

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

11th March 2018

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

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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

LAETARE SUNDAY:

We have arrived at the fourth Sunday of Lent which we traditionally celebrate as 'Laetare Sunday', meaning 'Rejoice'. So this is a Sunday that allows an expression of rejoicing in the midst of the solemn season of Lent. This means that flowers are allowed in church and personal Lenten observances can be relaxed. You will also notice that the clergy here shall be wearing 'rose' coloured vestments instead of the usual 'purple'. During this day we also remember 'Mothering Sunday' – developed from the times that servants were allowed to go back to their homes for the day and worship in their home 'Mother Church'. We wish all 'Mothers' of our parish a very blessed and peaceful day.

May Mary the Mother of our blessed Lord and Mother of us all continue to pray for us as we journey through our Season of Lent and respond to Christ's invitation to 'Repent and believe the Good News' and be one with Him.

When Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son". Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother." And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own home. (J 19:26-27)



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 11th March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Terry McCarthy, Lilian & William Smith RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
<i>R.C.I.A. Second Scrutiny</i>	10.45am	<i>Michele Zita RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Neil Martin RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Henry Delaney RIP and the Delaney & Archer families welfare</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
Monday 12th March	10.30am	<i>John Ratcliffe RIP</i>
Tuesday 13th March	10.30am	<i>Antonina's welfare in honour of the Immaculate heart of Mary</i>
Wednesday 14th March	10.30am	<i>For the homeless of Maidstone</i>
Thursday 15th March	10.30am	<i>Good care at Sevenoaks Hospital</i>
(HMP)	4.30pm	<i>Terry Free RIP</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
Friday 16th March	10.30am	<i>Good care at Maidstone Hospital</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Philomena Nathanielsz RIP</i>
Saturday 17th March	10.00am	<i>Tom Egan RIP</i>
<i>St Patrick</i>		
Sunday 18th March	6.00pm	<i>Bernard Burns RIP</i>
<i>Led by Fledglings</i>	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.45am	<i>Philip Ashon's wellbeing</i>
	4.00pm	<i>Polish Mass</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Jane Hartnett RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Lillian Corrigan's Intentions</i>
(Wateringbury)	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>

BAPTISM: 18th March – 4.00pm (Polish Mass) – Damian Ciesielski

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)*

THE SEASON OF LENT

- **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.
- **LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Our parish Fledglings Children's Group will be meeting on Saturday 17th March at 10am at St Francis School. Later that afternoon, at 2.30pm they shall be leading Living Stations of the Cross in the church. Please take advantage of this extra opportunity for devotion during Lent and support our children.

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

SECOND SCRUTINY: The candidates of our R.C.I.A. group who are preparing for Baptism this coming Easter will receive their Second Scrutiny during the 10.45am Mass this Sunday. Next Sunday, 18th March, they shall receive their Third Scrutiny. Our next R.C.I.A. meeting will be on Tuesday 13th March 7.30pm.

ALTAR SERVER HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Can the parents of any servers that have not been contacted by the M.C. please send an email, no later than 18th March, stating which services they are available to serve at to: altarserving@stfrancisparish.org.uk. The times of services are as follows: Maundy Thursday, 29th March at 8.00pm; Good Friday, 30th March at 3.00pm; Holy Saturday Easter Vigil, 31st March at 9.00pm; Easter Sunday, 1st April at 9.00am & 10.45am. The M.C. will then let you know when the rehearsals are. Many thanks!

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.

SICK CALL: A very important ministry we have within the life of the Church is visiting the sick. We can see how throughout the Gospel Jesus tended to and cured so many who were sick and we as the church now continue to be his hands and heart in the world and serve all who need it. One area where we of course see so much need of care is our local hospital on hermitage lane and there is a chaplaincy team who regularly visit the various wards and we are indeed very grateful to the members of our parish who give

their time generously in this way. However we do sometime come across Catholics, maybe even of our parish, yet we are not aware they are in hospital until we came across them. If you are aware of a Catholic who is going to be in hospital for treatment or has been taken in then please do let the priests here know. If you know somebody who has gone to a hospital that is not in Maidstone then we would only be too happy to contact the chaplain there just to make sure they were aware that a Catholic is in their local area. Please do not say to yourself, 'Oh I don't want to bother Father.' Being called to attend the sick is something every priest is called to do as it continues that loving service Christ gave to so many sick.

FEED THE HUNGRY: 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 tinned meat, tuna, soup and crisps for pack-ups. Bags will be available at the back of the church this weekend for donations of more luxurious items such as chocolates, eggs & Easter luxuries. These will be given to families and the homeless at Easter. Please return your bags either next weekend or the weekend of 24th/25th. Your help is much appreciated.

REPOSITORY: Easter cards now in stock, also new selection of Children's books to celebrate Easter.

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! Do come and chat with us after Mass if you are interested.

ST FRANCIS QUIZ NIGHT: This popular event will take place on Saturday, 14th April. Please note the venue is now the URC Main Hall, not Dunning 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.

MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: This will take place at St George's Cathedral 16th June 2018. If you are celebrating your 1st /10th/ 25th/ 40th/ 50th/ 60th +wedding anniversary this year, please put this date in your diary.

TEACHING VACANCY: St John's Catholic Primary School, Gravesend is looking for an experienced KS2 teacher. For further information please see the website at kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/ or contact the academy on office@stjohnsprimary.kent.sch.uk

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: £122,535.13
Total cost of roof: £136,000.00
Debt to be paid: £13,464.87

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Gerard Ryan, Thomas Malone, John Fitzgibbon, Jane Bates, Patrick Hogan, Christina Wyatt, Doreen Whooley, Walter Downe, Elvera Fyne, Frances Whitehead, Michael Mackie, Anne Donoghue, Alan Fairley, James Ford, Kathleen Augood and Philomena Policelli.

Last weekend:

1st Collection: £1596.02

plus an average of £275 Standing Orders

2nd Collection – Church & Hall Development Fund:
£633.66

Thank you for your generosity

Lottery Winners: Week 9 – No. 263 – Mr. P. Mack – £15; Week 10 – No. 354 – Mrs. M. Ratcliff – £20

2nd Collection today:

Sick & Retired Priests' Fund

(to defray cost of levy)

Next Week: Dew Association