

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

12th July 2020 - Fifteenth Sunday of the Year (A)

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priests: Fr. Pawel Sobol, Fr. Damian Esene

Deacon: Rev. Ian Black

Parish Office hours: 9.00am – 12.00pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Catholic Schools

St Francis Primary School: Queen's Road, Maidstone, ME16 0LB 01622 771540

St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park, Maidstone, ME16 0JP 01622 754551

PUBLIC MASS

The moment of great joy has now arrived. From this coming **Thursday 16th July, 10.30am**, we shall be celebrating public Mass. All the expectations that we are so used to in other places are also exercised at Church with social distancing and hand sanitising hygiene. As you can imagine, the church layout is looking a bit different with benches being moved and areas taped off so that the proper distancing can be kept. The spacing within our church has been measured to between 1-2 metres which has had an effect on our Mass times. They are as follows:

Monday - Friday 10.30am (no 8pm on Friday)

Saturday 10am

Sunday: 6pm (Saturday); 8.30am; 10am; 11.30am; 4pm; 6pm

As St. Luke's, Preston Hall is attached to the Hospice so we are not able to host Mass there.

The distance we have measured out means that a **face covering is compulsory**. We ask that you please bring your own as we will not supply them. Stewards who have volunteered from the parish will be at the Church to welcome you and guide you to your places. At the door you will be asked to deposit your track and trace card in the box (please see further in the newsletter for details of this). Please do not look for your own favourite places, we need to be restricted in our movement so allow our volunteers to direct you properly. Places available are marked by a 'green tick'. The Mass will have no singing, no bidding prayers, no offertory and no sign of peace. Just before holy communion the priest says 'The Body of Christ' to which everybody responds as one voice with 'Amen'. The same afterwards with 'The Blood of Christ'. The priest will receive communion himself only and carry on with the final prayer and then the final blessing and dismissal. It is then that the congregation can come forward to receive communion. Please wait to be ushered up and everybody must come up, even for a blessing. The people receive communion in silence and depart the Church straight away, without going