

**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**

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<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>
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer Street</i>
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>Antonina's welfare</i> <i>In honour of the Immaculate heart of Mary</i>
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b> Ash Wednesday	6.30am	<i>Patrick Gallagher RIP</i>
	10.30am	<i>Ann Parker RIP</i>
	7.30pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>Bernard Burns RIP</i>
(HMP)	4.30pm	<i>Canon Thomas Ryan RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	<i>Requiem Mass: William Mendes RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Elizabeth and Joseph Frost RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.00am	<i>John Corfe and Rachel Taylor RIP</i>
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	9.00am	<i>Michael Reg RIP</i>
<i>with Rite of Welcome</i>	10.45am	<i>Maria-Antonia Cacciaccarro RIP</i>
	4.00pm	Mass in Polish
	6.00pm	<i>Hermogenes &amp; Encarnacion Bernardo RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>James Philip Birchenough RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</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

11<sup>th</sup> February 2018

Sixth 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

Leprosy is something we don't tend to hear much about in this part of the world. It is usually associated with places of extreme poverty and lack of cleanliness. It is also lifelong and very contagious. At the time of Jesus anybody who got leprosy would then find themselves cast away from the rest of society and they were never welcomed back.

You could call it quite literally a living hell. To treat sick, vulnerable and needy people in our society today would seem an outrage. Yet it isn't just lepers that can get treated in such a way. It is not uncommon for someone to say to somebody else, 'you treated me like a leper!' when they have felt ignored, bullied, or disowned by a person they thought was their friend.



Who would you say are the 'lepers' in our world today who nobody dares to associate with? Who are the people that we have personally ignored or rejected out of our own lives because they fill us with shame, or embarrassment?

**LETTER:** This weekend we shall hear a pastoral letter from our Archbishop Peter Smith.

**LENT IS HERE:** This Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February we begin yet again the season of Lent with **Ash Wednesday**. Please note the additional Masses that are available here at St. Francis on that day – 6.30am; 10.30am; 7.30pm.

**Abstinence** - Catholics over the age of 14 are bound by the obligations of abstinence. Abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays of Lent. On days of abstinence, meat may not be consumed at all.

**Fasting** – Catholics aged 18 – 60 are bound to the obligation of fasting. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of Fasting. On these days only **one** full meal is allowed. Two other ‘snacks’ are allowed to be consumed, but they cannot be greater than one full meal in totality.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** During the Season of Lent we shall pray the Stations of the Cross – a very popular devotion in the Church and very appropriate for Lent. This shall take place on Friday evenings 7.15pm and is spoken in English and Polish. We look for ways in which we can give more time to God in prayer during Lent so why not use this special opportunity – at least once in Lent.

**R.C.I.A:** Our next meeting shall be on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm. We will be looking at *The Season of Lent*. Please keep the members of our R.C.I.A. group in your prayers throughout Lent as this is the final part of their journey in preparation to be fully received into the Catholic Church this coming Easter Vigil 31<sup>st</sup> March. Next weekend they will be attending a special ceremony called ‘The Rite of Election’ at St. George’s Cathedral, where they are officially received and welcomed by Archbishop Peter as Candidates to be received into the Catholic Church. Next Sunday 9.00am Mass we shall then present them to the parish.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** During February we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes (which happens to be this Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February). Lourdes is a place of pilgrimage in the Southwest of France which is renowned for sick people to journey there – hence this Sunday is also celebrated as World Day of the Sick. To acknowledge this being the month of Our Lady of Lourdes we wish to celebrate a Mass on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February 10am followed by the Anointing of the Sick. This is a Sacrament that is administered to anyone who has experienced a decline in health or ability and wish to receive the Lord’s healing strength at this time.

**LIFE’S TOO BUSY:** How much do we long for an opportunity in the midst of our whole busy lives to just sit and be still? The opportunity does not come our way often enough. Yet to stop, be still and especially to pray is vital for our lives. There is, therefore, a whole new initiative that is being started in our Diocese (The Catholic Church of South London and Kent) in which people are asked to be trained up and encouraged to introduce the importance of sitting in silence in the presence of Jesus – and who can honestly say they don’t want that? What people are being asked is to attend four Saturdays of instruction and training to be a part of a team that would visit another parish and work on how to develop the practise of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament in worship and prayer. The Saturdays are 24<sup>th</sup> February; 3<sup>rd</sup> March; 24<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April. They take place at St. Thomas More Church, West Malling ME19 6HN.

**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.

**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:** On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February 10.30am Mass there will be a Requiem Mass for William Mendes. May he rest in peace. There shall be no exposition after Mass on this day.

**DEW ASSOCIATION – 2<sup>nd</sup> COLLECTION:** The Dew Association would like to thank parishioners for all the funds that you raised towards Projects last year. The Second Collection on 21st January will be for India, Children’s Education Mission (Lucy Guest). May we thank you for your continued help in these difficult times, where all monies collected go directly to helping others in great need. May God bless you.

**LIFE ASCENDING:** The next meeting of the Life Ascending group will be on Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> March after the 10.30am Mass. We will be taking a light-hearted view of Lent. FFI Keith Hunter on 01622 746792.

**ONGOING DONATIONS:** 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.

**We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Terese Leonard, Marie Temple, James Rafferty, Dorothy Heseltine, Mary Bailey, Sidney Ocock, Jean Hinds, John Ruddy, Samuel Dickson, Billy Long, Bernard Attwell, Steven Coward, Edna Dickenson, Florence Jukes, John Lockyer, Francis Parsons, Mary Brown Bridget Considine, Margaret O’Kill, Patrick Clarke, Isobel Bartley, Harold Mendes, Lois Hockney, Margaret Kershaw, James Thompson, Dennis Pollard, Margaret Reay Norah Chambers, Maria Carmichael, John Mills, Carmen Page and Victor Moriarty.

**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: £121,901.47

Total cost of roof: £136,000.00

Debt to be paid: £14,098.53

<b>Last weekend: 1st Collection:</b> £1719.88 <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i>	<b>2nd Collection – Church &amp; Hall Development Fund:</b> £591.62 – <i>Thank you for your generosity</i>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b> Poor Parishes	<b>Next Week:</b> DEW Association

*Congratulations to our Lottery Winner for Wk. 6 – £20: No 41 – Mr A. Wallwork*