



# ST FRANCIS' NEWS



10th September 2017

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

FATHER LIAM WRITES Greetings Dear Friends, Well, we've all received some surprising news earlier this year - you had heard that your priests here at St Francis, Canon Luke Smith and Fr. Piotr Kucharski, were both moving on to new pastures and new responsibilities. Fr. Samuel and I had received the news that we were to be moving to St. Francis parish, Maidstone.

Perhaps this was all received with great sadness and bewilderment, especially with both priests moving at the same time. Three years ago, there were three priest here at St Francis and now none of them are here anymore. Coming here as two new priests (and we have another priest joining us this year) is a challenge for us both too, but essentially what everyone is called to do is seek and follow the will of God. This is the only way we can ever achieve what our goal in life is - to build the Kingdom of God. This can never be achieved on our own terms by selfishly seeking out what our own personal desires are.

One of the most difficult realities we have to accept about our journey in life is the need to change. Maybe this is a fear that can come to people's minds when they know a new priest is coming to a parish - that they've grown fond of their previous priest, the parish has reached a stage of stability but now a new priest will come in and change all that. There can even be a fear of a new priest having a different idea of how things are to be done. I only hope that if any changes do come about or any decisions are made, they should always be carried out in the spirit of what is the best way for people to grow closer to God.

Please do not think that I have made a long list of things I want to stop, change, begin, etc... and just bulldoze through everything that takes place here. On the contrary; it is very evident to me even in such a short space of time that so many people give so much of their time to enable this parish to flourish and I would never seek to disrupt the goodness your ministries bring.

Yet the reason we do so much is to build the Kingdom of God and building will bring change. Change is part of the whole Christian process. We need to see that in our own individual journey of faith. No one of us are the finished article but must allow the grace of God to flow through us, allowing us to change, grow and flourish. So a priest moving is a small factor of how much change and growth has happened in the history of the Church but all in the desire to bring the Good News of Christ to the world. We must work on Maidstone.

Even with the sadness of Canon Luke and Fr. Piotr departing, there has been much encouragement and support shown from the people of St Francis and acceptance that Fr. Samuel and I are two new people and for that we thank you.



Let us together continue to journey ahead building on the great work that happens here in the parish - and for that we will grow and change. We must! Every blessing and joy to you all!

## INDUCTION MASS OF FATHER LIAM

Fr. Liam's Induction Mass will take place on **Thursday 26th October at 7pm**. This is a formal ceremony in which Bishop Paul Mason will officially present Fr Liam to the Parish as our new Parish Priest by leading him to the Presidential Chair and presenting him with the Key to the Parish. Refreshments will follow in the URC Hall.

**CHURCH & PARISH HALL DEVELOPMENT FUND**

**FUND** Raised to date: £116,505.15  
 Total Cost of ROOF: £136,000.00  
 Debt to be paid: £19,494.85



**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL** Raised to date: £7,273.11  
 Approximate Cost: £9,000.00

Thanks for the contributions to this project; if you wish to make a donation please put it into a clearly marked envelope and drop it into the collection / Parish Office. Unfortunately our chosen builders & decorators have let us down and are not responding to our communication. We are therefore considering alternative workmen ... Hopefully more news soon.

**PARISH CENTRE** THINGS ARE HOTTING UP AND MOVING FORWARD. PLEASE KEEP UP THE PRAYERS THAT WORK MAY SOON BEGIN. Planning permission has been granted; the detailed spec is complete, and the final queries are being ironed out, thus enabling the various legal agreements / heads of terms to be completed. Although building costs will be paid by the developer we have to pay for fees, additional works and furnishing of the centre. **Costs paid to date: £3,120.00.** Meanwhile the break-ins continue despite our every effort to prevent these mindless acts of vandalism!

