

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

11th February 2024 Sixth Sunday Ordinary Time (B)

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

Email: maidstone@rcaos.org Website: 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 LEPER



'Of course I want to...be cured!'(Mark 1:41)

ASH WEDNESDAY: It may seem that we haven't long got over Christmas but now we are to be ready to begin a brand new Season of Lent. This starts on Ash Wednesday 14th February. Mass will be celebrated at 10.30am, 12.30pm and 8.00pm. We do of course receive the mark of the cross in Ash during this Mass. It is also a day of fasting and abstinence so we are to refrain from eating meat that day as well as any enjoyable extra treats we may like to give ourselves in between our meals. The thought of Lent approaching may not always excite us but it does provide a wonderful opportunity to renew our lives and come closer to God through fasting, prayer and charity.

We shall also be praying the Stations of the Cross every Friday 7.15pm followed by an opportunity to come and celebrate Mass every Friday 8.00pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Every Friday throughout Lent 7.15pm

REST IN PEACE: The Requiem Mass for Maria Altieri will be celebrated 10.30am this Friday 16th February.

The Requiem Mass for Thomas Corkery and Susan Corkery will be celebrated on Thursday 29th February 11.00am. The Parish Mass will be celebrated at 10.00am that day.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

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. 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

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

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 - or visit 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 **12th -14th April**; contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795 498445, email besouthofengland@gmail.com

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.

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.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,256.57
Second Collection last Sunday Parish Development Fund	£153.86
Second Collection this Sunday DEW Association	
Second Collection next Sunday	

Direct Debits – January 2024

Standing Orders - Gift Aid	£3,359
Standing Orders - Non-Gift Aid	£1,119.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2,325.17
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£59.47
TOTAL	£6,863.60

PARISH LOTTERY: Week Number 6 Number 98 Amount £20

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 11th February	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
Monday 12th February	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Tuesday 13th February	10.30am	Pablo and Lola Navarro RIP
Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday	10.30am	Ann Parker RIP
	12.30pm	Safe Journey
	8.00pm	
Thursday 15th February	10.30am	Private Intention
Friday 16th February	10.30am	Requiem Mass Maria Altieri RIP
	8.00pm	
Saturday 17th February	10,00am	John Corfe and Rachel Taylor RIP
Sunday 18th February	6.00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	Canon Thomas Ryan RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Private Intention
	10.00am	Rosemary West RIP
	11.30am	Biagio Zita RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

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

Terese Leonard, Marie Temple, James Rafferty, Elaine Smythe, Dorothy Heseltine, Mary Bailey, Sidney Ocock, Jean Hinds, John Ruddy, Samuel Dickson, Billy Long, Bernard Attwell, Steven Coward, Edna Dickenson, Winifred Harfield, Florence Jukes, John Lockyer, Francis Parsons, Mary Brown, Bridgit Considine, Margaret O'Kill, Patrick Clarke, Isobel Bartley, Harold Mendes, Lois Hockney, Margaret Kershaw, James Thompson, Dennis Pollard, Margaret Reay, Norah Chambers, Maria Carmichael, John Mills, Carmen Page, Victor Moriarty.

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.