

ST FRANCIS' NEWS

Fourth Sunday (B)
29th January 2012
Volume 19 Issue 5



Fourth Sunday

FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Dates for your Diary:

Monday, 30 January (10.30am onwards) - Tenpin Bowling at King Street, Maidstone.

Wednesday, 1 February (11am — 12 noon) Line Dancing in Parish Hall.

Wednesday 8 February (11am - 12 noon) Line Dancing in Parish Hall.

Monday, 13 February (10.30am)
Coffee in the *Society Rooms*

N.B. NO LINE DANCING DURING HALF TERM

Monday, 27 February (10.30am onwards) - Tenpin Bowling at King Street, Maidstone.

Saturday, 21 April (7.30pm) - St Francis' Parish Film Night in the Parish Hall. (Further details to follow)

Saturday, 12 May (7.30pm) - St Francis' Parish Quiz Night (Further details to follow).

STOP PRESS: After 10.30 am Sunday Mass you will usually find some parishioners enjoying coffee in the *Mr Bean's Coffee Shop* (opp. Poundland). Do please join the group - you may well meet someone whom you have seen at Mass, but never spoken to.

Crossing The Threshold

This is a resource day for parishes, and poses the question: *How to reach non churchgoing Catholics?* It will be at the *Christian Education Centre*, 4 Southgate Drive, Crawley, West Sussex RH10 6RP on **3 March** start: 10.00am finish: 4.30pm (Coffee served from 9.30am onwards). Speakers: Bishop Kieran Conry and Archbishop Peter Smith. Mass will be celebrated and there will be various workshops. Bring packed lunch. FFI on poster in Church Porch. To book email missionvolunteer@cbcew.org.uk or phone 0207 901 4818.

ASCENT GROUP

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday, 1 February** in the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass, when we will celebrate *Candlemas* - in advance. There will be refreshments, plus a small raffle. Copies of our programme for 2012 will be available. **All retired parishioners very welcome.** FFI from Angela Hunter via the office.

NSPCC

Concert and Afternoon Tea

This event, in aid of NSPCC Helpline and Childline, features *Dawn Chorus* with a varied singing programme and is on **Sunday, 11 March (3.00pm)** at the Oakwood House Hotel, Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 8AE. Tickets £9.50 includes cream tea and sandwiches. To facilitate catering, tickets in advance from Mary Ratcliffe (01622) 752163

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

THE DIOCESAN WEBSITE:
www.rcsouthwark.co.uk

The Presentation of Our Lord

On this Feast Day (2nd February) there will be Mass at 8.00pm here at St Francis, for all those families who have lost children.

Post of Media and Communications Officer

The Archdiocese of Southwark is seeking to make this appointment to work in the Commission for Schools and Colleges with effect from 1 March 2012. Further information and application packs are available from Donna Gray at the Commission on donna.grayh@rcsouthwark.org.uk or by phone 01689 883341. Full details of post, including salary, also on poster in Church Porch.

Prayer & Praise

We next meet on **Thursday (7.30pm), 2 February** in St Joseph's Chapel, Aylesford Priory. Mass at 8.15pm, will be followed by Prayer Ministry - all welcome. We also meet on Thursday (7.30pm), **16 February** in the English Martyrs Church, Frindsbury Road, Strood, Mass at 8.15pm will be followed by Healing Prayer. All welcome.

MCU Concert

Maidstone Choral Union present Mozart's *Requiem* and other Mozart works at All Saints Church, Maidstone, on **Saturday, 31 March (7.30pm)**. All tickets £10. Please contact Lyn Coyle via the office.
A wonderful preparation for Easter!

Wanted

Kerry, a health professional, will be working in Maidstone (near the Royal British Legion Village) as from 27 February and is looking for weekday lodgings. If you have a spare room and you are willing to have a lodger, please let Canon John know so that he can contact Kerry.

The Role of the Christian Family

On the afternoon of **11 February** (1.30pm - 5.00pm) at the Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, there will be a meeting to celebrate the Role of the Christian Family. There will be a special celebratory Mass, and events focussing on marriage and family life - to highlight the importance of the Sacrament of marriage and family in the life of the Church. Workshops will be on marriage enrichment, marital spirituality, remote marriage preparation, passing on the faith and helping children experiencing loss. Admission is free, but please contact to book and reserve workshops. See poster in Porch, or email: marriage@tiscali.co.uk

Letter from Churches Together in Maidstone:

Would you please be kind enough to let singers from your Church know that they are invited to be part of the choir leading worship at the **Churches Together in Maidstone** (Good Friday Evening Service) at the United Reformed Church, Week Street at 7.30 pm on 6th April.

We shall be singing Stainer's **Crucifixion** which was last sang in 2008. We hope that those who have sung with us before will be with us again and that others will want to join us.

There will be 7 rehearsals, at the United Reformed Church, Week Street, on Friday evenings: 17 & 24 February; 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 March from 8 pm to 9.30pm.

Music will be made available for those who do not have their own. It would be helpful if you could let me know, before the first rehearsal, the names, and voice parts, of those singing.

Yours sincerely,

Freda Crispin

Contact Freda by **phone** (01622) 726193, **email** freda@me169lb.fsnet.co.uk or by **post**: 4 Long Rede Lane, Barming Heath, Maidstone ME16 9LB

PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY

Last Weekend - All Masses:

1st Collection: £1457.54*

2nd Collection: £409.01 Poor Box

**This figure does not include standing orders etc. which average £260 a week*

2nd Collection this weekend: Diocesan Development Fund

Next Sunday's 2nd Collection: Catholic Education Service

Parish Lottery Week No. 4:

No.289 — Miss F Robbins — £50

Retrouvaille

Retrouvaille came out of *Marriage Encounter*, but whereas *Marriage Encounter* is a programme to encourage and support couples with good relationships, *Retrouvaille* is a programme for couples who are experiencing breakdown, separation or difficulties in their relationships.

