

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

21st April 2024 Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

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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

JESUS SAID, 'I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD.....WHO LAYS DOWN HIS LIFE FOR HIS SHEEP.' (John 10:11)

MORE SHEPHERDS: As well as traditionally being called Good Shepherd Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Easter is also called Vocations Sunday. We are reminded of our need to encourage and support future vocations to Holy Orders and Religious Life. Our second collection is especially for our future priests.



The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. The fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese.

After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London and Kent. We are blessed to have 5 men currently in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 per year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being Ordained a Catholic Priest. We rely on your generous support and prayers. There are various ways in which you can donate:

Envelopes are available at the back of the Church if you wish to use them for the second collection. Cheques are made payable to Priest Training Fund.

On the poster on the door there is a QR Code for using your telephone.

Telephone weekdays 0207 960 2504

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS: *God our Father, look in love upon our homes our families and our communities. May people from among us respond to your calling to Holy Orders and Religious Life. To teach the gospel to all people, to minister at your altar and care for your flock. Help us all to be faithful and inspiring witnesses to your kingdom. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen*

MARY DURING EASTERTIDE: At the 10.00am and 11.30am Sunday Mass during the Season of Easter, which finishes Pentecost Sunday, we shall be singing the 'Regina Caeli' instead of saying Hail Mary, a traditional antiphon sung to Our Lady during Eastertide.

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia;	Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,	The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,
Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia:	Has risen as he said, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.	Pray to God for us, alleluia.

NOW ITS OFFICIAL: We remember our Parish Priest, Canon Liam, in our prayers this Tuesday 23rd April. Although already appointed Canon, at St. George's Cathedral at Southwark (on the feast of St. George) he shall be officially presented with his Ermine cape, the attire for a Canon. It shall be celebrated at 6pm and will be available on livestream from St. George's website.

REQUIEM MASS: The Requiem Mass for Peter McLean will be celebrated Wednesday 24th April 11.00am. There is no 10.30am Mass that day. Any Mass in Church is never a private family affair but is always public worship even with Requiem Mass. The family very much appreciate that there is a body of support in helping them and praying for them on that day
May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

ARE YOU WONDERING?: If you are not a Catholic but wish to find out more about the faith or 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.

PARISH READERS AND CATECHISTS DAYS: Parish Readers & Catechists Day: If you are a Reader or Catechist, or perhaps you would like to start this ministry in our parish, you are warmly invited to a day of looking at how we live out these ministries at St Francis. Including input, practical tips and advice, helps & hints, plus discussion, the day will be held at: Aylesford Priory, Saturday 27th April.

Start 10am - Finish 4pm. Tea and coffee will be provided, but you will need to bring a packed lunch (or buy from the tea rooms on site). You are invited to contribute to a shared table for cakes/biscuits for coffee breaks. Please let the Parish office know (via email) if you are attending so that we know the numbers. We very much look forward to seeing you on the day

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

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.

CHURCH SHOP: This is open on Sundays from 9.15am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.30am.

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,175.09
Second Collection last Sunday Education of Children in Kenya	£300.06
Second Collection this Sunday Priest's Training Fund	
Second Collection next Sunday St. George's Cathedral Maintenance	

Direct Debits – March 2024

Standing Orders - Gift Aid & Non GiftAid	£3,929.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2065.80
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£273.97
TOTAL	£6,269.73

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 21st April	6.00pm (Sat)	Mass for Vocations
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Mary Woods RIP
	10.00am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
	11.30am	Bernard Boylan RIP
	6.00pm	Stanislawa Lupa RIP
Monday 22nd April	10.30am	In reparation for Abortions
Tuesday 23rd April St. George	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Wednesday 24th April	11.00am	Requiem Mass Peter McClean
Thursday 25th April St. Mark	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Friday 26th April	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Saturday 27th April	10.00am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Sunday 28th April	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Gwen Gordon RIP
	10.00am	Health & Wellbeing
	11.30am	Alvara Garzon & Alvara Ivan Garzon RIP
	6.00pm	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP

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

Peter Pugliese, Teresa Crawford, Kathleen Rowe, Alan Everett, Elizabeth Campbell, Freya Marsh, Peggy Norfol, Martin Cody, Margaret O'Malley Ward, Clara Collins, Derek Hopkins, Rose Stoker, Kathleen Homewood, Erminia Hoare, Vincent Gryszan, Sarah Flaherty, Josephine Luscombe, Dorothy Thorne, Peggy Cronk, Bernard Kennedy, Jim Banyard, Florence Best, Aubrey Sidwell, Robert Greer, Catherine Quinlan, Ashley Hampson, Dorothy Rogers, Carmel Hart, Enid Swann, Merello D'Souza, Sister Helen, Patrick Heaney, Elizabeth Tunks, Cecilia Hart-Davies, Wendy O'Hara, Gerald Shephard, James Kenny, David Barrett, Rosa Bestwick, Ernest Shea, Patrick Fitsimons, Edward Lowes, Eric Cheesman, Lilian French, John Ascott, Joseph Murphy, John McGowan

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.