



ST FRANCIS' NEWS

26th November 2017



OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*Christ is our King
let the whole world rejoice*

King of Glory



King of Peace

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Feeling lucky? Tickets go on sale this weekend for our parish Christmas Raffle at £1 per strip. Amazing prizes include a luxury Christmas hamper, a family meal out, family membership of English Heritage and many other goodies. Please support this fundraising for our Parish Development Fund.

Advent Wreaths

The Fledglings children have made some fresh wreaths this week which will be on sale at all Masses, subject to availability, at a cost of £5 each. Please take a copy of the prayer sheet to accompany your wreath.

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.

ST FRANCIS LOTTERY SERIES 37

There will be a small change to the Lottery from the new year as follows:

The new series will start on 5th January 2018 (week 1) and run until 29th June (week 26). However, the first prizewinning number will not be drawn until week 5. This will give the organizers time to collect payments before drawing the first winner and will be reflected in enhanced prizes for most weeks. Tickets cost £13 each which equates to 50p a week. Until members become accustomed to this new arrangement, collectors will be in the porch before 6.00pm Mass on 2nd December, after 9.00am Mass and before 10.45am Mass on 3rd and 10th December, and then one weekend in January – to be confirmed.

Series 36 comes to an end on 29th December with the jackpot prize of **ONE THOUSAND POUNDS** due to be announced that week. If you are not already a member why not join in time for Series 37 - *it could be your turn next!*

LIGHTFEVER

Please do come and support our Lightfever – after 8pm Mass this Friday 1st December we shall have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with the evangelising ministry of inviting everybody who walks pass in the street to come in and light a candle. Not everybody is asked to do the inviting or welcoming but what we would like to encourage is more people to stay in the church in the presence of the Lord and pray for all who come in and light a candle – any time you can give up until 11pm.

CHURCH DOORS

As we have arrived into the winter months the doors of the church will be opened weekdays 9am every morning and locked 4pm every afternoon.

Homeless/Winter Shelter

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

Christmas Shopping

Please have a look at what is available in our repository (shop at the back of the church) with a whole new stock of Advent and Christmas items: calendars, candles, cards, children's books, nativity sets, 2018 diaries and much more...

BAPTISM PREPARATION

**Next Date: Thursday 7th December 2017
7.00 - 8.30pm**

TO ATTEND, PLEASE SUBMIT A BAPTISMAL APPLICATION

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS



We shall be meeting this **Monday 28th**

November, 7.30pm looking at Advent and

The Liturgical Year.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please note that the classes for First Holy Communion will now be **taking a break for December** and beginning again January 2018.



FIRST CONFESSIONS

Saturday 25th November was a special day for our First Holy Communion children as they have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. Please keep them in your prayers.

CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

Some Feed the Hungry bags will be available at Masses this weekend for you to take home and fill with Christmas luxury items and bring back next week. However, any bag will do. Items required for hampers for the needy include: Christmas puddings, chocolates, biscuits, crackers, cakes, toiletries etc. Please, no mince pies as we have lots of these. Your help is much appreciated.

Craft Sale Saturday 2nd December

Starting after 10am Mass. Items of knitting, sewing, crochet, soft toys - many suitable as Christmas presents. Home-made cakes will also be on sale and tea and coffee will be available. All proceeds to the Church Development Fund. Donations of cakes would be very welcome!

GETTING MARRIED

We are always delighted when people of our parish wish to get married. There may be a number of you wishing to get married next year. There is a lot to do to prepare for the great day so please be aware that you need to approach a priest or deacon about this at least six months in advance. Along with the paperwork that has to be researched, there is also a course you need to attend which will be arranged for you.

Sunday Masses

This Sunday 26th November we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King so we will be pleased to welcome children from St. Francis School at our 9am Mass. It is also celebrated around the world as Youth Sunday so our Flame Youth Group shall be present at the Saturday 6pm Mass and our recently Confirmed youngsters will be present during the Sunday 6pm Mass and carrying out the various ministries.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY

Many thanks for your generous support...

