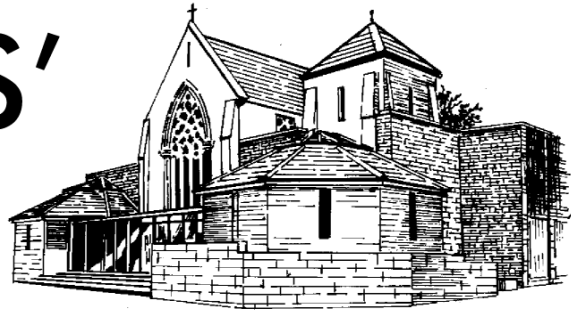


ST FRANCIS' NEWS

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
7th March 2010
Volume 17 Issue 9



THE SEASON OF LENT

Lent Evening Masses and Lenten Talks

Evening Masses will be held each Thursday In Lent, at 7.30pm. From the 4th March, the Mass will be followed by Lenten Talks at 8.00pm.

The Lenten Talks will be:

11th March - *Ministry of the Priesthood*

18th March - *Priesthood of the Laity*

25th March - *Fostering Priesthood
Vocations.*

The Rev Stephen Langridge will be the speaker on the 25th March, and Molly Styant (Diocesan Catechetical Team) will be speaker on the 18th March. Canon John will speak on the 11th March about the Ministry of the Priesthood.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will be offered in English and Polish each Friday evening (8.00pm) during Lent.

SOCIAL WELFARE GROUP

It is intended to set up a Social Welfare Group in the parish. This will only be viable if there are sufficient volunteers to carry out the work involved e.g. visiting the housebound. Please give some thought as to whether, or not, you would be willing to join such a group. If you are willing, please contact Pat McKee via the parish office.

Prayer for Priests

Father, You have appointed Your Son, Jesus Christ, eternal High priest. Guide those He has chosen to be ministers of word and sacrament. Help them to be faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. Lord our God, You guide your people by the ministry of priests. Keep them faithful in obedient service to You that by their life and ministry they may bring You glory in Christ. Amen.

SUPPORT THE POPE'S VISIT

The Holy Father has announced his forthcoming visit to the UK possibly some time in September 2010. Sadly there is already opposition headed by the *Secular Society of Great Britain* to this visit. The *Secular Society* has an online petition which has already attracted over 20,000 signatures and yet a petition supporting the visit has less than 6,000 signatures.

You are asked to visit the website and sign the supporting petition as we welcome the Holy Father to our country.

Catholics must stand up and be counted. Go to:

www.petitiononline.com/PopeinUK/petition.html

THE PARISH WEB SITE:
www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

ST PATRICK'S NIGHT CEILIDH

This will be held at St Simon Stock School on Friday, **12th March from 7.00pm** in the School Hall. There will be a licensed bar and a raffle. Live music with *Celtic Craic*. Tickets cost £7.50 per adult, £3.30 per student or family ticket for £20. (2 adults and 2 children). Tickets from School Reception (01622) 754551

OBERAMMERGAU 2010

There will be an *Oberammergau 2010 Pilgrimage Meeting* at **7.00pm on 24th March** in Parish Hall. Please inform Dennis Edwares (of any queries ask the *Pax* representative before the 24th March.

Social Activities Group

At our first meeting last Monday about 20 parishioner attended. We agreed to meet on the 2nd Monday of each month for coffee at 10.30am in the *Society Rooms* — so the next meeting is Monday, 12th April.

We will also meet for lunch once a month. Various outings will be arranged in due course. The first lunch date is Thursday, 18th March at 1.00pm in the *Society Rooms*.

We will choose different venues and alternative days for lunch to suit the majority. FFI contact Mary Adam.

