

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**7<sup>th</sup> November 2021 Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (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 Lubulwa

**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

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## THE WAY FORWARD TOGETHER

Two weekends ago we heard a letter from our Archbishop John Wilson about the forthcoming Synod that will be taking place in Rome 2023. To help prepare for the Synod, the church throughout the whole world has been invited to take part in a process of listening to the Holy Spirit and discerning how we are being called to bring the Mission of the church further in to our world and be more fruitful. This means that the people of the church, every one of us, must have their opportunity to listen and share what we believe is the best way forward.

As a result, there shall be three meetings in the parish to ask parishioners to express their views on this subject. The meetings will be on the themes **Communion, Participation and Mission**. To help with our responses we are asked to look at a few questions which will help to guide us. The meetings will be held at **7:00pm** on.

**Friday 12th November 2021:** Communion:

Focus questions will be

1. What are the ways in which your parish most successfully brings people together?
2. In which areas of parish life are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?
3. Christ is present as the Head of the Church. How is this shown in our parish and Community?
4. How is the Holy Eucharist the main focal point in our parish life?

**Friday 19th November:** Participation

1. Reflecting on the past 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in your parish been affected?
2. How do you participate currently in the life of the parish?
3. Which groups or individuals are least included in your parish and what might be the best way to reach them?

**Friday 26th November: Mission**

1. Are we looking inwards on ourselves in parish life and do we need to look more outwards to the wider community?
  2. What do you think are the challenges of sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ?
  3. Where is the Holy Spirit calling to mission and service today?
- Meetings will last one hour and 15 minutes.

The Synod has given us all a prayer so that the week before the meetings we can pray about this as a parish. The prayer cards can be found at the back of the church. The key point will be listening to the Holy Spirit and in order to facilitate this there will be a short period of Adoration before each meeting. This will start at **6:45pm** before the meeting starts at **7:00pm**

We are lucky and grateful that Felicity Waters and Catherine James have offered to be the delegates for our parish and facilitate these meetings.

We are also offering a half an hour of Adoration from **6.30pm** for an opportunity to listen to the voice of the Lord moved by the Holy Spirit before we share all our thoughts. These shall be collated and sent to the Diocesan Office. This is an opportunity given to you all to share as one the way forward together as a Church

**ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD:** If there is somebody who has died that you wish us to pray for during the month of Holy Souls, please write their name on a piece of paper and place in the Holy Souls box at the front of the church. Their names shall then be placed on the altar everyday throughout November as a sign of our remembering them in prayer as the family of God.

**ANGELA HUNTER RIP:** The Requiem Mass for Angela Hunter will take place at 10.30am on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November. May she Rest in Peace.

**BLESSING OF THE GRAVES:** We shall be holding our blessing of the graves ceremony on Sunday 7th November 2.30pm at Maidstone Cemetery, Sutton Rd.

**RESPOSITORY:** Advent and Christmas items are now in stock: 'Walk With Me' and 'Day by Day' booklets for Advent. Calendars, books, candles, cards, cribs and much more.

**DEANERY REQUIEM MASS:** This Tuesday 9th November, the clergy of the Deanery will be gathering to celebrate Mass at 12.00pm at St. Theodore's Church, Cranbrook. We call to mind the clergy who have served our Deanery who have passed away. May they hear the words of the Lord, 'Come and receive your reward, good and faithful servant'.

**FLEDGLINGS/FLAME:** Many thanks to all who supported the Fledgling/Flame cake sale last Sunday morning. They raised a brilliant £186.76 for their retreat and enjoyed baking all the lovely cakes.

**ST FRANCIS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL:** For entry in September 2022. If you would like to visit the school for a tour please contact the school office on 01622 771540 to make an appointment. For more information about the school including a virtual tour, visit [www.st+-francis.kent.sch.uk](http://www.st+-francis.kent.sch.uk). Applications close on Monday 17th January 2022

**CHRISTMAS FAYRE:** Please support this event which will be taking place on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10.30am until 5pm in the church porch and the carpark in front of the presbytery. Many Christmas gifts and craft items available, along with refreshments and cakes and small items for children.

**ADVENT WREATHS:** Orders for these very popular table wreaths, are being taken now as there will be a limited number available, and we don't want to disappoint! The wreaths cost £5 each and can be ordered either by placing your name and money in an envelope and handing to a musician at 10am or 11.30am Mass or to a member of the clergy or by emailing your order at [youth@stfrancisparish.org.uk](mailto:youth@stfrancisparish.org.uk) as soon as possible. Wreaths will be made and ready the weekend of 27/28<sup>th</sup> November. Many thanks.

Please note that if you light the candles the greenery is flammable and can be very dangerous.

#### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES:**

Christmas Fayre – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 10.30 until 5pm in the church and car park. Lots of stalls for children and adults alike.

Advent wreath orders –Orders close on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November

Advent wreaths available – Weekend of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> November

Flame Advent presentation- Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November in St Francis Church at 3pm.

Refreshments available afterwards.

Christmas Appeal – Our annual appeal for toys, gifts and food for hampers for families in our parish and for the families visiting the St Francis Centre in Poplar.

Donations can be brought anytime from now, but will be collected especially at all Masses of 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> December.

Children's Nativity – Led by Fledglings with a special visitor for all children!

2.30pm in St Francis Church on the 4<sup>th</sup> December

Parish Carol Service – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November</b>	6.00pm/Sat	Ray Maude RIP
	8.30am	Sycamore Growing in Faith course
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Christina Brennan RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.30am	Marianne Esther Corfe RIP
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November</b> Dedication of Lateran Basilica	10.30am	Alexander, Helen, John and James McArdle RIP
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Leo the Great	10.30am	Kathleen and Bob Lenzie RIP
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Martin of Tours	10.30am	Jack Drummond RIP
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> November</b> St Josaphat	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer Street
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November</b>	10.00am	Private Intention
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November</b>	6.00pm/Sat	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	10.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Patrick McKee RIP
	6.00pm	Myriam Torres De Rivera RIP

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

Francis Hugo, David Muller, Harry Sutcliffe, Ian Partlett, Andrew Akehurst, Winifred Mackell, Joseph Capone, Mary Grossmith, Michael Briwn, Mary Carmody, Tristram Watson, Wendy McKay, Victor Hakeman, Dorothy Arnold, Sara Sime, Stanslaaw Vik, Frank Scully, David Lee, Winifred Warley, Alphonsus Gleeson, Josephine Bricknell, Patrick Dee, John Dee, Kathleen Gibbs.

**COLLECTION:**

First Collection last Sunday	£1017.71
Second Collection last Sunday, DEW Association	£183.22
Second collection this Sunday: Parish Development	
Second Collection next Sunday: Archbishop Administration Fund	
Standing Order for September:	£3960.56

**PARISH LOTTERY:** Week: 19 - Lottery Number 44 - Amount: £20