

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.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 4th March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Ellen Braconnier RIP</i>
<i>RCIA First Scrutiny</i>	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Carolina Demicola RIP</i>
	1.00pm	Tridentine Mass
	6.00pm	<i>Angela Woodland Wallis RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Henry Delaney RIP</i> <i>Delaney & Archer Families' welfare</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Monday 5th March	10.30am	<i>Funeral Mass of Winifred Harfield</i>
Tuesday 6th March	10.30am	<i>Maggie Haylor (Adam) RIP</i>
Wednesday 7th March <i>Ss. Perpetua & Felicity</i>	10.30am	<i>Linda Belsham RIP</i>
Thursday 8th March <i>St. John of God</i>	10.30am	<i>Geronima Baraquio RIP</i>
(HMP)	4.30pm	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 9th March	10.30am	<i>Mark and family</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Jean Gould RIP</i>
Saturday 10th March	10.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	3.00pm	Mass in the Syro-Malabar Rite
Sunday 11th March	6.00pm	<i>Terry McCarthy, Lilian & William Smith RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
	10.45am	<i>Michele Zita RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Neil Martin RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>

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*

Stations of the Cross: *Fridays in Lent 7.15pm (in English & Polish)*

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

4th March 2018

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

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

email: stfrancis_parish@yahoo.co.uk Website 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

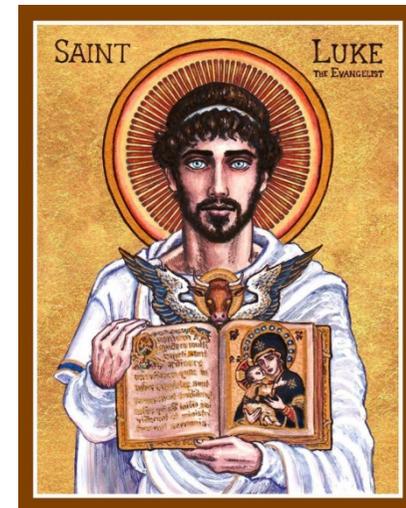
St Francis Primary School: Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 717540

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

WELCOME BACK

We are so pleased that we have been able to celebrate Mass back in St. Luke's Chapel at Preston Hall since Sunday 18th February. Since last April when the chapel was unusable due to fire damage we have been gathering in a community room in the hospice itself and the Mass times had to be changed from two to one at 9.00am. We are aware that this has taken longer than first hoped so we offer a lot of thanks for the patience and understanding that has been shown by the people who have faithfully attended every week. We offer gratitude too for all who have been looking after certain church equipment at their homes and getting things ready every week. We hope that inconvenience will soon come to an end when we purchase a new cupboard, wardrobe and other furniture for the sacristy. We also are looking at the possibility of getting new seating for the chapel as the current seats are usable yet have reached a condition of needing replacing. Yet although everything isn't yet complete the chapel is looking very fresh with new carpeting and redecorated walls. Everybody arrived and left Mass on Sunday with happiness on their faces with a look that they had returned home after an exile.

We have decided to leave the time of Mass at 9.00am for the time being. It may be that we will look at this again if we feel it is for the best.



THE SEASON OF LENT

- **24 HOURS FOR THE LORD:** We once again invite you to come and be part of a full day of prayer, adoration and worship. From 10.30am Friday 9th March – 10.30am Saturday 11th March the church will be open for 24 hours for exposition and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. During this time as well as opportunities for silent prayer and adoration, there shall be times for 'Lightfever', guided meditations on the Rosary, Stations of the Cross and novena to the Divine Mercy. We shall also be inviting members of other parishes around the Maidstone Deanery to come and lead us at various times with other priests coming to hear confessions at various times throughout the 24 hours. During the time of Lent we seek ways and opportunities to spend more time with the Lord in prayer so why not consider giving what time you can during this full day of worship and adoration for the Lord. A full timetable can be viewed on our parish website.
- **ADORATION ROTA:** It is very important that during these 24 hours we are certain that at least 4 people will be in the church all the time keeping the Lord company and giving a good witness to everybody that our love for God is strong. If you are able to give one hour of your time during these 24 hours to spend with the Lord then please can you put your name on the rota that is now available at the back of the church.
- **RECONCILIATION SERVICE:** There shall be a wonderful opportunity to come and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Sunday 25th March 4pm with a special service where other priests of the Deanery shall be present to hear your confession. This is the most precious way in which we prepare our souls for the celebration of Easter by turning from our sins and allowing the Lord to set us free so please do make the most of this opportunity.
- **EASTER LILIES:** You are invited to remember a departed loved one with a Lily for Easter. Please give your offering in a card and envelope available at the back of the church with the name of the loved one you wish to be remembered, and return to the Parish Office. A Lily in their memory will be placed in the church for Easter.
- **GOOD FRIDAY WALK OF WITNESS:** This will take place on Friday 30th March. Arrive outside St Francis Church at 10.20am. Finish with worship in Jubilee Square at 11am.
- **BORN FOR THIS:** A powerful and moving depiction of the Stations of the Cross led by the team from the Southwark Catholic Youth Service with members of our Phoenix Youth Club. This unmissable reflection takes place on the 24th March at 6pm in the Relic Chapel, Aylesford Priory. Free admission. If there any other young people (over 15 years old) in the parish who enjoy performing and are interested in taking part and who are available for the whole day on Saturday 24 March 2018 for rehearsals at Aylesford Priory, please contact Lydia Burchell via the Parish Office.

