

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**17th December 2023 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)**

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Email: [maidstone@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@rcaos.org.uk) Website: [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk](http://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 754551

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**'A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU. HE IS CHRIST THE LORD'**  
**(Luke2:11)**



**FATHER LIAM, FATHER SIMON PETER, FR PETER AND DEACON IAN WISH YOU  
EVERY BLESSING AND PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS TIME  
AND TO ALL YOUR FAMILIES.  
GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU.**

**CONFESSIONS:** Confessions will be available:

Friday 22nd December 11.00am - 11.30am; 6.15pm - 7.15pm

Saturday 23rd December 10.45am - 12.00pm midday; 3.00pm - 4.00pm

**ADORATION:** There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday morning 29th December. Adoration will resume at 9.30am Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING:** Please remember that next Monday is Christmas Day, so the collection is your personal offering to Fr. Liam and Fr. Simon Peter.

**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!'

It's possible to join on line here: [stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery](http://stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery)

**CHRISTMAS EVE/CHRISTMAS DAY:** As you will know by now, Christmas Day is a Monday, meaning Christmas Eve is a Sunday. We are not to choose which of those two days do we attend Mass. Both days are days of obligation, when we are obliged to attend Mass - one does not count for both days. Therefore, you are to attend Mass on Christmas Eve as the fourth Sunday of Advent (Christmas has not begun by then). Then you are to attend on Christmas Day.

The Mass on Sunday 24th December 6.30pm is a Mass of Christmas - it does 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. No! Fourth Sunday of Advent is Sunday morning only (and Saturday evening of course). Christmas Masses start 6.30pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass.

**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>

**STAMPS FOR THE BLIND:** As we are getting more post with Christmas Cards this time of year, we would like to ask you not to throw away your stamps on your envelopes but please carefully tear or cut them off, and bring them to the church porch and place them in the box, marked Stamps. Please do not donate damaged

or torn stamps. These are taken and help raised money for the Kent Charity that help the Blind. Thank you.

**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.

**COLLECTION:**

First collection last week (cash)	£1,210.40
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Second Collection last week:	£398.17
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No Second Collection this Sunday

No Second Collection next Sunday

Direct debits for November

Standing Orders Gift Aid	£3,190
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Standing Orders Non Gift Aid	£871.96
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Collection CARD Offerings	£1,444.36
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Collection ONLINE Offerings	£83.85
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TOTAL	£5,590.17
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**PARISH LOTTERY:** Week Number 24    Number 83    Amount £25

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

Doris Shepherd, Edward Jones, Franciaa Luen, Peter Capon, Stanley Rosemeyer, Mary Bray, Rosalind Humphries, Elizabeth Shufflebotham, Derek Hook, Kathleen Holkham, Floryse Berville, Michael Cuncliffe, Frances Kelly, Sister Kathleen Dalton, Christina Gubbins, Dorothy Hane, John Kelly, Belly Kenny, David Long, Mary Humphrey, Annie Demantina, Eileen Mooney, Baby Harry Felgueiras, Melody McNeilly, Ethel Rosemeyer, Alan Hurrell, Joseph Carlos, Edward Chapman, Kate Gleeson, Eileen Beeney, Catherine Jones, Patrick Long, Kate Lawrence, Mary Fearn, Kathleen Carter, Bridget West, Norma Mallon, Mary Rutherford, Harold Jarvis, Pat Hopkins, Joyce Waterfield, Yvonne Gordon, Peggie Smith, Mary Gallagher, Peter Boylan, Joe Digman, John Bilborough Margaret Sage, Tina Corelli, Kathleen Horan, John Shine, Eileen Budnikas, Mrs McReavy, Ada Watson, John Rocha, Vincent Jarvis, Stanley Jones, Paul Mealin, Irene Sturgess, Eleanor Hall, Caroline Milton, Daisy Brown, John Siri. Joseph Jensen, Colleen Sergeant, Vittorina Durling, Frederick Capeling, James Brownson, Irene Burgess, Frank O'Connell, William Holland, Victoria Sergeant, Sister Nolan, Mary Deeley, Abdul Tabouni, Christopher Parker, Sophia Schweitzer, David Hughes.

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 17th December</b>	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
<b>Monday 18th December</b>	10.30am	Michael O'Connor RIP
<b>Tuesday 19th December</b>	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Ernestina Louisa Winterhalter RIP
	8.00pm	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	10.00am	Bernard Burns RIP
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December</b>  <b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December</b> The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	Franciszek and Stanislaw Lupa RIP
	9.00am (PH)	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Nenia Dannica B. Bayona RIP
	6.30pm (Sun)	Mary McKee RIP
	12 midnight	Patrick Gallagher RIP
	8.30am	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
	10.00am	Tom and Paddy Egan RIP
	11.30am	Stanislawa and Franciszek Lupa RIP
	<b>NO 6.00pm Mass</b>	
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Stephen	10.30am	John Corfe and Rachel Taylor RIP
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December</b> St John	10.30am	Tina and Vivian D'Silva RIP
<b>Thursday 28th December</b> Holy Innocents	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December</b> St Thomas of Canterbury	10.30am	John and Hilda Lingard RIP
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.00am	Deceased members of Murphy Family
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December</b> The Holy Family	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Deceased members of Saunders family
	9.00am	Holy Souls
	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	11.30am	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
	6.00pm	John Rice RIP