**OTHER MAINTENANCE ISSUES:**

Further work on the roof (due to an un-reparable internal down pipe): two additional gullies and down pipes to be added and work on the boiler house concrete roof and flashings. **This work is almost complete:** Cost: £4,770.00 + VAT

The Boiler House Chimney stack has now been repaired. Cost: £3,102.00 inc VAT

The wooden panelling on the Sanctuary is rotting and needs removing, defective plaster replacing & redecorating. This work as you will notice as you enter church has begun and should be completed in the next two weeks. Cost: £9,845.00 + VAT

ROOF FUND COLLECTIONS are now called CHURCH & HALL DEVELOPMENT FUND to include all these projects.

**OTHER IMPROVEMENTS:** Neil our caretaker has been beavering away on a variety of projects over recent months; all of which have greatly improved the look and fabric of the church. He has decorated the Confessional and the entry porch; fitted a wooden rail to the rear church wall to protect further damage to the wall from the chair backs; rebuilt the cupboards in the basement for the altar servers / flower arrangers; improved the car park security lighting. I would like to express our thanks and give recognition to his always going the extra mile. Neil has also been working with Fr Peter, Michal and Jan to upgrade the CCTV system within and around

**BAPTISM PREPARATION**

**First Thursday of each month 7.00 - 8.30pm**  
**Next Date: THURSDAY, 5th October 2017**  
 TO ATTEND, PLEASE APPLY THROUGH THE PARISH EMAIL OR SUBMIT A BAPTISMAL APPLICATION FORM

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018**

The First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting will take place on **Thursday 14th September at 7.30pm.**



**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**



RCIA has now started, and meetings are held each **Tuesday, from 7.30pm** until 9.00pm in the Presbytery.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to learn more about the Catholic Church, please come along. For further information, contact the Parish office or Sheila Connolly on **01622 729211.**

**Father Peter's Induction Mass**

Fr. Peter will have his induction as Parish Priest of St Teresa's Parish, Ashford, on the **29th September at 7pm.** The address is as follows: 4 Maidstone Rd, Ashford TN24 8TX.

**URGENT APPEAL**

If anyone has any spare sleeping bags or tents, please bring them to Grove House as they are urgently needed for the homeless. Thank you.

**FEED THE HUNGRY** Thank you to all who very generously contributed to the recent appeal. We still need the weekly donations of milk, bread, cereals etc., please.



**POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS**

SEPTEMBER 2017 - EVANGELISATION

That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

**PARISH COLLECTIONS AND LOTTERY**

**Last Sunday - All Masses:**

1st Collection: £1,651.16\*

2nd Collection: £ 718.28 Church & Hall Development Fund

\* This figure does not include standing orders etc. which averages £250 a week.

Many thanks for your generous support...

**2ND COLLECTIONS**

This Sunday: Catholic Education Services

Next Sunday: Home Mission CASE

**Parish Lottery Winner:** TBA next week with week 11

CAFOD Southwark Pilgrimage

Join us at St Francis de Sales Church, Hartley DA3 8DW on Saturday, 16th September, to walk on our pilgrimage journey in the Kent countryside to pray and reflect on how energy poverty affects the poorest overseas and to inspire each other to take action to ensure that all have access to clean, safe and affordable renewable energy. Gather at 11.45am for a simple lunch, to start a 3-4 mile pilgrimage at 12.30pm, using pathways through woods and fields via St Mary's Fawkham and All Saints Hartley, stopping for prayer and reflection along the way. (Transport available for the less able). We aim to return by about 4.00pm for tea and cake and an opportunity to attend 5.30pm Holy Mass at St Francis de Sales. (The nearest station is just over a mile away at Longfield, 30 mins from London Victoria, 15 mins from Bromley South: lifts from the station can be arranged.) It will be helpful if you can contact CAFOD Southwark to say that you will come, on 020 8466 9901 or email: southwark@cafod.org.uk

PHOENIX YOUTH CLUB

We have been selected as one of the charities in the Community Matters Scheme for September at Waitrose, Allington. If you shop there, please support us, we are raising funds so that we can take the young people on an activity holiday. Thank you - Lydia Burchell

Vacancy: Deputy Headteacher

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School in Canterbury is looking to appoint a new Deputy Headteacher from January 2018. For further information, please contact the school on 01227-462539. Advert available on [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com). Closing date: Monday 2nd October at 12noon.

