

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**2<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter (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 Tuesday 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

## QUEEN OF THE ANGELS AND QUEEN OF THE MAY



As May is known as the month of Mary, we shall be carrying out a simple ceremony of crowning of Our Lady's Statue at the beginning of 10.00am Mass this Sunday.

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,

Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:

Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,

Has risen as he said, alleluia.

Pray to God for us, alleluia

**PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** God our Father, look in love upon our homes, our families and our communities. Raise up from among us worthy priests, to teach the Gospel to all people, to minister at your altar and to care for your flock. Fill us all with you Holy Spirit and make us faithful and inspiring witnesses to your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**WHO ME? WHY NOT?:** If you have any questions or are thinking about the possibility of becoming a priest or joining a religious community, please do not just let the thoughts linger in your head unexplored. The priests here would only be too delighted to give you time to ask and help discover what God is calling you to do. It may also be helpful to visit the website <http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/vocations.htm>

**PLEASE COME FORWARD:** Recently we received an envelope with “MASS OFFERING” written on it with money inside, but no information about what it was for or who it was from. If this is you then you can you please let the Parish office know so we can deal with your request. May we take this opportunity to remind you that when requesting a Mass intention you must supply your name, contact details and what the intention is for. Thank you for your help

**FRIDAYS:** We will be having Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Friday 9.30am. We shall also be celebrating 8.00pm Mass every Friday. If anybody would like to help with being a steward or reader for that Mass then please let the Parish Office know.

**SINGING:** Please remember that when you hear a popular hymn played for Mass we must refrain from singing. We are still not allowed to sing as a congregation yet.

**DAY OF PRAYER:** The Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors (PCPM) has highlighted the importance of prayer and suggested to Pope Francis that the worldwide Catholic Church should join together in a day of prayer. The Holy Father has welcomed this initiative. From 2021, in response to a request from the Let's Be Honest working group, the Bishops have chosen Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse — 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021. There were two connected reasons for moving the Day of Prayer from Lent to Easter: this is not a penitential day for the failure of the Church and others to respond to the scourge of abuse but a day of prayer for those who have been abused in a season of hope and new life.

**REPOSITORY:** The Repository will be open every Sunday - 10.30am - 11.30am. For other opening times please see the notice on the Repository door. Please note that we are also able to take card payments now.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:youth@stfrancis.org.uk) or ask one of the clergy for more details. We look forward to welcoming you.

**DISCERNMENT WEEKEND FOR MEN AGED 30 to 55** The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2021. It takes place at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales.

The weekend is to reach men who are not already in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life. Promoting similar weekends in past years through parish notices proved to be most fruitful, and the results from these weekends are now in the seminaries. Information and registration forms are at:

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>

A poster and flier for the weekend can be downloaded from:

<https://bedacollege.org/vocation-promotion>.

## **FEASTS OF THE WEEK**

**Sts. Philip and James:** Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May. Both Apostles. Philip was originally a follower of John the Baptist. Later writings show him as preaching in Greece and Syria before his martyrdom in 80AD. James (also called the less) was a cousin of the Lord and a writer of one of the Epistles which is often referred to as the practical Epistle. It gives actual instructions of how to live as a Christian. He became the first Bishop of Jerusalem and was martyred there 62AD.

**The English Martyrs:** Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May. This celebrates the many people during the English Reformation 1534 - 1680 who died for the faith and allegiance to the authority of Rome. Over a number of years of last the century, they have been canonised or beatified by different Popes.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Sirpa Edwardes RIP
	8.30am	Dave Gray RIP
	10.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Special Intention
	6.00pm	Rita and Eric Emerson RIP
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> Sts Philip and James	10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b> The English Martyrs	10.30am	Isobel Sherlock RIP
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am	Sean Ryde RIP
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am	Hugh RIP
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.30am	Sean Ryan RIP
	8.00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	10.00am	Len Watson RIP
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Private Intention
	10.00am	Elizabeth Connolly RIP
	11.30am	Florence RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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

Douglas Law, Eric Emerson, Mary Croucher, Cecilia Hart-Davies, Daniel Deller, Marie Coull, Muriel Underwood, Kate McBennett, Bogdana Kelvie, Iolanda Piper, Roger Selvon, Mary Roscoe, John McKenna, Winifred Kerr, Tamara Kaliozwska, Florence Ludgate, Luis Parra, Marion Cistone, Sylvia White, Patrick Groarke, Blodwin Wilson, Mary Walsh, Oliver Egan, Elizabeth Hales, Antoine Salerno.

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 10.45am to 11.30am

### **COLLECTION:**

First Collection last Sunday £752.66  
 Second Collection last Sunday for Priest Training Fund: £250.66  
 No Second Collection this Sunday  
 No Second collection next Sunday  
 Standing Order for March: £4,321  
 Thank you for your generosity

**PARISH LOTTERY:** Week 18 – Number 213 - £15