

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

20th September 2020 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year (A)

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

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priests: Fr. Damian Esene, Fr. Simon Peter Lubulwa

Deacon: Rev. Ian Black

Parish Office hours: 10.00am – 12.00pm Monday 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

'Why are you so envious because I am so generous?'



'The last will be first and the first, last.'(Matthew 20:16)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: As you may know we were not able to carry out the celebration of our First Holy Communions last Summer. We shall be working towards holding them in the Spring or Summer of 2021. Since we are not able to complete the current group's Communions until next year, there shall be no applications for First Holy Communion this coming year. When things are hopefully easier next year, applications will be made available for children who are entering Year 4 in September 2021.

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: As from Monday 21st September, Holy Communion will be distributed at the traditional time during Mass (after the Lamb of God and the priest receiving Communion himself) for the weekday morning Masses only, including Saturday 10am Mass. So when you receive Holy Communion at these Masses you return back to your seats for a moment of personal prayer as before. Mass concludes in the usual way and we ask that you depart from church immediately in a sensible socially distanced manner. We are hoping that you will not need the assistance of ushering with this. For the Sunday Mass (which includes Saturday 6pm Mass) we shall carry on with Communion at the end of Mass as you depart as we have been since July.

ADORATION: We shall be having Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays 9am-10.15am starting from this Friday 25th September.

SEATING AT MASS: We are delighted to see such a growing amount of people coming to Mass especially on the Sunday. May we draw attention to the newly arranged seating that we have in the Church which really only applies at the moment to the Sunday 10am and 11.30am Mass. On the right of the Church as you enter, benches against the wall are arranged with 11 individual places. The first 11 people who arrive for those Masses on their own will be invited to occupy these places first. This will allow the other spaces around the church to be free for families who arrive. We are confident that this will help us increase our capacity in a safe and healthy way as numbers increase, so we are very grateful for your cooperation with this. Thank you!

TEST AND TRACE FORMS: Please can we ask that you fill in your test and trace forms at home and deposit them in the box as you arrive at church. To make this easier we ask that you take with you a prepared pack of 12 in the side chapel as you leave Mass. Remember, you only need one per household, not for each individual. They can be downloaded on our parish website. You can even just deposit any piece of paper that has your name & contact details. The options are great but please continue to do this at home and be prepared as you arrive for Mass so you don't hold people up as you arrive filling in a form at the Church porch.

BAPTISMS: If you wish to have your child Baptised then please look on our website, under the title of Sacraments, where you will be able fill in a form to register for a Baptism. We will reply with all the details with an application form and a course for you to complete. Once you have done this, then you can enquire about a Baptism date by contacting the

same email address. We thank you for requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for your child as we always delight in welcoming new members into the Church community and we are sure you will find the material we send you both helpful and encouraging.

CHURCH OFFERING: We are ever so grateful for the generosity of people for the Church Offering that you give every week. Please can we ask that you come prepared when you come to Mass and give your Church offering when you arrive in the bowls at the back of the Church. It allows the flow of people to move a lot easier when they leave for Mass.

STANDING ORDER: The ideal form of giving to the church, especially during these times, is by Standing Order. So many parishioners have placed themselves on this system and it has proved to be very helpful. If you wish to make a Standing Order (regular payments automatically from your bank account to the Church account) then please do not hesitate to contact the parish office.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you wish to book a Mass Intention, the best way to do this is via email, an envelope through the door or telephone while the Parish Office is open. You are welcome to call at the door while Parish Office hours are open but we cannot invite you into the house. You will always need to wait at the door as we are restricting the people who come in to the priest house.

Feasts of the Week

St Matthew: Monday 21st September.

One of the Twelve Chosen Apostles and Evangelist. He is referred to in Matthew's Gospel as Levi and a tax collector when called by Christ. Tradition has it that he preached the Faith in the East.

St. Pius of Pietrelcina Wednesday 23rd September

St. Pius is probably still remembered as being called Padre Pio before his canonisation. A Capuchin monk and priest who drew great attention with his stigmata, the wounds of Christ. He died in 1968.

Our Lady of Walsingham Thursday 24th September

Walsingham has become a popular place of pilgrimage in Norfolk for 1,000 years. It began 1061 when Lady Richeldis, a noblewoman, has a vision of the Blessed Virgin so had a shrine then priory built in Walsingham where it happened. Destroyed during the Reformation, it was restored during the 1930's by Fr. Hope Patten, an Anglican Priest. Today there is both a Catholic and an Anglican Shrine.

St. Cosmas and St. Damian Saturday 26th September

Early Church Martyrs who lived and died during the 3rd Century. Twin brothers who were Arab born but embraced Christianity. They practised medicine and surgery without fee which attracted many others to the Christian faith. They developed a name as great healers which spread wide throughout the land of Syria where they lived. The Roman Emperor, in his desire to rid the world of Christianity, had them beheaded. The Patron Saints of Pharmacy and medicine. May their prayers be strong for the world of medicine today.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 20th September	6.00pm (Sat)	
	8.30am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	10.00am	<i>Mary Francis Okeeffe RIP</i>
	11.30am	<i>Dennis Coatsworth RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Special Intention</i>
Monday 21st September St Matthew	10.30am	<i>Special Intention</i>
Tuesday 22nd September	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
Wednesday 23rd September St Pius of Pietrelcina	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Thursday 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	10.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
Friday 25th September	10.30am	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
Saturday 26th September St Cosmos and St Damian	10.00am	<i>Jim Lancaster RIP</i>
Sunday 27th September	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	8.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	10.00am	
	11.30am	<i>Paddy Egan RIP</i>
	6.00pm	

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

Evelyn Gilliard, Timothy Buckley, Patricia Mangion, Neville Watson, Canon Joseph Simmons, Niall Hines, Frederick Flack, Mary Harris, Pierre Abbyard, Sr. Mary Ignatius, Ray Wilcock, David Carley, Veronica Bodkin, Romano Buschini, Mary Lennon, Stefane Godsall, Sidney Whibley, Eileen Walder, Carmel Dooley, John Blunden, Margaret McDonnell, Eileen Pearce, Margaret Jarvis, Samantha Palmer, Martin Fay, Harry Goût, Lesley Parker and Derek Clinton.

CONFESSIONS: Confessions are now available in the Children's Chapel on Saturdays 10.45am-11.30am. As the priest has to sanitise the area before anybody enters you are asked to please wait until the priest opens the door before you can enter

COLLECTION: from last Sunday: £2,364.33
Standing Orders around £740 Thank you always for your generosity

PARISH LOTTERY: Week 12 – Number 92 - Amount £70

**PLEASE NOTE THE NEW OPENING TIMES FOR THE PARISH OFFICE:
Monday and Friday 10am to 12 noon.**