

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th December 2023 Second Sunday of Advent (B)

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

Email: Website: www.stfrancisparish.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 75455

'A voice cries in the wilderness



Prepare a way for the Lord'

(Mark 1: 3)

FRIDAY: For the two remaining Fridays during the Season of Advent (15th and 22nd December) 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.

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".

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!!

EARLIER MASS: Please note that Mass on Tuesday 12th December will be at the slightly earlier time of 10.00am. The clergy need to attend a Deanery meeting taking place later that day at Cranbrook.

AND THE WINNER IS... We will find out next Sunday 17th December at the 10am Mass who are the lucky winners of £100 and £1,000 in our Parish Lottery. You can only win if you are in it. There will be a chance in the New Year to take part for just £13 for six months to purchase a number and increase your chances of winning 'big time, baby!'

CHURCH SHOP: The posters on the Church shop door give you a good idea of what is available. There are still many items for the Season of Advent and Christmas although they are very popular and going fast. Now available are the new Southwark Directories for 2024.

CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY: As you will know by now, Christmas Day is a Monday, meaning Christmas Eve is a Sunday. As both days are days of obligation, when we are obliged to attend Mass, please do not think that attending Mass on one of these days counts for both. Therefore, we are to attend Mass on Christmas Eve as the fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas has not begun by then). Then we are to attend Mass on Christmas Day.

The Mass on Sunday 24th December 6.30pm is a Mass of Christmas - it does not mean you can fulfil your obligation by saying 'It's a Christmas Mass and it is on Sunday'. The oldest escape trick in the book. So let us be clear - Fourth Sunday of

Advent is Sunday morning only (and Saturday evening, of course). Christmas Masses start 6.30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass. We only hope we haven't confused you and are very excited to celebrate with you on both Sunday 24th and Monday 25th December.

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

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: As from this weekend envelopes for the Christmas Offering will be made available for people to take home. The collection during the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to the Priests. Thank you.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 3rd February 2024 9.30am - 4.00pm Building a Better Marriage. This day is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential - details to follow in a future parish bulletin.

LAY CHAPLAIN: **Salary:** KR7 (£25,378 - £28,466 FTE) approximately £22,023 - £24,703 pro rata **Hours:** 37 hours per week, Term time plus five non pupil days (39 weeks) at St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells. More info found on <https://www.kent-teach.com/Recruitment/Vacancy/VacancyDetails.aspx?VacancyId=126521>

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,109.21
Second Collection last Sunday Parish Development	£180.67
Second Collection this Sunday Christmas Flowers	
No Second Collection next Sunday	

STANDING ORDERS FOR NOVEMBER

Standing Orders Gift Aid	£3,190
Standing Orders Non Gift Aid	£871.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£1,444.36
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£83.85
TOTAL	£5,590.17

PARISH LOTTERY: Week Number 23 Number 244 Amount £20

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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
Monday 11th December	10.30am	Steven Byrne RIP
Tuesday 12th December	10.00am	Tony Gibb RIP
Wednesday 13th December St Lucy	10.30am	Private Intention
Thursday 14th December St John of the Cross	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 15th December	10.30am	Deceased Priests of Maidstone
	7.30pm	Private Intention
Saturday 16th December	10.00am	Stuart McLeod RIP
Sunday 17th December	6.00pm(Sat)	Mathew Manipadam RIP
	8.30am	Varkey Kurian RIP
	9.00am PH	Doris & Charles Shepherd & David Cole RIP
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Kurian Kuriakose RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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

George Dray, Margaret Lightfoot, Frederick Clark, Alan Lake, Regina Kwiatkowska, Patricia Moran, Edith Edwards, Anthony Daniels, Anthony Gibbs, Mrs V Power, Alice Wood, Greta Schlager, Concetta Chapman, Michael Fay, Kathleen Martin, Maria Idou, Frank Turner, Patricia Stott, Harry O'Toole, Dorothy Thomas, Norman Smith, Ena Gallagher, Maureen Fosher, Mary McKee, Kathleen Luckham, Bishop William Brown, Frank Cox, Patricia Gubbins, John Renders, Daphne Pigott, Shane Doyle, Souraya Hutchinson, Leslie Malins Betty Knott.

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

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