER IMPROVEMENTS: Neil our caretaker has been beavering away on a variety of projects over recent months; all of which have greatly improved the look and fabric of the church. He has decorated the Confessional and the entry porch; fitted a wooden rail to the rear church wall to protect further damage to the wall from the chair backs; rebuilt the cupboards in the basement for the altar servers / flower arrangers; improved the car park security lighting. I would like to express our thanks and give recognition to his always going the extra mile.

Neil has also been working with Fr Peter, Michal and Jan to upgrade the CCTV system within and around



the church site; I would like to thank them all for giving of their time and talents to improve the security of our buildings and those who use them.

Jolly Good Fellows!



BAPTISM PREPARATION

First Thursday of each month 7.00 - 8.30pm
Next Date: THURSDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 2017
TO ATTEND, PLEASE APPLY THROUGH THE PARISH EMAIL
OR SUBMIT A BAPTISMAL APPLICATION FORM

COMINGS & GOINGS

For the Summer we have welcomed Fr Boniface Arapa from Uganda who will be staying with us until September and Fr Adam Dynak, a Polish priest working in Belarus, who will be us until mid August. Canon Luke / Fr Peter will be away during the first two weeks of August and at other times will be in and out preparing for their moves. Fr Liam & Fr Samuel will take up their posts during the last week of August.

MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS

Please could all Red Box holders take them to the Parish Office during office hours or hand them in after Mass as soon as possible. Contact: Maureen Lunghi on 01622 299 349)

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.

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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Do you know of anyone who would like to know more about the Catholic Church? The RCIA 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 729211.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

JULY 2017 - EVANGELISATION
That our brothers and sisters who have strayed from the faith, through our prayer and witness to the Gospel, may rediscover the merciful closeness of the Lord and the beauty of the Christian life.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY

Last Sunday - All Masses:

1st Collection: £1,714.14*

2nd Collection: £ 503.70 Dew Association

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

Many thanks for your generous support...

2ND COLLECTIONS This Sunday: Diocesan Development Fund
Next Sunday: Area Bishops' Fund (to defray cost of levy)

Parish Lottery Winner: Wk 2 - No. 328 - Mr D Barrow- £15
Wk 3 - No 146 - Mrs T McCartan - £20

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

PRAYER & PRAISE

We invite you all to come to a Day of Renewal on Saturday 9th September 2017 in the Relic Chapel, Aylesford Priory starting with Rosary at 9.30 am and including Mass, Praise and Worship and Healing Ministry. The Day will be led by a group from Cor et Lumen Christi. All are welcome.

Hiroshima & Nagasaki Commemoration

The annual remembrance of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings will take place in Aylesford Priory for an hour from 8.20pm on Wednesday, 9th August. This is organised by Kent Diocesan Area Justice and Peace Group. All are welcome to join, not only Catholics, but people of any Faith, or none.

Refreshments available after the service.
FFI call John Caruana on 01634 864 179.

7th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage

This will be taking place on Saturday 29th July, for details see: www.CatholicGK Chesterton Society.co.uk. Send any prayer requests to CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text to 07795 205114

MARRIAGE CARE

Marriage Care, a national charity, are looking for enthusiastic individuals or couples to present marriage preparation courses with full training provided. Professionally qualified counsellors are also needed to provide support to couples in the local area.
FFI visit: www.marriagecare.org/volunteer
or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

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.

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 recommences after the summer holidays.

FLAME YOUTH GROUP The junior youth group recommences after the summer holidays.

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 / EVANGELISATION GROUP recommences after the Summer holiday.

LIFE ASCENDING No meeting in August. We will be meeting on Wednesday 6th Sept. after 10.30 mass.

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

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the sick & housebound of our parish: Rachel Allen, Liam Archer, Cody Barker, Donald Batty, Sarah Boylan, 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, Clare Myler, 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: Elizabeth Sinnou.

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Pamela Blackley, Kathleen Fisher. George Bishop-Potter, John McElligot, Hugh Brannigan, James Tolan, John Barry, Isabel Howard, Joseph Grant, Tony Richardson, Robert Bailey, Patricia Christie, Brian Crolla, Jane McKinley, Margaret O'Neill, Kathleen Jarvis, Kathleen Powis, Paul Marshall, Flora Winter, Ethna McCrealy, Margaret Ravensdale, Joan Toser, Yvonne Wickens, Marjorie Buckminster, Mary Reynolds, Teresa Nee and Julie Whiteside.

SUNDAY 23RD JULY

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) People of the Parish
- 9.00am Sarah and Archie Grant RIP
- 9.00am Mass in HMP Maidstone: Holy Souls
- 10.45am Sheila Lefort RIP
- 1.30pm Baptism of Zahara Felicity Page
- 2.30pm Baptism of Emma-Lynne Billett
- 6.00pm Maria Emerson RIP

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am Stuart McLeod RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass:
In reparation for abortions in Brewer Street

MONDAY 24TH JULY

ST SHARBEL MAKHLUF

- 10.30am Patricia Gilman RIP

TUESDAY 25TH JULY

ST JAMES THE APOSTLE

- 10.30am Bernard Burns RIP

WEDNESDAY 26TH JULY

ST JOACHIM & ANNE

- 10.30am 1. In reparation for abortions in Brewer Street
2. Rosanna Gomez's birthday
- 7.30pm NO LECTIO until September

THURSDAY 27TH JULY

- 10.30am George Lawton RIP
- 4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone: Private Intention

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

FRIDAY 28TH JULY

- 10.30am Kathleen Lenzie RIP
- 8.00pm Mr Abraham & Mrs Thomas RIP

SATURDAY 29TH JULY

ST MARTHA

- 10.00am Anniversary
- 12.00pm Wedding Mass of Charmaine Zammit & Myron Scerri
- 3.00pm Baptism of Armando & Angelina Dylmany

SUNDAY 30TH JULY

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) Joe Pinto RIP
- 9.00am James and Mary Hurson RIP
- 10.45am Ernie, Renee & Ken Hughes RIP
- 2.00pm Baptism of Connie Cunningham

NO EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

- 6.00pm Bernard Burns RIP

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am People of the Parish

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls



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

VISITING PRIEST

Fr Boniface Arapa
Fr Adam Dynak

PARISH PRIEST
Canon Luke Smith

ASSISTANT PRIEST
Fr Piotr Kucharski

ORDINARIATE PRIEST
Fr Paul Gibbons

PARISH OFFICE HOURS *in Summer months until September*
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