Vacancies: Project Worker

There are 2 part-time vacancies at Maidstone Churches Winter Shelter, a coalition of churches and volunteers from across the community, supported by Maidstone Borough Council, Kent County Council and local agencies to offer evening hospitality and overnight shelter to homeless people in the coldest months. This is a fixed term contract from 27 November 2017 to 30 March 2018, salary: £18,000 pro rata. For an informal chat about the role please call Wendy Tull on 07702 305352. To apply, send a request to [mcwsoffice@maidstoneshelter.org.uk](mailto:mcwsoffice@maidstoneshelter.org.uk) and return your completed application to that email address or send paper copy to: MCWS 6 Buckland Road, Maidstone ME16 0SL. Deadline: 5pm Monday 18th September.

The FRIENDSHIP GROUP

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

**First Monday (11am) of every month:**  
Tenpin Bowling at Lockmeadow  
**Second Monday (11.00am) every month:**  
Coffee morning in *Society Rooms*  
**Every Monday (1.30pm - 3.30pm):**  
Scrabble in *Leah's Bistro*, High St.  
**Every Wednesday (10am - 12noon),**  
Line Dancing in URC Dunning Hall (Fremlin Walk)  
**Having coffee on your own?**  
Why not join us on **Wednesdays (10 am – 12 noon)**  
URC Hall, Week Street for coffee and a chat.  
It's good to talk!

FFI Mary Adam 677448



PARISH GROUPS

**FLEDGLINGS CHILDREN GROUP** will meet on Saturday 16th Sept. 10am-3pm in St Francis School  
**FLAME YOUTH GROUP** The junior youth group will meet on 9th Sept. 6pm-8.15pm in Grove House.  
**PHOENIX YOUTH CLUB** for 15+ will continue to meet with the Baptist Church Youth Club in Knightrider Street, Maidstone, this Friday, 8pm - 9.30pm.  
**KU POGŁĘBIONEJ WIERZE / EVANGELISATION GROUP** will recommence after the Summer holiday.  
**LIFE ASCENDING** The next meeting will be on Wednesday, 6th September, after the 10.30am mass. FFI please contact Keith Hunter on 01622 746792.

Donate 8

- 1) Volunteers are required to clean, prepare and paint the railings around the church car park. Saturday is preferred but weekdays will be considered. If you have a spare hour or two, let us know please.
- 2) Many thanks to the volunteers who came forward to help with flowers over the last few months.
- 3) Our church still needs cleaners to volunteer! Fridays at 4:30pm is not the only time cleaning happens! Please get in touch with us if you can help. Many thanks to all those who have given their time over the past year.

FFI contact: [donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk](mailto:donate8@stfrancisparish.org.uk)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

**For the sick & housebound of our parish:** Rachel Allen, Cody Barker, Donald Batty, Sarah Boylan, Eric Braconnier, Pauline Brown, Kathleen Buckman, Pat Cassidy, Judy Collins, Luke Collins, Marcin Czubik, Jean Farrell, Joanna Frazer, Louise Gill, Judy Henstone, Mary Holliday, Kathleen Homewood, Aneta Jankowska, Teresa Jankowska, Bridget Kearney, Patrick McKee, Perry Kemp, Xavier Lazell, Patricia Maher, Antonina Makowicz, Dorothy Marne, Margarie Morgan, Michael Munikwa, Clare Myler, Violet Nadarajah, Marcus Nicklin, Mark Pearson, Deidre Pennell, John Penney, Claudia Quantrill, Margaret Ruaux, Peter Ruddy, Nick Ryan, Coleen Sargeant, Rebecca Sharp, Chika Uzowulu, Mary Wallace, Claire Watts, Rosemary West and all in our local hospice, hospitals and nursing homes.

