

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**18<sup>th</sup> February 2024 First Sunday of Lent (B)**

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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

## NOAH AND THE NEW BEGINNING



'Here is the sign of the Covenant I make between myself and you....I set my bow in the clouds and it shall be a sign of the Covenant between me and the earth.' (Genesis 9:9)

**WELCOME:** We are blessed to have a number of people journeying through our RCIA programme this year in preparation to be received into the life of the Catholic Church at Easter. This weekend during the 10am we celebrate the 'Rite of Welcome' for Toni, Jonathan, Simon, Juliana, Sarah and Donald who attended the ceremony at St. George's Cathedral on Saturday to be presented to our Archbishop John Wilson. During 10am Mass on the third, fourth and fifth Sunday of Lent they shall be celebrating the Scrutinies with them as we support and pray for them especially during this Holy Season of Repentance and Preparation.

**WHICH SCHOOL?:** We would like to invite any parent who has a child in primary school, especially if you are considering Secondary Schools, to see the notice on the board and the prospectus in the porch for St. Simon Stock Catholic School in Maidstone.

**CLERGY SUPPORT FUND SECOND COLLECTION:** The second collection this week is in support of the Clergy Support Fund for the Archdiocese of Southwark. This important fund provides care and support for priests in their retirement and old age, and at their time of ill health, after their lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church and His People. Your donations to this worthy fund ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests. You can donate today using one of the envelopes provided at the back of the Church. I kindly ask that you pray for our sick and elderly priests, and consider donating to this worthy fund. Thank you for your generosity of heart.

**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

**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.

**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 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://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)

**RETROUVAILE:** 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<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> April**; contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795 498445, email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto: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**.

**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.

**THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE LONDON** is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 24 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA15 7HB.  
 The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

**COLLECTION:**

First collection last week (cash)	£1,370.74
Second Collection last Sunday DEW Association	£167.01
Second Collection this Sunday Clergy Support Fund	
Second Collection next Sunday CAFOD Fast Day	
<b>Direct Debits – January 2024</b>	
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
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,863.60</b>

**PARISH LOTTERY:** Week Number 7      Number 47      Amount £60

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	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
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Adeline Simmons RIP
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b> The Chair of St Peter	10.30am	Kathleen and Bob Lenzie RIP
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	10.30am	Holy Souls
	8.00pm	
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	
	8.30am	
	9.00am (PH)	Chris Ross RIP
	10.00am	Alan Cheeseman RIP
	11.30am	Patricia Frost RIP
	6.00pm	

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

Paul Tolley, Stanley Dominey, Thomas Castle, Kazimierz Szajnik, Cecil McNicholl, Brigit Miles, Lena McCullough, Steve Greenrod, James Healey, Annie Kelly, Canon Leo McReavy, Mary O'Connor, Stefan Kinch, Adam Raznar, Margaret Hull, Frederick Stevens, Annette Manton, Dorothy Delaney, Jeanne Appleton, John Brophy, Kate Farmer, Kenneth Gibbons, Angelo Di Marco, Alexander Goldsmith, Laurence Burns, Louise Priestly, Peter McCaffrey, Molly Beale, David Jones, Mary Corolan, Patrick Malone, Mary ODoherty, Winifred Cameron, Eileen Lusted, David Johnson, Mario Smith, Agnes McTighe, Albert Ward, Nina Newman, Denis Pollard, Alan Law, Elizabeth Duffy, Gaetano Lembo.

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

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

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday throughout Lent 7.15pm

**REST IN PEACE:** 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.