

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 24th March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>John Daly RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Anne Roberts RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Holy Souls</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>John McElroy RIP</i>
Monday 25th March <i>The Annunciation of Our Lord Jesus Christ</i>	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Tuesday 26th March	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Wednesday 27th March	10.30am	<i>Gemma Vokes RIP</i>
Thursday 28th March	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
Friday 29th March	10.30am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Christine Jeyes RIP</i>
Saturday 30th March	10.00am	<i>Pauline Gilman RIP</i>
Sunday 31st March	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>May McKeivitt RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>William Joseph RIP</i>
(HMP)	10.15am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Kevin Maher RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Ryszard Sobczyk RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>

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

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament: *Friday 7am – 10pm*

Rosary: *Monday – Saturday after morning Mass*

Morning Prayer: *Every Saturday 9.30am*

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

Kevin Maher, Alan Appleton, Annie Roberts, Natalina Stevens, Mary Weal, Bridget Burke, Henry O'Shea, Jeanne Hiscox, Gemma Vokes, William Newell, Monica Cabb, Pawlak Krzysztof, Michael Sutton, Jane Knights, Philomena Coatsworth, Michael Pantony, Patricia Fairley, John Harkin, Alice Mangion and Eileen Powis.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: These will take place on 7.15pm every Friday evening during Lent. We will also be having Stations of the Cross at St. Luke's chapel, Preston Hall at 8.50am – we will reflect on two or three stations every Sunday so that by the end of Lent, we will have completed the journey

BAPTISM: We Congratulate and welcome into the Church MICHAEL MENAI and GIOVANNI TROIANO who shall be Baptised this weekend.

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th March 2019 Third Sunday of Lent

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

Email maidstone@rcaos.org.uk Website www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priest: Fr. Pawel Sobol

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

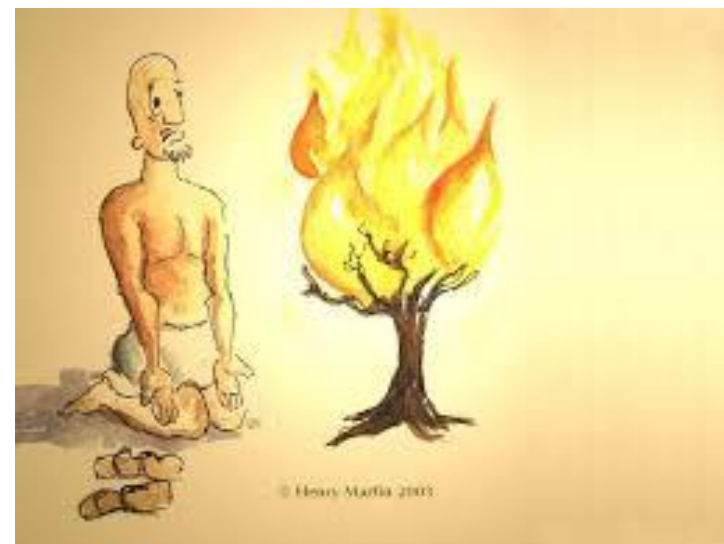
01622 771540

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

01622 754551

TAKE OFF YOUR SHOES

When we return home after been on our feet all day, one of the first things people like to do is to take their shoes off. This is the beginning of feeling relaxed and at home. Our whole body seems to just slow down once we have taken off our shoes. We maybe breathe a sigh of relief and stop what we are doing. Some homes have a whole pile of different pairs of shoes by the door where we just kick them off or take our pick when its time to go out again. It can also be domestic – we don't want muddy footprints all over our clean house. How would you feel if coming to church you had to take your shoes off the same as people of the Islamic faith do when entering a Mosque? Probably not all that comfortable. There is a security we feel with keeping everything on our feet. So why was Moses asked to take off his shoes? Shoes are a sign of prosperity and Moses was now on holy ground in the presence of God. It was recognition that something different and special was taking place – Moses was to receive a whole new beginning, a change from his previous life and it was God calling him to it. We may not have to take off our shoes when we enter our holy ground of the church, but we are asked to strip our hearts of all that we try and hold on to in our world and recognise that Christ has called us to something greater – working in his kingdom to bring his peace, love and compassion where it is needed. When we enter our church and any church, let our bodies be still and our hearts moved for we are in the presence of God. **Stop, bow, genuflect, pray; listen as the Lord calls you.**



JOURNEY TO THE HOLY LAND. There is a pilgrimage to the Holy Land Scheduled planned to take place 29th September – 7th October 2019. Maria, the organiser, arranges this every year and is from Rainham parish, however it is advertised in a number of other parishes. Fr Liam Gallagher has been invited to be the Spiritual Leader for this pilgrimage. If you wish to travel on this magnificent pilgrimage costing £1,435, then please contact Maria who will be able to give you all the information you need. Details are on the poster in the porch and the flyer. Please note that there is a lot of walking over uneven rocky terrain involved so please put give this serious consideration.

