

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

27th September 2020 – Twenty-Sixth 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. Damian Esene, Fr. Simon Peter Lubuulwa

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

SOLEMNITY OF ST FRANCIS

Whenever a Saint's feast day falls on a Sunday, the Sunday would always take precedence. There are certain exceptions, e.g. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Peter and St. Paul. Another occasion is when a parish's patron feast falls on a Sunday. It is raised to the status of Solemnity (equal to Sunday) and



therefore can be observed for the Masses on that Sunday. Therefore next Sunday, 4th October, we shall be celebrating the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron of our parish. What you will notice if you attend Mass that day is that the wall candles shall be lit around the Church, twelve in all. These depict the place where the Bishop anointed the walls with the oil of Chrism when the Church was consecrated back in 1982. It is on the feast day of the parish's patron and the anniversary of the Church's consecration that we do this (in our case 26th September). Usually we have been able on this day to celebrate Mass with our parish Catholic Primary School, but because of the current situation we are not able to do so this year. During the 10am livestream Mass next Sunday we shall be giving a particular mention to the school and offering a particular blessing.

St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us.

SECOND COLLECTION: Ever since the end of March there have been no second collections either requested from the Diocese or the parish. However, the Diocese have now specifically requested for second collections to begin again for particular needs on various Sundays. As we have bowls at both the entrance and exit of the Church for you to put your offering (although we continue to stress our preference that you give as you arrive), to provide an opportunity to give a donation of for a second collection will prove to be difficult. Therefore, on each Sunday where a Second collection has been requested, we shall give a certain percentage of whatever is given on the Sunday to the Church. This is not ideal - but what is at the moment? We shall let you know what the second collection is for the weekend before it takes place, so that you can be better prepared. Next weekend's second collection will be CAFOD fast day.

SEATING AT MASS: 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. 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 contact 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 at the bowls at the back of the Church. It allows the flow of people to move a lot easier when they leave for Mass.

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.

REPOSITORY: St Francis Church Shop will be open Saturday 3rd October after 10am Mass for 1 hour. Cards, Missals, Bibles, Crosses, Advent Calendars and Christmas Items will be on sale in the pod next to the shop to allow for social distancing. Further opening dates will be announced next month.

CHURCH DOORS: Please do remember that the church doors are locked when Mass begins and we cannot allow anybody to come in when they are late.

FACE COVERINGS: We appreciate very much people who wear face coverings when coming to Church but please make sure that you cover both mouth and nose.

Feasts of the Week

Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael Tuesday 29th September

An Angel is a messenger of God and this day we celebrate Three Archangels.

St. Michael (a name meaning 'Who is like God?') is venerated as the chief angel driving Satan out of heaven in the Book of Revelation. We call upon the help of St. Michael to help us in our constant battle with Satan.

St. Gabriel (a name meaning 'Strength of God') brought the message to Zechariah that he was to be father of John the Baptist and to Mary that she was to be Mother of 'Emmanuelle - God with us'. We celebrate this great event on the feast of the Annunciation, 25th March).

St. Raphael (a name meaning 'Healing of God') is found in the Book of Tobit as the one who journeyed with Tobias when sent by his blind father on an errand. On returning, Raphael restores his father's sight.

St. Jerome Wednesday 30th September

You may have seen his picture in our Church, taken outside his resting place in Bethlehem where he died in 420. Big attention has been given to his work in this 'Year of the Bible', since St. Jerome was a great Scripture Scholar who translated the Word of God into Latin. It was St. Jerome who said, 'Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of God.'

St. Therese of the Child Jesus. Thursday 1st October

Joined the Order of Carmelite and died at a very young age in the late 19th Century but is well known for her simplicity and practicality of the spiritual life.

The Holy Guardian Angels Friday 2nd October

Our Devotion to the Guardian Angles is thanking God for our own Angel appointed to care for us. It is an expression of faith in God's enduring love and providential care extended to each person day every day.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 27th September	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	8.30am	<i>Private Intention</i>
	10.00am	<i>Tom Beirne RIP</i>
	11.30am	<i>Paddy Egan RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Rosemary Stratton RIP</i>
Monday 28th September	10.30am	<i>Richard and Lydia Bennett RIP</i>
Tuesday 29th September Sts Michael, Gabriel, Raphael	10.30am	<i>Bernard and Kathleen Mallinder RIP</i>
Wednesday 30th September St Jerome	10.30am	<i>In reparation for abortions in Brewer St</i>
Thursday 1st October St Therese of the Child Jesus	10.30am	<i>James Philip Birchenough RIP</i> <i>Catherine Birchenough RIP</i>
Friday 2nd October The Holy Guardian Angels	10.30am	<i>Tom Stanley RIP</i>
Saturday 3rd October	10.00am	<i>Rose Joanna Brook RIP</i>
Sunday 4th October Solemnity of St Francis of Assisi	6.00pm (Sat)	<i>Donald and Elizabeth RIP</i>
	8.30am	<i>Betty Hanz RIP</i>
	10.00am	<i>People of the Parish</i>
	11.30am	<i>Ellen Coram RIP</i>
	6.00pm	<i>Mary Bothamley RIP</i>

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

Peter Allies, Serena Wazur, Patrick Hynes, David Bell, Veronica Riley, Hugh House, George Kelvie, Jack Smith, Catherine Terrill, Stephan Fuller, Edward Donoghue, Anne Murphy, Mary Hulme, Barbara Vik, Douglas Theaker, Bridget Nolan, Paddy Egan, Ada O'Brien, Maria Navarro, Brenda O'Hare, Peter Amigo, Mr Ward, Maria Pinto, Honora Pierce, Joan Namey, Fiorina Winch, John Lobo, Robert Robson, Shirley Desombre, William Aylward, William Campbell, Rev. Chris Cassidy and Kathleen Boyce.

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

ADORATION: We shall be having Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays 9am-10.15am every Friday morning.

COLLECTION: from last Sunday: £1,804.88
Standing Orders around £740 Thank you always for your generosity

PARISH LOTTERY: Week 13 – Number 160 - Amount £250