

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time (B)**

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

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

**Parish Priest:** Canon 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

---

## JESUS DRIVES OUT THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT



**'Be Quiet! Come out of him'(Mark 1: 25)**

**APPOINTMENT:** During the week, Archbishop John Wilson appointed Fr. Liam Gallagher as 'Canon'. It is in recognition of his work especially with the Marriage and Family Life for the Diocese. We continue to pray for Canon Liam in his service for our parish and Diocese.

**THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD:** This Friday 2nd February we celebrate the Feast of The Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It will be 40 days after Christmas this Friday and on this day we call the proclamation of Simeon that Jesus is the Light of the World. The beginning of Mass will start at the back with everybody's candles being blessed.

**ABSOLUTELY EVERYBODY:** 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.

**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](http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery). As we have no collectors available, anyone still needing to pay please use an envelope marked Lottery and your name and put through the Presbytery letter box. Good luck everyone

**CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES:** Building a Better Marriage. This day Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) or by phone: 07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

**GIFT:** The Sycamore Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) course is an exciting **free ONLINE** course, **for married and engaged couples**, on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm beginning **13 Feb 2024** and continuing on **20 Feb, 27 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar, 19 Mar 2024**. To register click on the link below:  
[Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis \(rcaos.org.uk\)](http://Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk))

**GRIEF IN LOSS, HOPE IN CHRIST:** If you are mourning after the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. **Aylesford Priory. 22-24 March 2024** Please tel: 01622 717272 or email: [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

**RETRouvaille:** A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages.

**Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024**, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvilleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvilleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouville.org.uk](http://www.retrouville.org.uk)

**Beginning Experience Weekend**

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. This next programme will be held on **12-14 April**; contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795 498445, email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com)

Item about what Bishop David Evans wrote

**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.

**INVITATION: CATHOLIC MEN'S LENTEN RETREAT:** Catholic men of the parish are invited to an evening retreat to prepare for Lent and Easter, led by experienced spiritual director, Fr Gerard Bradley. Eucharistic adoration and Benediction, Rosary, silent prayer, two preached meditations, and Confession available. Includes a short tea break. Car parking available. No cost to attend. Friday 9th February, 7.15pm-9pm, St Michael's parish, Chatham.

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

**COLLECTION:**

First collection last week (cash)	£1,042.73
Second Collection last Sunday Catholic Children's Society	£194.27
Second Collection this Sunday Racial Justice Sunday	
Second Collection next Sunday Parish Development Fund	
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£5,590.17</b>

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	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	
<b>Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January</b>	10.30am	Alvaro Garzon & Alvaro Ivan Garzon RIP
<b>Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January</b>	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January</b> St John Bosco	10.30am	Steven Byrne RIP
<b>Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February</b> The Presentation of the Lord	10.30am	For parents of deceased children
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	10.00am	Harry Dickey RIP
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Edward and Carol Murray RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Keith Gordon RIP
	10.00am	People of the Parish
	11.30am	Catherine and Philip Birchenough RIP
	6.00pm	

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

Rose Lally, Ilse Scholley, Mary Lewis, Concetta di Franco, Derek Stickland, Kathleen Hamlet, Ronald Parker, Carole McAuley, June Hicks, Joan Millington, Emma Heeley, Frank Normand, Jack Jones, Olive Nicole, Keith Ryan, Keith Hunter, Herbert Samson, Mary Drake, Mary Ambrose, Josephine Marks, Maria Miller, Alan Edmonds, Sidney Mannerings, Andrew Gray, Julia Elcombe, Joan Davis, Gerard Keating, Eileen Fox, Josephine Beckley, Donato Bush, Annie Donovan, Donald Cameron, Leo McKenna, Mary Grigsby, Anna Skeels, Mary Rennie, Richard Broaders, Edith Pointer, Harry Wright, Maria Abassi, Lena Guy, Susan Ward.

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

**ADORATION:** 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.

**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.