Last Sunday - All Masses:

1st Collection: £1,539.51*

2nd Collection: £ 511.72 Sick & Retired Priests Fund (to defray cost of levy)

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

2ND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday: Catholic Youth Work

Next Sunday: Church & Hall Development Fund

Parish Lottery Winners TBA

PARISH NOTICEBOARD

WAITING IN WONDER

'Waiting in Wonder' is a retreat for young adults (aged 18-35) being held 1st-3rd December at Worth Abbey, near Crawley. It is an opportunity to enter more deeply into the themes of Advent in preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas, offering the chance of encounter with Christ in prayer through the Benedictine monastic tradition, talks from the monks and members of the Wellspring Community, space for reflection, participation in the rhythm of prayer with the monastic community (The Divine Office), Lectio Divina, walks in the beautiful Sussex countryside, and time for building community and friendships (plus mulled wine and mince pies!) The cost is £62 for students/unwaged, £102 waged, and includes meals and accommodation. To book, or for more info, please email Katrina at TOC@worthabbey.net

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

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, call us on 01622 790195 or email 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.

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

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.

Our church still needs cleaners to volunteer!

FFI contact:

donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the sick & housebound of our parish: Rachel Allen, 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 Ruau, 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: Josephine Elliot

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Elinor Nightingale, Dennis Coatsworth, Berthe Bacharach Marjorie Mescall, Yvonne Webber, Cordelia White, Frederick Franks, Margaret Moorkite, Nora Blunden, Mary Hurson, Charles Butler, Francis Percy, Herbert Paine Albert Clark, Mary Harkin, Roland Philp, Charles Hamilton, Roger Hill, Andrew Kwiatkowski, Ellen Startup, Mary Kenward, John Booth Elizabeth Cott, Briony Morling, Moira Hughes, Barbara Power, Anastasia Agnes and Aileen Baynton.

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) John Corfe & Rachel Taylor RIP
- 9.00am Sirpa Edwardes RIP *led by St Francis School*
- 10.45am Dennis Coatsworth RIP
- 6.00pm People of the Parish

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am Winifred Prendergast RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinarate Mass: Holy Souls



MONDAY 27TH NOVEMBER

- 10.30am Kathleen Smith and Lena Ford

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

- 10.30am Funeral Mass of Josephine Elliot

WEDNESDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

- 10.30am Auntie Pat and Phyllis's Intentions

THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

- 10.30am Bernard Burns RIP *ST ANDREW THE APOSTLE*

- 4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone:
In reparation for abortions

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinarate Mass: Holy Souls

FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER

- 10.30am In reparation for abortions
- 8.00pm For fruitful priestly ministry
*followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament,
Sacred Heart Devotions & Evening Prayer*
- 9.00pm *Lightfever to 10.50pm Night Prayer & Benediction*

SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER

- 10.00am Pauline Campbell & Ernest Morgan RIP
- 1.00pm *Baptism of Emilian Igon Zon*
- 3.00pm *Baptism of Isanah Thomas John Panamkuzha*
- 4.00pm *Baptism of Ricardo Xukthi*

SUNDAY 3RD DECEMBER

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) People of the Parish
- 9.00am David Martin - Wellbeing
- 10.45am Margaret Brooks RIP
- 6.00pm Jane Norris-Mathews RIP

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am Paddy Gallagher RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinarate Mass: James and Mary Hurson RIP

REQUIEM MASSES

The Requiem Mass for **Josephine Elliot** will take place **Tuesday 28th November at 10.30am.**

The Requiem Mass for **Monica Banyard** will take place **Monday 11th December at 12 noon.**

May they rest in peace.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

DECEMBER 2017 - UNIVERSAL

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

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 Pawel Sobol

ORDINARIATE PRIEST
Fr Paul Gibbons

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

St Francis' Catholic Primary School:

St Simon Stock Catholic School:

Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB

Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 OJP

Telephone: (01622) 771540

Telephone: (01622) 754551