

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Mary Aylward RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Mary Lester RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Cormac Reynolds RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	11.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Aliki &amp; Peter Daniell RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Wed 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Funeral Mass for John Penney</i>
<b>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention – in honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary</i>
	(HMP)	4.30pm
<b>Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Tina D'Silva RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.00am	<i>Pauline Gilman RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Mary Aylward RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
	10.45am	<i>Joseph Antony RIP</i>
	4.00pm	<i>Polish Mass</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Tina &amp; Vivian D'Silva RIP</i>
	(Preston Hall)	9.00am
(Wateringbury)	11.00am	<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*

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

Albert Driver, William Donovan, John Simmonds, Bernard Willis, Thomas Forbes-Amer, Margaret Maguire, Freda Packer, Douglas Smith, Wilfred Duart, Jane Haydon, John Moran, Seamus Kearney, Joseph Quinn, Paul Butcher, Anthony Moran, Frederick Wakeford, Joseph Babalola, Sheila Priestley, Mary Lester, Arthur O'Dea, Mark Howard, Robert Wells, Lycia King, Jackie Sexton, John Johnson, William Paterson, Francis Brennan, Maria Carpenter, Seamus Sheridan, Michael McGuire, Vivian D'Silva and Pauline Gilman.

## ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**9<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

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

Email [maidstone@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@rcaos.org.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)

**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

### **BE OPENED**

If you have ever been to a baptism recently you may have noticed that towards the end of the ceremony we have the 'Ephphatha' prayer. The minister touches the ears and mouth of the child and says, 'May the Lord touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to proclaim his faith to the praise and glory of God the Father, Amen.' This is in remembrance of today's Gospel when Jesus healed the deaf man with a speech impediment. I think we can honestly say that most children whom we baptise seem to have nothing wrong with their vocal ability – they usually demonstrate that well after the contact with the water. Yet what is our power of hearing and speech used for? Do we always use our hearing to listen well to the Word of God; to listen to people who are instructing us; to people who need a sympathetic ear? Or do we so easily refuse to listen to the truth because we don't want to face it; do we enjoy listening to idle gossip and fake news; do we give time for a caring ear for one who needs our support? Is our power of speech always used to instruct, to inspire and encourage, to give words of love, friendship and peace? Or do we use our speech for words of indecency; words that are cruel and encourage hatred; words that oppress; words that are of slander and gossip? Our speech and hearing is for one thing only – to hear and learn the truth and righteousness that comes from God and then to proclaim that Word of God what we have heard – and Jesus Christ is The Word. This is Ephphatha! Being opened not just in our ears and mouths but our hearts and lives open to God that we can give what we have received.



**NEW EMAIL ADDRESS:** Please note that we have a new email address. If you have contacted us during the week on the old address do not panic – we still have access to it and they shall be seen to. However, any messaging from the parish office from now on shall be on the new address.

**FAREWELL AND THANK YOU FR. SAMUEL.** By now we have all probably heard the news that Fr. Sam will be sadly leaving us and moving up to Birmingham. As Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September will be his final Sunday with us, everyone is warmly invited to join him for drinks and refreshments after the 10.45 Mass in Grove House, next to the church. **If anyone is able to provide finger food, please bring it to Grove House either on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> or the morning of Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. Many thanks.** As a sign of our appreciation to Fr. Sam we also wish to hold a collection for a farewell gift from the parish so please collect an envelope from the back of the church at the end of Mass. I know we are very grateful to Fr. Sam for his service to our parish of St. Francis and we wish to give him thanks and ask for every blessing in his future.

**DAY OF ADORATION AND TALKS AT AYLESFORD** On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September Aylesford Priory are holding Adoration with various speakers throughout the day – please see the poster at the back of the church for details.

**IS THAT IT?** Thank you to all who helped and supported our weekend of Adoration on Friday evening and Saturday. It will be our hope that from this weekend we will be able to hold Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all day for one day a week so please give this initiative your support. After what hopefully will be a very fruitful weekend of prayer and adoration, we will be welcoming speakers to the parish in the near future to talk about organising all day adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in our parish. We will all be invited to see if we can give one hour every week to make this possible.