The *Retrouvaille* programme consists of a residential weekend plus 4 full days (9.30 - 16.00) at fortnightly intervals after the residential weekend. Following this couples may wish to attend monthly meetings for as long as they want to.

The *Retrouvaille* programme is a 'Peer Ministry' not a counselling service - in that the presenting couples will themselves have experienced difficulties in relationship. It is from this that they present the various topics for the weekend: it is a completely private programme for couples attending - there are no group sharing sessions, no group therapy.

Although the programme is presented in the Westminster Diocese, many couples 'in need' attend from different parts of the country - including the Southwark Diocese. The programme success rate is in the region of 70 %. *Retrouvaille* is a voluntary movement (there are no paid presenters), and is 'pro marriage' and 'pro the Sacrament of Matrimony', and has the full support of the Pope.

The next *Retrouvaille* programme commences with a residential weekend on 20 - 22 April, 2012. FFI go to www.retrouvaille.org.uk or email info@retrouvaille.org

A regular parishioner at St Francis, who runs *Jasmine Homecare*, would like to tell you about the services her business provides in caring for people in their own homes. Some of the services are: personal care, cooking, shopping, home cleaning, assisting with medication, visiting G.P., and over night or live-in care. They provide a trusted, reliable service, with 24 hour on call service, and their carers are carefully selected and trained to deliver a high standard of care. FFI see flyer in Church Porch or call (01622) 759946.

ORDER OF SERVICE - Sung Liturgy

	9.00am Mass	10.30am Mass
Entrance Hymn	568	59
Kyrie	<i>St Francis Mass</i>	<i>St Francis Mass</i>
Gloria	<i>said</i>	<i>said</i>
Psalm		Psalm 24
Gospel Acclamation	413	413
Offertory Hymn	23	302
Sanctus	428(amended)	428(amended)
Memorial Acclamation		<i>St Francis Mass</i>
Great Amen		441
Our Father	585	952
Agnus Dei	<i>St Francis Mass</i>	<i>St Francis Mass</i>
Communion	886 71	71 663
Recessional Hymn	285	703

St Francis' Bereavement Ministry

The Bereavement Ministry will meet after 10.00am Mass on the last Wednesday of each month in the Presbytery for a cup of tea and a chat.

Need help, or do you know a parishioner who does? Why not contact the Social Welfare Group who may be able to help. Details to the Presbytery please, for the attention of Pat McKee.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For all who have been bereaved and for the sick of our parish: Cliff Boyce, Andy Cripps, Mark Pearson, Enid Swan, John Ratcliffe, Jean Carly, Luke Collins, Bruce Farley, Monica Cobb, Maisie Clark, Bridget Considine, Anne Dick, Pat Green, Pat Marshall, Rochelle Millar, Vicky Cowles, Monica Banyard, Josephine Gatt, Ann Skelton and Paddy Scranney all those in our local hospitals, hospice and nursing homes.

For recently dead: Joe Kane

For those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Emma Heeley, Frank Normand, Jack Jones, Herbert Samson, Mary Drake, Mary Ambrose, Josephine Marks, Sidney Mannering, Andrew Gray, Julia Elcombe, Joan Davis, Joseph Beckley, Donald Cameron, Leo McKenna, Mary Grigsby, Anna Skeels, Mary Rennie, Edith Pointer, Harry Wright, Maria Abbasi, Lena Guy, Hugh Cameron, Doreen Ingrams, Norah Jones, Gerry Cullen and Kitty Collins.

Mass Times and Intentions Page 4.

Sunday, 29th January 2012

St Francis

6.00pm (Sat) Terry McCarthy RIP
9.00am James & Mary Hurson RIP
10.30am Aidan McElroy RIP
6.00pm James & Mary Hurson RIP

Preston Hall

8.30am Stuart McLeod RIP
11.30am Jack Priestley RIP

Nettlestead

10.00am Ronald Parker RIP

Monday, 30th January

10.00am Corrie Brice — Wellbeing
12.30pm Joe Kane RIP

Tuesday, 31st January

10.00am Sean & Alice Harkin — Welfare
12.30pm Private Intention

Wednesday, 1st February

10.00am Peter Smith RIP
12.30pm Patrick Thompson RIP

Thursday, 2nd February

10.00am Esther Mbala— Birthday
12.30pm In thanksgiving for New Year & prayer
8.00pm For parents & families of deceased
Children

Friday, 3rd February

10.00am Thomas & Gabriel Droney - wellbeing
12.30pm In reparation for abortions carried
out this week in Brewer Street

Saturday, 4th February

10.00am Joseph Robert Chow RIP

Sunday, 5th February

St Francis'

6.00pm (Sat) Rachel Martin RIP
9.00am James & Mary Hurson RIP
10.30am Tom Egan RIP
4.00pm *Polish Mass*
6.00pm

Preston Hall

8.30am Henry James & Winifred White RIP
11.30am

Nettlestead

10.00am

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 S Clark M.A.

Assistant Priests: Fr. Bartlomiej Dudek and Fr. Soosai Manickam M.A.

Parish Deacon: Rev. Tom Coyle

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 Brendan Wall

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