SOMETHING EXTRA FOR LENT: The next Lenten Session is on Thursday 28th March at 7.30pm in the Church. The talk will be on 'The mystery, sin, suffering and hope.' This is open to all to learn a little more about our faith. The Sessions last no more than an hour, followed by refreshments. There will be a different speaker each week. Please support this Parish initiative. The car park will be open.

EASTER LILIES: Envelopes and intention sheets are available in the porch for Easter lilies. Please put the names of your loved ones on the slips, put it in the envelope with any donation, and post through the letterbox of Grove House by Thursday 18th April. Lilies will be purchased for the Easter Masses. Any donations will be used for Masses for the Holy Souls.

24 HOURS: Our church of St Francis will remain open for twenty-four hours, offering an opportunity for both Eucharistic adoration and sacramental confession. This will take place from 7am Friday 29th March to 10am Saturday 30th March, finishing with Benediction at 9.30am. Don't miss this annual event enabling us to spend 24hrs or part of with Our Lord. Put the date in your diary now and sign your name on the list which will be available from the beginning of March.

ALTAR SERVERS FOR HOLY WEEK: Please could all servers who are available to serve at the Holy Week services sign up on the list in the sacristy. Also, ensure that you download from the parish website or take one of the information leaflets outlining all the times of services and rehearsals.

FEED THE HUNGRY AT EASTER: Thank you for your very kind donations which are much appreciated by recipients. Please continue to send regular donations. For Easter, we are collecting Easter eggs, biscuits, cakes and luxury items to give to the families we support locally and any surplus will go to the St Francis Centre in Poplar for disadvantaged children. There will be a special collection of these items on the weekend of 13th/14th April at all Masses.

CAN YOU BE PART OF SOMETHING INCREDIBLE?: Ever since October we have been holding Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday 7am – 10pm and this is thanks to the people who commit an hour every week. If you have given your name for a particular hour then please do help us by ticking your initials that are on a register as you enter the church. This is so we are able to discover where there are gaps and where we may need more support. We cannot, after all, hold Exposition and nobody is in the church. If you have not yet given your name but would like to consider giving an hour then please let one of the clergy know. The time we are especially looking for support is between 2pm-4pm. With the season of Lent especially



coming our way (and the warmer and lighter days) maybe this is something you can help our parish community with. If you had originally given your name but things have changed and you are no longer able to give please let us know.

FLEDGLINGS: We are a group of children, aged 4 to 11, who attend a variety of primary schools and are united by being part of St Francis' parish community. We meet on the 3rd Saturday of every month, sometimes in between, for games, crafts, activities and to learn about our faith, with a team of leaders and our priests. We meet at St Francis Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB. Children may be left at 10 am and collected at 3 pm, but can generally fit around another Saturday activity. All that is required is a smile and something for a shared lunch. For further details please ask a member of the Clergy Team or one of the musicians at Mass. **The next meeting is on 27th April.**



HOSPITAL VISITS: Sometimes a parishioner may have been in hospital for a certain amount of time as a patient but we haven't been aware. May we ask that if you are going to be in hospital and you would like a visit, then please let the clergy know. Thank you for your help.

REPOSITORY: A new selection of resources for Lent now available, including "Walk with Me" and "Day by Day" booklets. Easter cards are now in stock.

HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS: You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday 29th March 2019 following the **10.30am** mass at St Francis Catholic Church, Week Street, Maidstone. Rosary and prayer outside the Marie Stopes abortion clinic, Brewer St. Return for refreshments at approximately 12.30pm. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at the end of mass continuing during the afternoon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church.

PARISH TRIP: To Mount Ephraim Gardens, near Faversham, on Thursday 30th May to help raise money for the Church Hall Development Fund. Included is a private tour of the gardens and afternoon cream tea. You are asked to drive your own car and possibly car share. £25 per person. Arrival time 1pm. Gardens close 5pm. Marked envelopes including your contact details should be handed to the parish office stating 'Mount Ephraim Trip'. *Cheques payable to 'St Francis Parish'.*

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE FUNDRAISER: An Open Air Theatre will be held in the grounds of Allington Castle on Saturday 27th July. There will be two performances in partnership with The Changeling Theatre Company. Enjoy the masterpieces 'Nell Gwynn' by Jessica Swale and 'The Winter's Tale' by William Shakespeare. 'Nell Gwynn' will commence at 2.00pm. 'The Winter's Tale' will be performed at 7.30pm. Tickets are priced at £30.00 for adults and £10.00 for children per performance. Bring rugs or chairs and picnics. For further details or to book tickets for this exclusive event please visit www.hokh.org or contact 01622 790195.

Last weekend: 1st Collection: £1,783.57 <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i> 2nd Collection: £1,155.45	2nd Collection today: Sick and Retired Priest Fund 2nd Collection next week Easter Flowers
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> Parish Lottery winner – Week 12 – Number 263 – Prize £70	