**For those who have recently died:** Brian Johnson, Liam Archer

**For those whose anniversaries occur at this time:** Thomas Forbes-Amer, Margaret Maguire, Freda Packer, Douglas Smith, Wilfred Duart, Jane Haydon, John Moran, Seamus Kearney, Joseph Quinn, Paul Butcher, Anthony Moran, Frederick Wakeford, Joseph Babalola, Sheila Priestley, Mary Lester, Arthur O'Dea, Mark Howard, Robert Wells, Lycia King, Jackie Sexton, John Johnson, William Paterson, Francis Brennan, Maria Carpenter, Seamus Sheridan, Michael McGuire, Vivian D'Silva, Pauline Gilman, Louisa Chiles, P. Grandon, Christine Wheeler, Alan Porter, Cynthia Capon and Agnes Hammond.

**SUNDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER**

*TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)*

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) Suzanne and Alison East RIP
- 9.00am Bernard Burns RIP
- 10.45am People of the Parish
- 6.00pm Deceased members of Cox & Mabbott families

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am Jim Casey RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

**MONDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER**

- 10.30am In reparation for abortions in Brewer Street

**TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER**

*THE MOST HOLY NAME*

- 10.30am Rosaleen Hodgins (Sr. Miriam) RIP *OF MARY*

**WEDNESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER** *ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM*

- 10.30am Antonina's welfare  
In honour of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

**THURSDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER**

*THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS*

- 10.30am Jenny Valiquette RIP
- 4.30pm Mass HMP Maidstone: Terry Free RIP

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls

**FRIDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER** *OUR LADY OF SORROWS*

- 10.30am Vivian D'Silva RIP
- 8.00pm Pauline Gilman RIP

**SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER** *SS CORNELIUS & CYPRIAN*

- 10.00am Joseph Fitzsimons RIP

**SUNDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER**

*TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME (A)*

ST FRANCIS

- 6.00pm(Sat) Joyce Attwood RIP
- 9.00am Marianne Esther Corfe RIP
- 10.45am William Joseph RIP
- 6.00pm Tracey & Pierce Wilkinson RIP

THE HEART OF KENT HOSPICE, PRESTON HALL

- 9.00am People of the Parish

WATERINGBURY, CHAPEL OF OUR LADY

- 10.30am Ordinariate Mass: Holy Souls



**SACRAMENT of RECONCILIATION**

ST FRANCIS, MAIDSTONE

MONDAY - FRIDAY 10.00AM & FRIDAY 7.30PM (FOR 15MIN)

SATURDAY 10.30 - 11.15AM; 5.30 - 5.50PM

SUNDAY 5.30 - 5.50PM

ST LUKE'S, PRESTON HALL

BY REQUEST UNTIL THE CHAPEL IS BACK IN USE

**MORNING PRAYER**

SATURDAY AT 9.30AM

**EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION**

USUALLY THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH AT 5.15PM

**EXPOSITION of the BLESSED SACRAMENT**

WEDNESDAY EVENING 7.30PM - 8.30PM

FRIDAY 11.00-12.00PM & FIRST FRIDAYS 8.30PM UNTIL 10.00PM

**HOLY ROSARY**

PRAYED AFTER THE 10.30AM WEEKDAY MASSES



**The Parish of Saint Francis**

Grove House, 126 Week Street,  
Maidstone, Kent ME14 1RH  
Telephone: (01622) 756217  
Email: stfrancis\_parish@yahoo.co.uk  
Web Site: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

PARISH DEACONS

Rev. Tom Coyle  
Rev. Ian Black

PARISH PRIEST  
Fr Liam Gallagher

ASSISTANT PRIEST  
Fr Samuel Davey

ORDINARIATE PRIEST  
Fr Paul Gibbons

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday only 9.00am-12noon

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

**St Francis' Catholic Primary School:**

Queens Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB

Telephone: (01622) 771540

St Simon Stock Catholic School:

Oakwood Park, Maidstone ME16 OJP

Telephone: (01622) 754551