

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd December 023 First Sunday of Advent (B)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH Tel. 01622 756217

Email: Website: www.stfrancisp parish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr. Liam Gallagher

Assistant Priest: Fr Simon Peter Lubuulwa

Also Resident: Fr. Peter Norris (Retired)

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

CHRIST COMES AGAIN



A NEW YEAR - A NEW YOU!

I know that title sounds like a headline that you find in the first week of January in a fashion or health magazine - encouraging you to fulfil your lifelong ambition of taking up an exercise regime or trying a new wardrobe. How many of us start with a good intention but fail at the sight of the first challenge? If you have succeeded in any resolution, then well done.

The Season of Advent begins today which is the beginning of a new year for the church. Advent means 'Coming' and it is a season of two halves. The second part which runs up to the celebration of Christmas is putting ourselves in the spirit of those who were preparing for the coming of the Messiah, our Emmanuel, meaning 'God with us' as foretold by the prophets. The first part of Advent, that we enter into

now, is calling to mind the promise of Christ of his return (it may not necessarily happen during Advent) but every day is to call to mind that one day we shall see the Lord face to face-and Advent prompts us to be ready and awake for his coming again. Please do make the most of what is available provided during the season of Advent, plus various items in the Church shop that help allow our homes and our lives awake and ready for Christ's coming.

BLESSING OF THE ADVENT WREATH: As always we light our first candle on our Advent Wreath, which will be blessed at the beginning of each Mass and a candle lit by one of our First communion children.

FRIDAY: Every Friday during the Season of Advent (8th, 15th and 22nd) from 6.15pm - 7.15pm we shall be welcoming a visiting priest each week to hear Confessions, during which we shall have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This will be followed by 7.30pm Mass. Worship and Reconciliation with the Lord are two special ways in which we renew ourselves and make sure we are truly ready for the coming of Christ. Why not make the most of this opportunity?

O ANTIPHONS: During the final week of Advent at every weekday Mass we shall be singing a hymn in praise of the O Antiphons. These are Old Testament references to the coming Messiah - just think of the opening line of each verse in "O Come O Come Emmanuel".

ACCEPTANCE: We pray for the people journeying through our parish RCIA course. This weekend at 10am Mass we shall celebrate the Rite of Acceptance - a stage where they continue to further their promise of commitment to their Faith and allow themselves to be strengthened and guided by God's grace.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: At the Lamb of God at all Masses this weekend, we shall be inviting all Ministers of Holy Communion to come forward and make their renewal of commitment to their ministry.

CHRISTMAS FAIR- Many thanks to all who supported last week's event in any way, including buying raffle tickets. The event raised £870 which will be used for the parish Fledgling and Flame youth groups.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS - Thank you to all those who have contributed towards our collection of food and gifts for those who are struggling - it is much appreciated. We are still collecting at all Masses this weekend and next.

BIG EVENT- PARISH CAROL SERVICE - SATURDAY 16TH DECEMBER 2PM

Please join us, young and old, to sing all your favourites, while the story is acted out by the Fledglings group. Refreshments, including mulled wine and mince pies

will be served at the end. NO CHARGE. We will love to see you - let's see if we can fill the church!!

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH: The Southwark Catholic Youth Service has re-launched several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or scan the QR code to receive regular updates.



REFERENCE: Many parents have applied for their child to attend our parish school of St. Francis from next September 2024. Fr. Liam will be available to sign the reference form that is to be signed by the Parish Priest on Monday 4th December in the Church 6pm -8pm. Forms will not be signed before then.

MASS FOR HOLY SOULS: It was good to see so many people use the opportunity to place names of the souls they wish to remember in the box during this month of Holy Souls. With the money that was placed in the Holy souls box, Mass for the intention of Holy souls shall be offered for each £10 that was placed in there.

REPOSITORY: Now in stock: Advent candles and calendars, Christmas cards, Nativities and children’s Christmas books. 2024 Catholic diaries and calendars

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,094.48
Second Collection last Sunday Catholic Youth Service	£ 172.65
Second Collection this Sunday Parish Development	
Second Collection next Sunday Christmas flowers	
Standing Order for October	£4,530.96

PARISH LOTTERY: Week Number 22 Number 36 Amount £15

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 3rd December	6.00pm(Sat)	Dominic A. Joseph RIP
	8.30am	Maurice Bell RIP
	9.00am PH	Mary Crimmins RIP
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Elizabeth and Joseph Frost RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 4th December	10.30am	Patrick McKee RIP
Tuesday 5th December	10.30am	Len Goddard RIP
Wednesday 6th December	10.30am	Private Intention
Thursday 7th December St Ambrose	10.30am	Terry Charles Ruaux RIP
Friday 8th December Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.30am	Rose Joanna Brook RIP
	7.30pm	Well-being of our newborn & her mother
Saturday 9th December	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Sunday 10th December	6.00pm(Sat)	Patricia Frost RIP
	8.30am	Joseph Kuriakose RIP
	9.00am PH	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Michael Fay RIP
	11.30am	John Connaughton RIP
	6.00pm	Holy Souls

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

Mary Bishop, Alice Lay, Victoria Flynn, James McKinley, Teresa Harding, Tina Gilloway, Hannah Newman, Patrick Kearney, Marie Potter, Ethel Thomas, Teodor Klekot, Rosellin Gallagher, Baby Archie Morris, Aleksander Grochowski, Maude Springett, Mary Weston, Carmena Sammut & Andrew, Kathleen Waters, Elaine George, Bunty Nolan, Joan Carr, Christopher Brewer, Mary Dray, Kathleen Sturla, Cavan Buckley, Derek Jones, Juliana Banyard, Franziska Butt, John Thomas, Derek Naylor, Roy Holkham, Erminio Pirozzolo, Tristan, John Connaughton, Kathleen Cochrane, Mr Zakur, Cecilia Doherty, David Brown, Nora Parry, Florence McCormack, Elizabeth Stacey.

CONFESSIONS: Friday 11.00am – 11.30am; Saturday 10.45am-11.30am.

ADORATION: 9.30am - 10.15am and every Friday morning.