

**Mass Intentions:** When people would like a particular intention offered at Mass they contact our parish office and book a Mass. These are the names and intentions you see beside the times of Masses on the list below. When doing so they will also give an offering for the priest who is celebrating the Mass. The usual is £10 per Mass but people must feel free to offer what they can or wish to give. If you wish to make a request for a Mass Intention then please take a green envelope from the back of the church, fill it in and then return to the parish office stating clearly if you wish a particular date or time or no preference. Please note that Mass Intentions are very popular and fill up very quickly so the time and date of Mass you request may not be available. When this happens we will ask you if you wish to wait for another time or date. Thank you for all your Mass Intentions and for your understanding in all this.

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Ellen &amp; Eric Braconnier's Wedding Anniversary</i>
	9.00am	<i>Pat Blake RIP</i>
	10.45am	<i>Maria Demicola RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Norah McDowell RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Agatha</i>	10.30am	<i>Susanne Szolnoki RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Paul Miki &amp; Companions</i>	10.30am	<i>Paddy Collins RIP</i>
<b>Wed. 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>Richard and Lydia Bennett RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Josephine Bakhita</i>	10.30am	<i>Pietro Buschini &amp; Carlo Buschini RIP</i>
(HMP)	4.30pm	<i>Terry Free RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>Requiem Mass: Eileen Fox RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Ernest &amp; Alma Shea RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> <i>St Scholastica</i>	10.00am	<i>Maria Wang, Joseph Chan, Maria Yu, Rock Wang, Joseph Yang, Maria Yang, Maria Cian, Joseph Zhang RIP</i>
	3.00pm	<i>Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite</i>
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm	<i>Nellie O'Brien RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Guy and Elizabeth Knight RIP</i>
	10.45am	<i>Donato Luisi RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Monica Banyard RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>For Andrew</i>

**Baptisms:** 11<sup>th</sup> February – 12.30pm – HARRY ARNOLD

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

**Exposition of Blessed Sacrament:** Friday 11am followed by 12pm Benediction

**Rosary:** Monday – Saturday after morning Mass

**Morning Prayer:** Every Saturday 9.30am

## ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

4<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Fifth Sunday of the Year (B)

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

email: [stfrancis\\_parish@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:stfrancis_parish@yahoo.co.uk) Website [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Liam Gallagher

**Assistant Priests:** Fr. Samuel Davey; Fr. Pawel Sobol

**Ordinate Priest:** Fr. Paul Gibbons (Wateringbury)

**Deacons:** Rev. Ian Black; Rev. Tom Coyle

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

### Catholic Schools

St Francis Primary School: Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 717540

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

We all know that prayer is important for develop our relationship with God, but how easy it is to neglect it or to fall into the habit of not doing it – only when we want something. One of the most common challenges people have to regular prayer is time – trying to fit it in our busy schedule. Perhaps we may feel that when we put so much energy into any good charitable works we do is a good reason not to stop to pray. Yet nothing really substitutes the importance of pausing to pray. One way to find time on a daily basis is to follow the example of Jesus in today's Gospel when, '...he got up early to find a lonely spot to pray.' Nobody lived a life that was more crucial to humanity than Jesus – nobody lived a life that was more giving or constantly on demand than Jesus but guarantee that everyday he found time to pray – probably first thing in the morning. Maybe there is a possibility of arising five minutes before our usual time and give that time to God. With such busy schedules people will often say they pray on the move or doing something.

There is a story of a man who went walking through the woods and came across someone with their eyes shut and deep in prayer. The man greeted them and asked what they were doing. They said, 'Every day I come to this spot in the woods to pray.' The man asked, 'Why come all the way here? Isn't God present everywhere and the same everywhere?' The person replied 'God is the same everywhere, but I'm not.' Prayer is always good but there is something important about stopping and stepping aside from what we are doing, finding a lonely place if we can and dedicating the mind to God.



**A MESSAGE FROM DEACON TOM AND LYN COYLE:** We would like to thank all who came to the Mass of Thanksgiving on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, and those who were unable to but sent their best wishes. We are very grateful to all who helped to prepare the Mass and organise the reception afterwards. It was a lovely occasion and brought back many happy memories of our years in the parish. We shall miss all the friends we have made in those years. We do not have a date for moving yet, so you will still see us around but we will let you know when the date is confirmed.

