

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st February 2021 First Sunday of Lent (B)

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 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



A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON

This Wednesday we begin the Season of Lent. We enter the wilderness with the Lord Jesus in order to understand more about Him and about ourselves as the person He loves, the person He calls, the person He invites to die and rise with Him. Perhaps, the past few months have already felt like an experience of Lent, and even more so of the desert. I think we all have a sense of this. This particular Lent, however, year, maybe we can focus more clearly and simply on our inner attentiveness to the Lord, our relationship of friendship with Christ, desiring to place Him more centrally in our heart so that we might deepen the love we have for the Lord our God and for loving our neighbour as ourselves.

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Fridays 9.30am – 10.15am

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: We shall be having our traditional Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 7.40pm, This shall then be followed by 8.00pm Mass. The stations shall be English speaking and the minister will not be walking around to each station. Instead, he shall be standing on the sanctuary. We do need a reader every week to read the other part from the ambo, so if anybody please is willing to take the part of a reader then please contact the priesthouse to let us know.

A RETREAT AT HOME: Archbishop John and the Diocesan Spirituality Commission are offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Using the link below, you can watch a short video reflection each week, download prayer materials and other resources which can help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week.

If you are looking for a way to deepen your life of prayer this Lent, click <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme> where you can also sign up to receive materials directly to your email.

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)

FLEDGLINGS: The Fledglings group is for children of the parish attending any school from years Reception to Year 6 (4 – 11 years old). The group meet to play games, for activities, and to learn about their faith along with a team of experienced and DBS-checked leaders. Although we are unable to meet in person at the moment, due to Covid restrictions, we are meeting on Zoom and for those not comfortable with this, we have a newsletter with activities. If your child, including rising 5s, would like to join or you would like to know more, please email youth@stfrancisparish.org.uk or ask one of the clergy.

FLAME YOUTH GROUP: Our parish youth group is for young people from any school who are aged 11-18 years old (split into 2 sections) to learn more about and discuss their faith, have fun, socialise and take on roles within the parish community. Although we are unable to meet face-to-face at the moment, we still meet on Zoom and take part in activities. If anyone is interested in joining, including current year 6 who have turned 11, please email youth@stfrancis.org.uk or ask one of the clergy for more details. We look forward to welcoming you.

FEED THE HUNGRY and keep them in a clean environment: Your very generous donations are still required and very much appreciated and needed by families and the food bank. Donations of **cleaning materials** such as wipes, spray disinfectant, cloths and washing capsules are urgently needed at the moment and may be left at

the presbytery for collection several times each week. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY CLOTHES, SHOES OR HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS as there is nowhere to store them at the moment and the main focus is on cleaning and food. Thank you for your help and understanding.

MASS INTENTIONS: When you request a Mass Intention please could you leave contact details so that we can let you know when it is. Thank you.

DEAR HUSBAND AND WIFE: During the restrictions due to the Covid pandemic, an online 'Building a Better Marriage' opportunity is being held from 10am -1pm on Saturday March 13th 2021. The course offered means that you can attend the course from your own living room and there is no group sharing.

For further information contact Tel: 07983524727 - email: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH LOTTERY PAYMENT: We are very grateful for the people who organise our Parish Lottery and have kept it operating during the past months. We are at the stage now of asking people to pay for their new six month subscription which many of you already do through Standing Orders. For anybody who pays by cash, if you are able to, please can you place it in an envelope with full written details - stating Parish Lottery, your name and Lottery number (if you know what it is). If you do not know your number then please give your address as it makes researching it easier on our records. Thank you always for your support.

YOU ARE INVITED: Maidstone Catenians would like to invite all adult parishioners to a Zoom meeting on Monday 22 February at 7.30pm for a presentation called Saints and Scholars of the City of London.

Any parishioner who would like to attend should email

rseminarium@yahoo.co.uk

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES: You can get it delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE. Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :- £25.00

SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months:- £99.00

DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months: £55.00

OR

DIGITAL COPY/AND HARD COPY FOR:- £115.00 (EASTER SPECIAL OFFER)

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

The Chair of St. Peter: Monday 22nd February. From the fourth Century, this feast was started to celebrate the unity of the worldwide Church founded on St. Peter, the rock.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 21st February	6.00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Special Intention
	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	11.30am	Sister Kathleen Flanagan RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 22nd February The Chair of St Peter	10.30am	Private Intention
Tuesday 23rd February	10.30am	Private Intention
Wednesday 24th February	10.30am	Holy Souls
Thursday 25th February	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Friday 26th February	10.30am	Private Intention
	8.00pm	Holy Souls
Saturday 27th February	10.00am	James and Mary Hurzon RIP
Sunday 28th February	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	10.00am	Margaret Ambrose RIP
	11.30am	Asking for God's blessing at this time
	6.00pm	Holy Souls

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

Dorothy Delaney, Jeanne Appleton, John Brophy, Kate Farmer, Kenneth Gibbons, Angelo Di Marco, Alexander Goldsmith, Laurence Burns, Louise Priestley, Peter McCaffrey, Molly Beale, David Jones, Mary Corolan, Patrick Malone, Mary O'Doherty, Winifred Cameron, Eileen Lusted, David Johnson, Mario Smitti, Agnes McTighe, Albert Ward, Nina Newman, Denis Pollard, Alan Law, Elizabeth Duffy, Gaetano Lembo, Myrtle Sancto, Ellen Byrne, Winifred Feakins, Peter Heeley, Alessandro Piano, Bob Heard, Megan Milne, Ann Cruickshank, Margaret Legard, Albert Youd, Jean Dayson, Norah Dolden, Richard Clancy, Nancy Walsh, Kathleen Chapman, Meg Haynes, Clifford Boyce, John Woods, Barbara Sheridan Isabella Duffett.

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 10.45am – 11.30am

COLLECTION: Church Offering from last Sunday: £732.76

Second Collection: £244.25

Standing Orders for January £4,569.06

Second collection this week is for Poor Parishes

Second collection for next week is for CAFOD Fast Day

PARISH LOTTERY: Week 8 – Number 237 - £60