

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 30th September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Richard &amp; Lydia Bennett RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St.</i>
	10.15am(HMP)	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Sheila Clark RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Pablo &amp; Lola Navarro RIP</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
(Wateringbury)	11.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October</b> <i>St. Thérèse of Lisieux</i>	10.30am	<i>Tina D'Silva RIP</i>
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b> <i>Holy Guardian Angels</i>	10.30am	<i>Tom Stanley RIP</i>
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October</b>	10.30am	<i>Rose Joanna Brook RIP</i>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>St Francis of Assisi</i>	10.00am	<i>Ellen Coram RIP</i>
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October</b>	10.30am	<i>Susan Horton RIP</i>
	8.00pm	<i>Elizabeth Bothamley RIP</i>
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October</b> <i>St. Bruno</i>	10.00am	<i>Private Intention</i>
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> October</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Bernard Burns RIP</i>
	9.00am	<i>Adeline Simmons RIP</i>
	10.15am(HMP)	<i>Holy Souls</i>
	10.45am	<i>Joy Fisher RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>People of the Parish</i>
(Preston Hall)	9.00am	<i>Deceased Members of Murphy Family</i>
(Wateringbury)	11.00am	<i>Holy Souls</i>

**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

**LECTIO DIVINA:** There shall be Adoration and reflection on the readings for next Sunday this Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 7.30pm

**MASS COUNT:** This is the second weekend of the annual Mass Count. Last weekend we had a total attendance of 755.

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

Ada O'Brien, Maria Navarro, Brenda O'Hare, Peter Amigo, Mr Ward, Jack Wilson, Marya Pinto, Honora Pierce, Joan Namey, John Lobo, Robert Robson, Shirley Desombre, William Aylward, William Campbell, Chris Cassidy, Frank Martin, John Flynn, Tom Seacombe, David Hughes, Pauline Taylor, John Finn, Ventlie Loban, Rosa Card, Ted Gale, Hilda De Silva, George Meeham, August Bogaert, Lucy Maine, Mary Davis, Phillip Jones, Florence Sullivan, Liley Freeman, John Moore, Vivian D'Silva and Joseph Prince

## ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

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

Email [maidstone@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@rcaos.org.uk) Website [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk](http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk)

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Liam Gallagher

**Assistant Priest:** Fr. Pawel Sobol

**Ordinariate Priest:** Fr. Paul Gibbons (Wateringbury)

**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

### FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM FATHER SAM

Today both our first reading and the Gospel point to a very interesting problem, a problem faced throughout scripture and history, we might call it the problem of the Church becoming its own worst enemy. The Church at odds with itself. Think about it, what is the most effective means of dealing with ones enemy? Simply put it is this: **divide and conquer**. Set your enemy somehow at odds with themselves and you can sweep them away - just let them just get on with it.

One of the great images to explain this is found in the Tolkien series, 'The Lord of the Rings'. We see the Orcs; these demonic, intimidating creatures, looking so fierce and gruesome. But the Orcs are not actually a big problem. Why? Because the Orcs are always fighting amongst themselves, give them enough time and they will destroy themselves. Well, the enemy of the Church loves to undermine us in the same way. By sowing seeds of dissension, jealousy, rivalry and most of all creating 'turf wars'. We can either spend our energy not working for the Lord and fighting each other or we can praise what is good and try our best to fulfill our vocation; to be disciples. To create harmony, peace, virtue and mercy.

Following from the theme of discipleship I would like to thank the parish for allowing me to exercise my own discipleship here at St Francis'. Although brief I have had a wonderful year's ministry here in the Church. Thank you again so much for the wonderful send-off and your very generous gift to me. I will always keep you very much in my thoughts and prayers and most importantly remember you all so much at the foot of the Altar. It is always there at the Altar that all rivalry is dispersed. For there we do not gaze on our own reflection, or indeed look at the faces of each other. It is there that we gaze on the face of God almighty who draws us in, to send us out again to be his disciples.

May God continue you to bless your wonderful parish, and thank you once again.

*Fr Sam*

**MISSION APPEAL:** We welcome to our parish this weekend a religious sister of the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love. She shall be talking about the important work their congregation do throughout the world and we will have the opportunity to support their work by contributing towards the second collection today.

**MONSIGNOR MATTHEW DICKENS:** As we await the appointment of the new assistant Bishop for Kent, our Vicar General, Monsignor Matthew Dickens, has been assigned the role as Episcopal Vicar for Kent – able to carry out various duties of a Bishop until a proper appointment is made. We thank him for his service to us all.

**SUNDAY LUNCH:** Thank you all so much who organised and attended our parish Sunday Lunch at MuMu's last weekend. With the meal and the raffle we managed to raise around £500.

**THE FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS:** This Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October we shall be celebrating the feast of the patron of our parish, St. Francis. To make this day very special we will be delighted to welcome St. Francis Primary School to attend and lead us in the morning Mass of that day. Please do note that because the school are attending and need to leave in good time to get back for lunch, **the Mass time on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October shall be at a slightly earlier time of 10.00am**

**WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH?** Have you been thinking about becoming a Catholic? Do you wish just to find out more because you attend with your family every week? We invite you to join us on Tuesday evenings 7.30pm in the priest house for the R.C.I.A group where we share and learn more about the Faith and explore our relationship with Jesus Christ. There is no commitment once you have started and no pressure to become a Catholic. If this is something you would like to consider then please speak to one of the clergy after Mass.

**PHOENIX YOUTH CLUB:** Aged 15-18? Phoenix Youth Club runs activities, sports and game nights every Friday evening. We meet at Maidstone Baptist Church at 8pm weekly. This is an opportunity to meet other young Christians and participate in fun activities and trips.