CABRINI CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

The parish's recent annual collection on behalf of *Cabrini Children's Society* raised in excess of £450.00. They have been in touch to ask us to pass on their appreciation for your continued support of their work providing services to vulnerable children, young people, families and to adults with learning disabilities. If you would like to be on the Cabrini mailing list and receive their Child Newsletter and other communications, please contact Ann Hoggan on 020 8668 2181 or email ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk. Alternatively, to find out more about their work or get involved visit them online at www.cabrini.org.uk

EASTER LILIES 2010

The Lily for Easter scheme will continue to be run this year. You may donate a lily in the name of a deceased family member or a friend. The names of our loved ones will be displayed in the church over the Easter period. If you wish to contribute you are invited to put the names in an envelope with your contribution towards the cost of one lily. Please use the small white Gift Aid Envelopes if you are a UK tax payer indicating your Gift Aid number. The lilies will decorate the church over the Easter Season. Please pass your contribution to one of the clergy or post through the Presbytery letter box before Easter. Surplus monies raised (after deduction of flower expenses) will be used for Masses for those named in the Easter Lilies List.

ST PATRICK'S DAY

Mass will be celebrated here at St Francis on 17th March at 8.00pm. There will be a Social in the Parish Hall afterwards.

APF

Message to all parishioners with red mission boxes: please arrange to hand in your boxes to the Presbytery (with names and addresses clearly shown). If you have any difficulties please get in touch with Lorna who is willing to collect.

REPOSITORY

Available, now, at modest prices:

A variety of Lenten booklets,

'*Stations of the Cross*' booklets,

"*My Day by Day*" Lent 2010 paperbacks

Cards for Mother's Day, St Patrick's Day and Easter

The Messenger magazine and other periodicals also in stock.

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY**Last Weekend:**

All Masses:

1st Collection: £1423.30*

2nd Collection: £ 763.23 (CAFOD)

**This figure does not include standing orders etc. which average £200 a week.*

2nd Collection this weekend: DEW Asscn. - Sisters of the Holy Rosary, Nigeria (Sister Josephine)

Next Weekend: Archbishop Kevin (to go towards the presentation to Archbishop Kevin - from the Diocese)

Parish Lottery Winner Week 10: No. 264 —

Mrs J Husband (P.H.) £6.50

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2010

Saturday, 10th April (7.30pm start)

Quiz Night at The Friars, in the North Barn. Teams of 8 - £5 per head. For details contact Michael on (01622) 753245

Saturday, 22nd May ***

St Francis' Coach Trip — Pashley Manor Gardens and afternoon visit to historic town of Rye.

Saturday, 18th September

St Francis' Coach Trip — Seaside town of Deal and afternoon excursion to Walmer Castle. Further details to follow.

*** Please note change of date.

PASHLEY MANOR GARDENS COACH TRIP

The Parish Day Trip to Pashley Manor Gardens and the historic town of Rye has now been changed to Saturday, 22nd May. The Pashley Manor Gardens visit includes a special "Sculpture in Particular" Exhibition.

More details will follow, but if you are interested in booking seat(s) on the coach, contact Olga (01622) 808486.

ARCHBISHOP KEVIN

Please note that next week's second collection will go towards the presentation from the Diocese to Archbishop Kevin. The Lenten Arms second collection will now be transferred to the following weekend (i.e. 21st March).

The Friends of St Francis School

This Friday 12th March at 7.30pm there is a Quiz at the School. Teams of 6, £3 p.p. Adults only please. Nibbles will be provided, but please feel free to bring your own refreshments. Please come along and have a very enjoyable evening testing your knowledge. For tickets or FFI contact John Harmer on (01622) 756177.

DEW ASSOCIATION

Canon John received the following letter from the Treasurer of the *Dew Association*:

At the recent AGM of the Association, the committee members asked me to write to you to thank you, sincerely, for your continued support for the Association, by arranging for a monthly second collection to be held at all the Masses in St Francis Parish. We are aware of the many demands placed upon you in allocating collections for the deserving charities.

