

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st January 2024 Third Sunday 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 Priest: Fr Simon Peter Lubulwa

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



**'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.'
(Matthew 4:19)**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY: Saturday 27th January 2024. There will be Adoration/Exposition with periods of guided prayer and music from 3pm until 4pm in the church. All are welcome to come and pray for all those affected by holocaust and indeed by any kind of war and conflict. Please come and join in for all or part of the hour.

ABSOLUTELY EVERYBODY: Recently we asked everybody to please fill in a form to help the parish update their records and information - we would very much like to know who is part of our parish community. We are very grateful for the people who have done this and our parish database is getting well and truly updated. However, out of an average 950 people who attend Mass here at St. Francis every week, only 430 names have been received. We would be very grateful if everybody else could give us their details. So if you have not filled in one of our parish survey registration forms within the past two years then we would be very grateful if you could soon. These can be found on our parish website titled [New to the Parish](#). Even though you may have been part of the parish and given your details a number of years ago. this is a request for absolutely everybody. Thank you for your help.

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES: Building a Better Marriage. This Saturday 3rd February, will be held at Holy Family Maidstone South parish hall, Bicknor Road, Park Wood ME15 9PS starting at 9.30am until 4pm, 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 - please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or by phone: 07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

THANK YOU: A massive thank you to the many parishioners who donated gifts and food for the Christmas appeal. It doesn't solve problems but it helps people feel loved and valued and takes some of the weight off. Very much appreciated - thank you to you all.

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: Thank you for all the stamps that have been donated throughout the year. The amount collected last year was £828.00 this goes towards the charity for the blind. We ask that you continue to donate these stamps for such a good cause. Please do not donate damaged or torn stamps. Thank you.

RACIAL JUSTICE: With the festivities around Christmas and the New Year now celebrated, I would like to point to our reoccurring celebration of **Racial Justice Sunday coming up on 28 January 2024**. On that day, Archbishop John Wilson will be celebrating the event at St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7HY at the 10am Mass.

HEADTEACHERS: At three Catholic Schools, St Gregory's Secondary in Tunbridge Wells; St Joseph's Primary in Broadstairs; St Edward's Primary in Sheerness; they are recruiting new Headteachers. Here is a link for more information:
<https://www.kcsp.org.uk/work-with-us/>

CHURCH SHOP: This is open on Sundays from 9.15am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.30am.

BE A WINNER: You still have time to be part of our parish lottery. Application forms and QR code cards are now available from the back of the Church. You can also join online at www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery. As we have no collectors available this weekend, anyone still needing to pay please use an envelope marked Lottery and your name and put through the Presbytery letter box. Good luck everyone.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: Knock Pilgrimages are organising a pilgrimage this coming March. Details can be found on the poster in St. Clare's pod just by the Church porch.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,132.24
Second Collection Last Sunday DEW Association	£232.02
Second Collection this Sunday Catholic Children's Society	
Second Collection next Sunday Diocesan Levy	

Direct Debits – December 2023	
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
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 21st January	6.00pm (Sat)	Alice Joseph RIP
	8.30am	Holy Souls
	9.00am (PH)	John Ballagher RIP
	10.00am	Christina Brennan RIP
	11.30am	Wanda Lapham RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 22nd January	10.30am	Pietro and Laura Buschini RIP
Tuesday 23rd January	10.30am	Marion and Bart Fitzsimons RIP
Wednesday 24th January St Frances de Sales	10.30am	Holy Souls
Thursday 25th January Conversion of St Paul	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Friday 26th January Sts Timothy and Titus	10.30am	David Colquitt RIP
Saturday 27th January	10.00am	Holy Souls
Sunday 28th January	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Giovanni Finelli & Maria Antonia Bozzelli RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Catherine Collier RIP
	10.00am	Holy Souls
	11.30am	Virgie and Frederick D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	

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

John Hurd, Sarah Ingram, Margaret Jones, Teresa Kerr, David Chapman, Anthony Edmead, Elaine Martin, Keith Hunter, Thomas McGowan, Margaret Hyland, Kevin McAdam, Ellen Long, Julia Lilie, Bridget Buckley, Denise Nelson, Bill Blackeby, Henry Ladlow, Malcolm Petchey, Edith Phillips, Catherine Badham, Megan Milne, Frederick Russell, Elizabeth Cocchiarella, Henry O'Donnell, Michael Levings, Ada Carmen, William Smith, Denis Baker, Henry Bowles, Jan Skorus, Nocola Angiolini, Maud Moore, Bridget McCormack, Terence Devine, Peter Winter, Mgr. Lawrence McReavy, Lucia Church.

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.