SUNDAY 9.00am MASS: During the Sunday 9.00am Mass, the candidates of our R.C.I.A. group who are preparing for Baptism this coming Easter will begin their first Sunday of Scrutinies, a simple ceremony in which we pray for them in their continual journey and they receive a copy of 'The Creed'. The second scrutiny shall take place during the 10.45am Mass next Sunday. Also, the **First Holy Communion children** will be joining us for this Sunday's 9.00am Mass and shall be receiving a special prayer book towards the end of Mass. Please keep our children and R.C.I.A. candidates in your prayers especially during this season of Lent.

Next Sunday 11th March 9.00am Mass we shall be welcoming the children and staff of St. Francis School on our special 'Mothering Sunday' Mass.

EVANGELISATION GROUP: There is a meeting on Monday 5th March 7.30pm.

R.C.I.A.: Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 6th March 7.30pm. We shall be looking at the Gospel of 'Jesus curing the Blind Man.'

CHOIR: The 6pm choir would love to hear from confident musicians to play and sometimes help lead the music when our other core members aren't available. Singers are also welcome! Joining us will not involve you in rehearsals or an "every Sunday" commitment – we are an informal group who love to contribute music to the mass, and recognise that members may not always be able to attend the same Mass each week. Do come and chat with us after Mass if you are interested.

REQUIEM MASS: Monday 10.30am Mass is a Requiem Mass of Winifride Harfield. May she rest in peace.

LECTIO DIVINA: This is a monthly invitation to come and sit in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament with moments of reflection on the Gospel for the following Sunday which will be read to us. The next gathering is in the church this Wednesday 6th March 7.30pm

GODINTON HOUSE AND GARDENS, ASHFORD: Help funding towards our Parish Hall Development and have a splendid afternoon! Thursday 10th 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. Arrival at 1.45pm. Gardens close 6pm. Please book by marked envelopes stating 'Godinton House Trip', handed in to the parish office.

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

ST FRANCIS QUIZ NIGHT: This popular event will take place on Saturday, 14th April at the URC Hall. Maximum number of team members is 8. To book your table, complete the short form in the porch. Book early as tables are limited. Come along and pit your wits against each other! It costs £6 per person and all proceeds will go to the Church Development Fund.

LIFE ASCENDING: The next meeting of the Life Ascending group will be on Wednesday, 7th March after the 10.30am Mass. We will be taking a light-hearted view of Lent.

DIVINE MERCY RETREATS: Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising two retreats: Saturday, 10th March at the Church of Our Lady and St Joseph, 100a Balls Pond Road, Kingsland, London N1 4AG; and Sunday, 11th March, at St Mary Magdalen Church, Howson Road, Brockley, London, SE4 2BB. All welcome. More info: Divine Mercy Apostolate – Marian Fathers, 1 Courtfield Gardens, London W13 0EY; phone: 020 89980925; email: info@divinemercury.org.uk; www.divinemercuryapostolate.co.uk

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Dooley, Frank Weston, Jack Helm, Joanna Patterson, Stephen Flaherty, Jack Powis, Ameleise Down, Iris Baker, Rita Haggerty, Daisy Raemers, Hilde Fenner, John Donlon, Mary Docker, David Godding, Doris Thompson, Ernest Morgan, Mary Whooley, Kathleen Mooney, Margaret Baker, James Dignan, Raymond Bennett, Mary Arrow, Josephine Baldock, Nina Driver, Bridget Banham and Gerald McMorrow.

Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1565.72 **2nd Collection today:** Church & Hall Development Fund
plus an average of £275 Standing Orders

Next Week: Sick & Retired Priests Fund (to defray cost of levy)

2nd Collection – CAFOD Fast Day: £749.23

*Thank you for your generosity
Lottery Winner TBA next week*