

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th March 2024 Fourth Sunday of Lent – Laetare Sunday (B)

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

Email: maidstone@rcaos.org.uk

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

PEOPLE OF ISRAEL IN EXILE IN BABYLON



By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat and wept remembering Zion. On the poplars that grew there we hung our harps. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil (Psalm 136)

SUNDAY 10.00am MASS: This weekend at the 10.00am Mass, our six people who are preparing for reception into the Catholic Church will receive a copy of the Gospel. As every year on this Mothering Sunday, we especially welcome the children of St. Francis Primary School who shall be joining us and leading us in our readings.

A NEW START: On Tuesday 12th, 19th and 26th March we shall be holding an hour of confessions from 6.30pm – 7.30pm with a visiting priest. We shall also be providing Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during that hour so you are welcome to attend either one or both of these special opportunities to ready ourselves for the Easter celebrations.

READERS AND CATECHISTS: We are planning a special day of recollection for our parish readers and catechists. The ministry you give is so important to the life of our parish so we wish to provide an opportunity to reflect prayerfully on the service you give so generously. It shall take place on Saturday 27th April and will be from the morning until late afternoon, so please save the date. Details will follow very soon.

IN YOUR 20' OR 30'S?. You are welcome to join us for Bible and Beverage – an hour of prayerful reflecting on the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday Mass followed by time together in The Society Room across the road. What better way to spend your evening?

HOSPITAL PRAYER PACKS: We have been very grateful for your generosity in the past when we have made an appeal to put together hospital prayer packs. Your donations have enabled us to put together a pack including a prayer book and rosary for patients in our hospital who have wished to have one. They are very popular and we have started to run low again. If you are able to offer £5 to help us more of these hospital prayers packs then we (and they) would appreciate it very much. Please give your £5 donation to the Church Shop. Thank you.

COUNTING ON YOU: If you are able to spare just two hours a month on a Monday morning and could help us with the counting then we would be most grateful. Please let us know by contacting the parish office. Thank you.

JUST A MINUTE: Is there anybody who is willing to help with minute taking of a regular meeting. It should be three hours a month. Please let Canon Liam know if you can help with this. Thank you

TALK: Please see on the Church door a list of talks that are taking place at Aylesford Priory every Saturday morning during the Season of Lent.

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.

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.

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.

INVITATION TO THE RETIREMENT CELEBRATIONS OF FR. MICHAEL ADAMS

St Augustine's have organised a retirement celebration for Fr Michael which will be held in the North Barn at Aylesford Priory on Sunday the 14th April between 2.30 - 4.00 p.m. Anyone who remembers Fr Michael from his time here are warmly invited to attend.

A buffet will be provided and there will be tea and coffee and a pay bar etc. In order to manage numbers and for catering purposes please kindly confirm your attendance by e-mailing St Augustine's on parkwood@rcaos.org.uk.

Thank you

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

COLLECTION:

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| First collection last week (cash) | | £1,1147.15 |
| Second Collection last Sunday | Parish Development Fund | £166.56 |
| Second Collection this Sunday | Easter Flowers | |
| Second Collection next Sunday | Poor Parishes | |

Direct Debits – January 2024

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| 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 10 Number 314 Amount £20

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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| Sunday 10th March | 6.00pm (Sat) | People of the Parish |
| | 8.30am | |
| | 9.00am (PH) | June Wood RIP |
| | 10.00am | Maria Huxster RIP |
| | 11.30am | Sera Maria George RIP |
| | 6.00pm | |
| Monday 11th March | 10.30am | Anne and John Fitzgibbon RIP |
| Tuesday 12th March | 10.30am | In Reparation of Abortions in Brewer Street |
| Wednesday 13th March | 10.30am | Private Intention |
| Thursday 14th March | 10.30am | Paddy Egan RIP |
| Friday 15th March | 10.30am | Stuart McLeod RIP |
| | 8.00pm | |
| Saturday 16th March | 10.00am | Private Intention |
| Sunday 17th March | 6.00pm (Sat) | Steven Byrne RIP |
| | 8.30am | People of the Parish |
| | 9.00am (PH) | David Tyler RIP |
| | 10.00am | P J Job RIP |
| | 11.30am | Private Intention |
| | 6.00pm | |

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

Gerald McMorro, Gerard Ryan, Thomas Malone, John Fitzgibbon, Jane Bates, Patricia Hogan, Christina Hyatt, Maria Huxster, Doreen Whooley, Walter Downe, Elvera Fyne, Frances Whitehead, Michael Mackie, Margaret Kehoe, Christina Jeyes, George Kersey, Oonagh Porter, Margaret Browne, Sydney Mendes, Monica Dowd, Jane Dee, Mary Hull, Anne Donoghue, Alan Fairley, James Forde Bridget Delaney,

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

MASS INTENTIONS: When booking a Mass Intention, please take a brown envelope that is in the church porch, giving the various details, especially your contact details so we can call you to confirm your request or to inform you that the date you have asked for is not available. We are most grateful.