**FAREWELL GIFT:** We ask please that you return your envelopes with the offering for Deacon Tom and Lyn by this Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. For those unable to attend the Mass last Friday we presented them both with a gift from the parish. As they will have the joy of being near their grandchild while living in Chester it seemed fitting to give them two icons of St Anne and St. Joachim – the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary, therefore, the grandparents of Jesus Christ.

**DEAD LINE:** We apologise if you have attempted to telephone the priesthouse this past week but had little joy. The telephones were completely dead (they may still be as you read this). The power source has gone through water damage and has cut off the power completely. You must either contact by email or at the door during office hours. Sorry for inconvenience.

**ST FRANCIS QUIZ NIGHT:** The next Quiz will be held on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church Hall in Week Street. Entry is £6 per person. *More information coming soon.*

**REQUIEM MASS:** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am will be a Requiem Mass for Eileen Fox. The following Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am Mass will be a Requiem Mass for William Mendes. May they rest in peace. There shall be no exposition after Mass those days.

**LIFE ASCENDING GROUP.** This is a prayer group that meet the first Wednesday of every month after 10.30am Mass in the priesthouse. They shall therefore be meeting this Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February.

**EVANGELISATION GROUP:** If anybody would like to meet up and be part of our Parish Evangelisation Group then you are welcome to join us this Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm in the priesthouse.

**R.C.I.A:** Our next meeting shall be on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm. We shall be looking at the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

**GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS, ASHFORD:** Help funding towards our Parish Hall Development and have a splendid afternoon! Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May we are planning a trip to Godinton House and Gardens, Ashford. Cost will be £22 per person which includes exclusive house tour, afternoon cream tea and walk around gardens. People will also be asked to drive their own car and possibly car share. Put this in your diaries – more information shall come soon.

**REPOSITORY:** Lent resources now in stock. ‘Walk With Me’ and ‘Day by Day’ booklets and new CTS Lent titles now available.

**ON GOING DONATIONS:** We have been very fortunate to have had a new freezer donated for the Day Centre, and it is very much appreciated. Please continue to send in your very generous donations of milk, bread and cereal - our parish keeps the Day Centre supplied with these items and surplus donations are gratefully received by Trinity Project for young people. In addition, families in the parish are supported and the current particular need is for nappies, toiletries, sanitary products and toilet rolls. Very many thanks for your help.

**£1,000 TO TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO DUBLIN:** On August 21-26 the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) will take place in Dublin. Its highlight is a visit by Pope Francis. During the WMOF, there will be a wide-ranging programme of talks and workshops for adults, events for young people and various activities for children. That’s in addition to exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances plus daily Mass. All are welcome at this important and joyful international gathering. Why not plan a visit now, perhaps as your annual holiday? A £1,000 bursary is being offered to enable a family to do so. A condition is that after the event you would share the fruits of your experiences in Dublin with your local parish or school and other people. To find out more, contact Deacon Philip and Mrs Mary Pond now on 020 8651 2477 or email [marriage2014@virginmedia.com](mailto:marriage2014@virginmedia.com)

**CALLED BY NAME:** This is a vocation retreat for young adults (aged 18-35) being held 9 - 11th February at Worth Abbey, Crawley. The retreat is not aimed only at those discerning a possible call to religious life/priesthood, but to every young person seeking to know and live the call of Christ. The cost is £63 for students/unwaged, £105 waged, and includes meals and accommodation. To book, or for more info, please contact Katrina on [TOC@worth.org.uk](mailto:TOC@worth.org.uk) / 01342 710318.

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

Hugh Cameron, Doreen Ingrams, Norah Jones, Gerry Cullen, Patrick James, Catherine Collins, Patrick Delaney, Hannah Williams, Brian White, Myra Campbell, Charles Mill, Dorothy Snowden, Joseph Chow, Pietro Pia, Shaun O’Hara, Noel Nolan, Tony Plumbly, Richard Hammond, Anne Dooner, Lydia Bennett, Carmela Pirozzolo, John Homewood, Alfred Sancto, William Pointer, Phyllis Greenwood, Philip Hook, Teresa Di Marco, Joan McCormick, Maria Minns, Juliette Baynton, Violet Marozzi, George Moscicki, and Harriett Stanley

<b>Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1676.34</b> <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i>	<b>2nd Collection: DEW Association: £442.42</b> <i>Thank you for your generosity</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today: Racial Justice Sunday</b>	<b>Next Week: Church and Hall Development</b>

*Congratulations to our Lottery Winner for Wk. 5 – £15: No.210 – Mrs. M. P. McArdle*