

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**7<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Second Sunday of Easter (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

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## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Jesus  
I  
Trust  
In  
You



**HOOR OF DEVOTION:** The Second Sunday of Easter is also called Divine Mercy Sunday. Starting in Krakow, in the South of Poland, it is an ever growing popular devotion throughout the world. A lot of Catholic churches that you enter now will have an image of the Divine Mercy, the vision that St. Faustina saw. Everybody is invited to come this Sunday afternoon 3.00pm – 4.00pm for an hour of devotion to the Divine Mercy led by a group of our parishioners. It shall include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the very popular devotion of The Divine Mercy.

**EASTER BLESSINGS:** Once again we have celebrated the most precious part of our year with much solemnity, joy and love. Journeying with one another through Holy Week as we remember the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ can only be fully experienced if everyone plays their part with serving in so many ways – and that is what we did. For all who gave their ministry so generously with preparing the church with cleaning, maintenance and decorating we all owe you much gratitude. Doesn't the Church look terrific? For all who ministered during our Holy Week Services with welcoming, ushering, and reading – a great thank you. Fittingly on Abba's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their victory at the Eurovision Song Contest we say 'Thank you for the music'. The music takes so much preparation and rehearsing and it all brings a fitting atmosphere to each stage of our journey during Holy Week with the Solemnity of Thursday Night to the explosive joy of Sunday. To our excellent altar servers who carry out their duties with great reverence enabling the worship to flow – St. Francis is blessed to have you.

We were delighted to welcome Bishop Paul Hendricks to celebrate our Maundy Thursday Mass this year and he was quite struck by the full church – not something you see in many other places on this particular night. To see such large attendance is also deeply heartening and very encouraging. Not just once this past week have we heard people say to us, 'Your church must have been busy. They were standing outside on the Church steps.' The church was full and it's a wonderful problem to have. Let that problem continue. The Risen Lord greets and welcomes us all – and we thank everyone who attended for their faith and prayers. Let this witness continue and let us always be a reason for people to stop and wonder what draws a such a large crowd every Sunday.

**ARE YOU WONDERING?:** Congratulations to Toni, Simon, Donald, Jonathan and Julianna who were fully received into the Catholic Church this Easter after journeying together through the RCIA since last September – we told them it would fly by – and now we are here. Thank you to the people who help and guide them throughout the RCIA and give such kindness for the people in their journey. If you yourself are not a Catholic but wish to find out more about the faith or are thinking about becoming a Catholic then please let the clergy know when you come to Mass and they shall gladly help you in your enquiry.

**GRATITUDE:** Thank you ever so much from the clergy for the cards and gifts we received this Easter.

**LETTER:** Archbishop John Wilson has written a letter that he wishes us to read regarding a cause that wishes to legalise Assisted Suicide or Euthanasia here in this country. It brings great to the Bishops Conference concern and to us all as we value to gift of all human life coming from God. The letter can be found on our parish website.

**IN YOUR 20's OR 30'S?:** Please do join us for worship and enjoyment this Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm for the Bible and Beverage. An hour of praying with Scripture with a social chat with a drink or two. We especially welcome newcomers.

**HOSPITAL PRAYER PACKS:** As always, your kindness has been great – thank you for your generous response. We have seen how gratefully they are received and well used.

**KENYA:** The Second Collection on 14<sup>th</sup> April is to help educate young children in Kibiko, Kenya. The mission is run by Carmelite Sisters, some of whom were previously at Aylesford Priory. May we thank parishioners for your continued generosity in supporting this project, co-ordinated by the Dew Association. May God bless you.

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

#### **COLLECTION:**

Easter Offering last week (cash)	£5,189.48
Good Friday Holy Places Collection	£307.16
Second Collection this Sunday	Parish Development Fund
Second Collection next Sunday	Education of Children in Kenya

#### **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 9      Number 27      Amount £15

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Maciej Ciston RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Gerald Shephard RIP
	10.00am	Ernest Wintehalter RIP
	11.30am	Len Watson RIP
	6.00pm	Franciszek & Stanislaw Lupa RIP
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b> The Annunciation of the Lord	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	Mary Joseph RIP
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April</b> St. Stanislaus	10.30am	Pauline Gilman RIP
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.30am	In reparation for Abortions
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April</b>	10.00am	Private Intention
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	
	8.30am	
	9.00am (PH)	Bernard Tyler RIP
	10.00am	IN reparation for Abortions RIP
	11.30am	People of the Parish
	6.00pm	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP

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

Isabella Morgan, Mary Tolley, Mary Bowles, George Jason, William Nightingale, Barbara Akehurst, Jack Harrington, Adrian Cunliffe, Bernard Kelk, Ellen Ryan, Henry Price, Sarah McDonald, Margaret Lynch, James Powell, Mary Dunne, Maria Roberto, Clive Rugman, James Clements, John Reynolds, Elizabeth Rawlingson, David Walsh, Cecilia Philp, Ronald Gorman, Horace Primavesi, Mary Woods, Lily O’Cock, Ellen Carter, Joseph Saegar, John Fenn, Thomas O’Connor.

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

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

**REQUIEM MASS:** The Requiem Mass for Kevin Paul Ruaux will be celebrated Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am. May he rest in peace and rise in glory. We also keep his family in our prayers t this time