**PARISH FUNDRAISING LUNCH** at Mu Mu's on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at 1pm. The price is £20 a head. Please make cheques payable to St Francis Parish. Names and cheques must be handed in to the parish office by the 17<sup>th</sup> September please. A raffle will also be held. Please inform us of any dietary requirements.

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?** Have you been thinking about becoming a Catholic? Do you wish just to find out more because you attend with your family every week? We invite you to join us on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm in the priest house starting from this Tuesday 11th September for the R.C.I.A group where we share and learn more about the Faith and explore our relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no commitment once you have started and no pressure to become a Catholic. If this is something you would like to consider then please ask for an enquiry form at the end of Mass.

**WANT TO MEET UP?** Every Monday after 10.30am Mass there is coffee in The Society Room opposite the church; or at 10.30am there is Bowling at Lockmeadow; or 1.30pm – 3.30pm there is Scrabble at Leah's Bistro in the High Street. Every Wednesday 10am -12pm there is Line Dancing in the URC Hall down the High Street. All are very welcome to come, meet new people and have some fun.

**FLEDGLINGS GROUP** Children's Group will be meeting at St Francis' Primary School on Queen's Road on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September from 10am to 3pm. Children who are of primary school age (Reception to Year 6) are very welcome to come along.

**FLAME YOUTH GROUP** will be meeting at Grove House on **Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September** from 6pm to 8.15pm. For further details of either of the two groups, please ask one of the clergy or any of the musicians at Mass

**PHOENIX YOUTH CLUB:** Aged 15-18? Phoenix Youth Club runs activities, sports and game nights every Friday evening. We meet at Maidstone Baptist Church at 8pm weekly, restarting in September. This is an opportunity to meet other young Christians and participate in fun activities and trips.

**CONFIRMATION MASS:** As Bishop Paul Mason is moving to a new position he is unable to celebrate the Confirmation Mass here at St. Francis on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October. Instead we welcome Archbishop Peter Smith that day for what is possibly his last in our Diocese of Southwark as Archbishop. Please note that the Mass time has now been moved to **4.00pm**, therefore **there will be no Sunday 6.00pm Mass that day.**

**DATE FOR THE DIARY:** Parish Quiz Night will take place at URC Hall Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November.

**HEART OF KENT HOSPICE MOONLIT WALK 2018** Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October starting at 8.00 pm. This 8 mile circular walk starts from Heart of Kent Hospice, and walkers will travel through Aylesford, Larkfield & Leybourne stopping for refreshments at our West Malling Charity Shop. Entry fee includes a special edition Moonlit Walk 2018 t-shirt, pre-walk entertainment, fun warm up, all refreshments and medal. Book by 13<sup>th</sup> September and get discount Adult over 16 - £18.00 Teams of 8 - £126. Children under 16 (must be accompanied by an adult) - £8.00. Full prices after that date will be Adult over 16 - £20.00 Team of 8 - £140.00 Children under 16 (must be accompanied by an adult) - £10.00

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES:** Kent Catholic Schools Partnership is looking for Foundation Governors to join governing bodies across a number of our academies in Kent. Foundation Governors are committed to supporting education in a Catholic context and help the Trust to deliver outstanding spiritual, moral and learning outcomes for children and young people. For further information please see the KCSP website at <http://www.kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/> or contact the Trust on [office@kcsp.org.uk](mailto:office@kcsp.org.uk).

**THANK YOU LETTER:** We recently received a letter from Homeless Care at Maidstone Day Centre to express their delight and gratitude for all the provisions we regularly donate to them. They also give their assurance that every single item collected is received by those who need it most. Please continue to send in your very generous donations.

**CHURCH AND HALL DEVELOPMENT:** We thank you for your continual support and prayers in this matter. The current figures for the Roof Fund are as follows:

Raised to date: £126,198.19  
Total cost of roof: £136,000.00  
Debt to be paid: £9,801.81

<b>Last weekend:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection:</b> £1,611.95	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b>  Catholic Education Services
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection</b> – Church & Hall Development Fund: £569.01	<b>Next Week:</b> Home Mission
<i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i>	
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <i>Parish Lottery winner – Week 10 – No. 225 – £20</i>	