**FLEDGLINGS GROUP** If you have a child who is at primary school then they are very welcome to come and join our parish Fledglings Group which takes place every third Saturday of the month at St. Francis School. They will meet up with other children of our parish to learn about their faith, make new friends and have lots of fun. If you would like to find out more please speak to one of the clergy.

**CONFIRMATION MASS:** As Bishop Paul Mason is moving to a new position he is unable to celebrate the Confirmation Mass here at St. Francis on **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October**. Instead we welcome Archbishop Peter Smith that day for what is possibly his last in our Diocese of Southwark as our Archbishop. **Please note that the Mass time has now been moved to 4.00pm, therefore there will be no Sunday 6.00pm Mass that day.**

**ANY MUSICAL TALENT?** We are grateful to our choir who lead us in our music every Sunday 6.00pm Mass. However we welcome more people to join them especially instrumentalists. If you have a musical talent that you can share just once a month on a Sunday evenings (we especially welcome a pianist or guitarist but all gratefully received) then please speak to the choir after Mass.

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL.** During the recent time of much repair work being done to the church roof, the parish had been very generous in their offering to re-do the Children's Chapel. It would be best that we decorate the whole chapel properly including the back store room. It is filled with a lot of equipment and books, much of which we are not sure are of any use anymore. Therefore if you are aware of anything kept at the back store room that is in regular use then please let Fr. Liam know so we can make arrangements for them to be stored temporarily elsewhere. We may decide that everything else can be thrown out completely. Thank you.

**HAVE YOU GOT ONE HOUR TO SPARE EVERY WEEK OR WISH TO MAKE A CHANGE?**

Adoration is spreading throughout many parishes of the Diocese and in will be reaching our parish of St. Francis. We will be exploring – 'What is Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and why is it beginning in this parish soon?' We are delighted to welcome two guest speakers to our parish on the weekend of 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> October who will give us further information and will be able to answer any questions you may have. One question we are asked to say to ourselves is, 'Have I got one hour to spare every week to give to God in personal prayer?'

**ST FRANCIS QUIZ NIGHT** at 7.30pm on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 in the URC Hall Week Street.

There will be a small change in this Quiz. Team members will be limited to 6 per team. This is to increase the number of teams competing and so increase the competition. Bring your own supper and drinks. If you are fewer than 6 complete the form anyway and we will find a team for you to join. To book your table complete the Application Form which you will find in the porch. Raffle prizes would be very much appreciated.

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES:** Kent Catholic Schools Partnership is looking for Foundation Governors to join governing bodies across a number of our academies in Kent. Foundation Governors are committed to supporting education in a Catholic context and help the Trust to deliver outstanding spiritual, moral and learning outcomes for children and young people. For further information please see the KCSP website at <http://www.kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/> or contact the Trust on [office@kcsp.org.uk](mailto:office@kcsp.org.uk).

**THANK YOU:** Wendy Penney and family would like to thank everyone for their condolences, kind words and Mass cards for John, much loved husband and father. It has been a great comfort to us all as this very sad time.

**FEED THE HUNGRY.** All the usual items are required, such as bread and milk, but the particular need this week is for toilet rolls, bio-washing capsules and crisps. Many thanks.

**ADVANCE NOTICE:** On the weekend of 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October we will be collecting fresh/tinned fruit and vegetables for our Harvest donation to the Day Centre. Please bring any donations to the church or Grove House. Thank you.

**HELPERS OF GOD'S PRECIOUS INFANTS:** You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday 21st September 2018 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 from 11.00 to 12noon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church.

**GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK:** Moves are afoot to bring in anti-Christian censorship zones around abortion centres in the U.K. On Friday the 28th September, the Vigil of the Feast of St. Michael, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**HEART OF KENT HOSPICE EVENTS:** *Remembering the Armistice* Saturday 10th November, 7.00pm, Invicta Grammar School for Girls, Maidstone ME14 5DS. Enlist today for an evening of expert talks, military recruitment demonstrations, period song sing-alongs and some "Tommy" refreshment with World War 1 specialists Richard Knight and Jim Barker-McCardle, on the 100th Anniversary of the end of WWI.

*Heart of Kent Hospice Volunteer Open Morning*, the last open morning of 2018 takes place at the Hospice (ME20 7PU) on Saturday 10th November from 10.00am – 1pm.

*Light Up a Life:* When you have lost a loved one, even a long time ago, Christmas can be a particularly difficult time. Whether you have a previous connection to the Hospice, whether you are on your own or with family and friends please take a moment to remember someone who brought light and joy to your life by taking part in one of our annual Light up a Life events. All are welcome to attend either of this year's events which take place on Sunday 25th November at Heart of Kent Hospice Aylesford (ME20 7PU) at 4.30 pm and Sunday 2nd December at Aylesford Priory (ME20 7BX) at 4.30 pm. For full details of the events or to dedicate a star in your loved one's memory please visit [www.hokh.org](http://www.hokh.org) or contact fundraising on 01622 790195.

<b>Last weekend:</b> <b>1<sup>st</sup> Collection:</b> £1626.34 <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection</b> – Dew Association. Kerala, Southern India. Flood Victims. (Carmelite Community): £666.61 <i>plus an average of £275 Standing Orders</i>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Collection today:</b> Mission Appeal – Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love <b>Next Week:</b> CAFOD Fast Day
<i>Thank you for your generosity</i> <b>Parish Lottery winner – Week 13 - Number 313 – Prize £250</b>	