

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

17th March 2024 Fifth Sunday of Lent – (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 Lubulwa

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

‘Unless a wheatgrain falls and dies it remains a single grain..



...but if it dies it yields a rich harvest. (John 12:24)

A NEW START: On Tuesday 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.

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 Our Father. We keep them in our prayers.

GIFT AID: The new envelopes for the forthcoming Gift Aid year are now available for collection in the church porch. Our deepest gratitude to all who are part of our parish Gift Aid Scheme as it brings in a very useful revenue every year. Our thanks very much go to the people who run and organise our parish Gift Aid Scheme.

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.

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

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 - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

LIVING STATIONS: Please join the Fledglings children as they lead us in praying the Stations of the Cross on Saturday 23rd March at 2.30pm. All are welcome.

FEED THE HUNGRY AT EASTER: Although we feed the hungry throughout the year, we are looking to give needy families and elderly people an extra treat at Easter time. Donations of Easter eggs, cakes, biscuits and other treats would be very much appreciated. Please leave these either at the presbytery or bring them to Mass on the weekends of 16th/17th or 23rd/24th March. Many thanks for your continued generosity.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£988.79
Second Collection last Sunday	Easter Flowers £336.45
Second Collection this Sunday	Poor Parishes
Second Collection next Sunday	DEW Association

Direct Debits – February 2024

Standing Orders - Gift Aid	£3,095
Standing Orders - Non-Gift Aid	£911.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2056.47
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£181.35
TOTAL	£6,244.78

PARISH LOTTERY: Week Number 11 Number 174 Amount £25

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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	Kevin Paul RIP
Monday 18th March	10.30am	Reparation for Abortions
Tuesday 19th March	10.30am	Canon Joseph Simmons RIP
Wednesday 20th March	10.30am	Wellbeing
Thursday 21th March	10.30am	Miriam Cott RIP
Friday 22th March	10.30am	Herbert Parker RIP
	8.00pm	
Saturday 23th March	10.00am	Henri Goiden RIP
Sunday 24th March	6.00pm (Sat)	
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	John Ballagher RIP
	10.00am	Kathleen & Bob Lenzie RIP
	11.30am	
	6.00pm	

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

Kathleen Augood, Philomena Policelli, David Tyler, A James Walder, William Carmichael, Jerzy Lepik, Roy Watson, Subyla Mendes, Christina Jeyes, John Dillon, Karol Travik, Louis McSweeney, Patricia Skelton, John Maskall, Basil Curtis, Joanna Child, Thomas Smallbone, Antonio Martignetti, Teresa Sexton, Alfred Grigsby, Derek Vince, Concetta Smitti, Mrs Strickland, Iris Sullivan, Neil Linstead, Coral Akenzua, Margaret Byrne, Tony Sancto, Margaret Meads, Peter Nixon, Kevin Devlin, John Murphy, Rose Collins, Kevin Maher,

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.