

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 2nd December	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Tina D'Silva RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	(HMP) 10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Nigel Lapham RIP</i>
	12.30am	Mass in Latin (Extraordinary Form)
(Preston Hall)	6.00pm	<i>Private Intention</i>
	9.00am	<i>John Penney RIP</i>
	Monday 3rd December <i>St Francis Xavier</i>	10.30am
Tuesday 4th December	10.30am	<i>John Penney RIP</i>
Wednesday 5th December <i>St Nicholas</i>	10.30am	<i>Elizabeth Frost RIP</i>
Thursday 6th December	10.30am	<i>Joseph Frost RIP</i>
Friday 7th December <i>St Ambrose</i>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Myra Angeles RIP</i>
	8.30pm	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – LightFever
	10.45pm	Night Prayer followed by Benediction
	Saturday 8th December <i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am
Sunday 9th December	3.00pm	Syro-Malabar Rite
	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Braconnier & Richardson Deceased family</i>
	9.00am	<i>Elizabeth Stacey RIP</i>
	(HMP) 10.15am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Arthur & Grace Collins RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	6.00pm	<i>Alice Griffin RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>

Confessions: Monday – Friday 10am – 10.15am
Saturday 10.30am – 11.15am; 5.30pm – 5.45pm

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: Friday 7am – 10pm

Rosary: Monday – Saturday after morning Mass

Morning Prayer: Every Saturday 9.30am

Advent suggestion from Bishop Paul Hendricks (Assistant Bishop of Southwark):

The Diocesan Spiritual Commission has produced a series of short emails to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent. These have been very well received so we would like to make you aware of them. To sign up, please visit www.southwarkdsc.org.uk.

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time:

Moira Hughes, Barbara Power, Anastasia Agnes, Aileen Baynton, Mary Bishop, Alice Lay, Victoria Flynn, James McKinley, Teresa Harding, Tina Gilloway, Hannah Newman, Patrick Kearney, Ethel Thomas, Teodor Klekot, Rosellin Gallagher, Archie Morris, Aleksander Grochowski, Maude Springett, Mary Weston, Carmina Summut & Andrew, Kathleen Waters, Elaine George, Bunty Nolan, Joan Carr, Christopher Brewer, Mary Dray, Kathleen Sturla, Cavan Buckley, Derek Jones, John Thomas, Derek Naylor, Roy Holkham and Erminio Pirozzolo.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

2nd December 2018 First Sunday of Advent (C)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217

Email maidstone@rcaos.org.uk Website www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priest: Fr. Pawel Sobol

Deacon: Rev. Ian Black

Parish Office hours: 9.00am – 12.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Catholic Schools

St Francis Primary School: Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 771540

St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park, Maidstone, ME16 0JP 01622 754551



...praying at all times for the strength that is going to happen and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man. (Luke 21:36)

Let us wish you all a very Happy New Year as we arrive at the First Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the new liturgical year of the church. This weekend we shall be hearing a pastoral letter from our Archbishop, Peter Smith. It is a very important and delicate letter as he addresses the trial that the Catholic Church has been through this year regarding reports of abuse to youngsters by clergy. This news causes us all great pain to hear but must not be denied or ignored. Since the beginning of the 21st century, huge measures have been taken to support people and families who had been victims of abuse and also, through

safeguarding, we do all we can to allow our young people and children to feel safe and encourage their involvement in the family of the church. We are also reminded by Archbishop Smith that Advent is a season of looking ahead with hope, so he asks every parish of the Diocese to hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday throughout Advent, praying especially for victims of abuse. How fortunate we are to have this practice already here at St. Francis. As Advent is a time when we need to look at our personal prayer and preparation for the coming of the Lord, please see what time you can give to come into the church on Friday and be with Jesus in the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. This Friday 7th December we of course will be holding Lightfever, inviting people who walk past the church to come and light a candle. Why not experience this prayerful experience this Advent?

WELCOME: A warm Thank You and Welcome to Fr. Stephen Wymer, Parish Priest of St. Edmunds, Beckenham, who shall be celebrating Mass with us this Sunday morning.

FORGIVENESS OF GOD: The children of our First Holy Communion programme will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation next Saturday 8th December. Please remember them in your prayers.

