

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Fifth 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 HEALS THE MOTHER IN LAW OF SIMON



**'...he came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her and she began to serve them. (Mark 1:29)**

**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

**VISIT THE SICK:** If you are entering hospital or know somebody who is in hospital then please do let the parish clergy know. It is our privilege to be able to minister and serve the sick of our parish but we do need your help to let us know.

**CHURCH SHOP:** This is open on Sundays from 9.15am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.30am. Lent resources for adults and children now available in the church shop, including "Day by Day" and "Walk with Me" booklets.

**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>

**MARRIAGE WEEK 7th-14th February 2024:** This particular week has been established by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales and more information can be found on this link: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/>

**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://growinginfaithtogether.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 [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.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.

**CARITAS:** This March, we celebrate the first anniversary of Caritas Southwark. To mark the occasion, Archbishop John will celebrate Mass at St George's Cathedral on **Saturday 16 March at 12.30pm. Kindly save this date** in your diaries and invites will be sent out shortly. There will also be an **event in Amigo Hall afterwards**, where you can hear about some of the **wonderful projects happening in our parishes**.

**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.

### **COLLECTION:**

First collection last week (cash)	£1,265.91
Second Collection last Sunday Racial Justice Sunday	£212.46
Second Collection this Sunday Parish Development Fund	
Second Collection next Sunday DEW Association	

### **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

**PARISH LOTTERY:** Week Number 5      Number 334      Amount £15

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<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	Keith Hunter RIP
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February</b> St Agatha	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February</b> Sts Paul Miki and companions	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Stuart McLeod RIP
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February</b> St Scholastica	10.00am	Guy and Elizabeth Knight RIP
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	Mrs Walsh RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Thanksgiving
	10.00am	Teresa Clarke RIP
	11.30am	Elvira Ovenden RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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

Hugh Cameron, Doreen Ingrams, Norah Jones, Gerry Cullen, Catherine Collins, Roland Dowling, Patrick Delaney, Hannah Williams, Brian White, Myra Campbell, Charles Mill, Dorothy Snowden, Joseph Chow, Pietro Pia, Shaun O'Hara, May O'Connor, Noel Nolan, Tony Plumbly, Richard Hammond, Anne Dooner, Lydia Bennett, Carmela Pirozzolo, John Homewood, Alfred Sancto, William Pointer, Phyllis Greenwood, Philip Hook, Teresa Di Marco, Joan McCormick, Maria Minns, Juliette Boynton, Olga Kane, Violet Marozzi, George Moscicki, Harriett Stanley.

**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.