

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

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**Parish Priest:** Fr. Liam Gallagher

**Assistant Priests:** Fr. Damian Esene, Fr Simon Peter Lubuulwa

**Deacon:** Rev. Ian Black

**Parish Office hours:** 10am – 12 noon Monday and Friday (email or telephone only)

## 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

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The Season of Lent will begin this coming Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> February. We shall be celebrating Mass that day at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 8.00pm. Please remember that we cannot celebrate Mass if there are no stewards to assist with Mass or to help with the sanitizing after Mass. If you are willing to assist us with stewarding at any of these Masses then please can you contact the priest house by telephone or email to let us know. We appreciate your help with this. We also ask for a volunteer to read at these Masses please.



As we are all very much under the regulation of social distancing and no human contact outside your household/bubble during this COVID time, the distribution of Ashes will be slightly different as the priest cannot apply them to your forehead as usual. What will take place is that at the end of Mass, after the final blessing, the priest will bless the ashes and say only once, “Repent and believe the Gospel” or “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. He will then come down the steps of the sanctuary and people shall be asked to come forward, just like holy communion, so please wait to be asked, and the priest shall sprinkle ashes on the crown of your head in silence. We know it is very cold at the moment and people may like to wear hats even in church, but for the distribution of ashes we cannot sprinkle on your hat. It is you yourself who is the sinner and needs repentance, not your hat. Once you have received the ashes, you depart out of the church.