A GIFT AND CARD FOR FATHER PAUL GIBBONS: As we have mentioned in previous weeks, we wish to express our thanks and good wishes to Fr. Paul Gibbons as he leaves Maidstone and retires to Sussex. We have bought a gift for Fr. Paul from all of us here at St. Francis – a stole with an icon of St. Paul and St. Peter on it. A picture of the stole can be seen in the church porch. It is the intention of Fr. Liam to visit Fr. Paul in the very near future with this gift and a card on everyone's behalf. There will be some slips of paper available at the back of the church for you to write personal message to Fr. Paul if you wish and to drop it in the box provided. They will be assembled, gathered together and put in the card that we will give to Fr. Paul. As we wish to visit him in the near future the opportunity to write something will only be there until Monday 3rd December.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT CALENDAR: All children are invited to take an Advent journey calendar from the back of the church. As well as a calendar these give helpful guidance for each day of Advent with things they can do to grow in holiness and preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

FEED THE HUNGRY – CHRISTMAS APPEAL: The Christmas collection for Feed the Hungry will be on the weekend of 8/9 December. A limited number of collection bags will be available in the porch and at St Luke's for those who need them on Sunday 25th November. **We are collecting Christmas food, small toys, and gifts** to make Christmas special for those who are not as fortunate as ourselves. Please, **NO** mince pies as we get these from the manufacturers. Hampers will be put together for local families and for the homeless. There is still a need for the usual items especially disposable razors, toilet rolls, bio washing capsules and crisps.

REPOSITORY Come into the shop to see the new Christmas items: Christmas cards, Nativity sets, Children's books, gifts, Advent calendars and 2019 Catholic diaries. "Walk with me" and "Day by Day" booklets also available.

EXPOSITION & ADORATION: We are having Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday 7am – 10pm. Adorers who have offered to spend an hour in the church are asked to tick the register against their initials when they arrive. Many people wanted to participate in our Adoration but were unable to promise to commit to the same hour every week or could not commit to a Friday but offered another day. We are truly grateful for your willingness so please do come in and be with the Lord and use the opportunity well every Friday, whatever time you can give.



LIVING ROSARY: The new rota sheets for members of the Living Rosary are available from the sacristy. Please collect this as soon as possible. New members are always welcome.

WANT TO MEET UP? First Monday of the month – 11.00am Bowling at Lockmeadow
Second Monday of the Month – after 10.30am Mass there is coffee in The Society Rooms
Every Monday 1.30pm – 3.30pm there is Scrabble at Leah's Bistro in the High Street.
Every Wednesday 10am – 12pm - Line Dancing in the URC Hall down Week Street.
All are very welcome to come, meet new people and have some fun.
Please contact the parish office for more details.

LECTIO DIVINA: There shall be Adoration and reflection on the readings for next Sunday this Wednesday 5th December 7.30pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES: At this busy time of year, please note the following dates and put aside the time to attend:

LIGHT FEVER EVENING – FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER: Come and pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament while passers-by are invited into the church.

CHRISTMAS CAROL & NATIVITY PLAY – 2:00pm on SATURDAY 15TH DECEMBER. Presented by the Fledglings.

MAIDSTONE CHORAL UNION - SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER 7.30pm Christmas Carols for choir and audience and Part 1 of the Messiah by Handel at All Saints Church, Maidstone.

Tickets - £12. Details on website - www.maidstonechoralunion.org.uk.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MAIDSTONE - SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER 6pm Advent Worship 'Serving our Town' – St Paul's, Boxley Road.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE – WEST MALLING CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL: HOKH are delighted to be taking over the management of the West Malling Christmas Festival event which has been a long standing tradition in the village. The West Malling Christmas Festival takes place on Sunday 2nd December from 12 pm – 5.30 pm with the light switch on taking place at 5pm. Entry is free. Enjoy a great day out for all the family including live entertainment on stage all afternoon, Santa's Grotto, face painting, bungee trampolines, teacup and carousel rides, shopping, stalls, crafts and specialist food and drink. For any queries regarding the event, please contact erica.snow@hokh.co.uk or telephone 01622 790195.

HCPT CAROL SERVICE: This will take place at Westminster Cathedral Tuesday 11th December 7.00pm. All are welcome. There will be a retiring collection for the HCPT who take handicapped people to Lourdes every year.

Last weekend:	2nd Collection today:
1st Collection:	£1,799.39 Church & Hall Development Fund
2nd Collection – Catholic Youth Work:	£651.19 Next Week:
<i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i>	Christmas Flowers
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i>	
<i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 22 – Number 207 – Prize £15</i>	