Despite the downturn in the economy, there has been an increase in the monthly contributions at St Francis Church. In addition, St Francis Choir, each Christmas, performs in the Mall Shopping Centre to raise money for the Association. This together with the donations we receive by direct debit, increased the amount the Association donates to the charities it supports.

The Association continues to receive letters of appreciation from the beneficiaries expressing their gratitude for the parishioners' financial assistance. These letters are regularly posted on the Notice Board in the Church Porch.

We greatly appreciate your continued support.

Hugh McKearney (Treasurer)

PS From March 09 to February 10, the total collected was £89,883. See Noticeboard in Church Porch for list donations and beneficiaries.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For all who have been bereaved and for the sick of our parish:

Archbishop Kevin, Leonard Church, Cliff Boyce, Andy Cripps, Allen Durling, Stuart McLeod, John Finn, Terence Coghlan, Mark Pearson, , David Neale, Enid Swan, John Ratcliff, Elizabeth Campbell, Michael Adams, Lance Hoskins-Davies, Cody Barker, Joan Carly, Mike Kirby and all those in our local hospitals, hospice and nursing homes.

For recently dead: Monsignor Pat Keavney, David Jones and Mary O'Connor

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Donlon, Mary Docker, Ernest Morgan, Mary Whooley, Kathleen Mooney, Margaret Baker, James Dignan, Mary Arrow, Josephine Baldock, Nina Driver, Bridget Banham, Gerald McMorro, Gerard Ryan, Thomas Malone, John Fitzgibbon, Jane Bates, Patrick Hogan, Doreen Whooley, Walter Downe, Frances Whitehead, Elvera Fyne and George Kersey.

Mass Times and Intentions Page 4

Sunday 7th March 2010

St Francis'

6.00pm (Sat) Lilian & William Smith RIP

9.00am Kay Foshier RIP

10.30a m Mary Weston RIP

4.00pm **Polish Mass**

Zbigniew & Zénon Cliklinski RIP

6.00pm Stephen & Florence Ryan RIP

Preston Hall

8.30am Michael Devitt RIP

11.30am Alice Powell RIP

Nettlestead

10.00am Holy Souls

Monday 8th March

10.00am Peter E. Smith RIP

12.30pm Rosata Cengeto RIP

Tuesday 9th March

10.00am Betty Horan — well-being

12.30pm Daniel White — well-being

Wednesday 10th March

10.00am Loretta Reynolds RIP

12.30pm Patrick, Annie & Donal O'Harte RIP

Thursday 11th March

10.00am Jim Kelly RIP

12.30pm John Fitzgibbon RIP

7.30pm Lucy Mary Lopez RIP

Z

Friday 12th March

10.00am **Funeral Mass**

Mary O'Connor RIP

12.30pm Mary Rodgers — well-being

Saturday 13th March

10.00am Kevin Horan RIP

Sunday 14th March

St Francis

6.00pm (Sat) In reparation for abortion carried out
In Maidstone

9.00am Kay Foshier RIP

10.30am Carolina Denicola RIP

6.00pm James Dignan RIP

Preston Hall

8.30am Donal O'Harte RIP

11.30am William Breen - well-being

Nettlestead

10.00am Holy Souls

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Confessions are heard: **Monday - Friday: 12 noon.**

Saturday: 10.30 – 11.15am; 5.00 – 5.30pm

There will be EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT this Friday: until 5.00pm

The Parish of St Francis

Grove House, 126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1RH

Telephone: (01622) 756217 Fax: (01622) 690549 Email: stfrancis_parish@yahoo.co.uk

Web Site: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Canon John Clark M.A.

Assisting Priests: Fr George Kamalias and Fr Tadeusz Dec

Parish Sister: Sr. Kathleen Dalton: Telephone: (01622) 676033

Schools

St Francis' Catholic Primary School. Headteacher: Mr David Bray

Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB. Telephone: (01622) 771540

St Simon Stock Catholic Secondary School. Headteacher: Mr J McParland

Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 OJP Telephone: (01622) 754551