

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**28th April 2024 Fifth 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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## **'I AM THE VINE AND MY FATHER IS THE VINEDRESSER' (John 15:1)**



### **REFLECTION**

Lord, you said, 'I am the vine you are the branches. Separated from me you can do nothing, but united, with me you will bear much fruit'. Thank you, Lord, for the bond you formed within us. And thank you for the bond that exists among us because of our union with you. Thanks to this bond we have invisible riches to share with one another. Grant that we may never be separated from you, so that we may produce in the world the fruits of faith, hope and love.

**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.

**SILVER JUBILEE:** Save the date of the evening Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June. Canon Liam will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood. Mass followed by party with everybody of the parish invited.

**CATCH UP:** As mentioned last weekend, Canon Liam was officially 'robed' as Canon at St. George's Cathedral last Tuesday on St. George's day. You can watch the ceremony with the You Tube link on our parish website – you can skip to the ceremony at 56 minutes if you do not wish to view the whole Mass.

**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.

**CHURCH SHOP:** This is open on Sundays from 9.15am to 10.00am and 11.00am to 11.30am. Gifts and cards for First Holy Communion are now available.

**ARE YOU IN YOUR 20's OR 30's:** We invite you all to join us Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May for an hour of Adoration and Prayer with Scripture. We then head across the road to The Society Rooms for a drink, chat and laugh. New comers will be especially welcomed.

If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, then you are especially invited to attend St. George's Cathedral, by Waterloo, for a Mass celebrating the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2024. We are delighted that Bishop Philip Moger, Assistant Bishop of Southwark will be presiding this Mass. Please let us know as soon as possible if you wish to come, **and no later than May 31<sup>st</sup> 2024**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Maidstone St Francis.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** The Diocese of Southwark are organising a pilgrimage to Lourdes led by our Archbishop John Wilson and our Bishop for Kent, Paul Hendricks. It will take place 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> August with the Catholic Association which Bishop Paul is the chair of. More information can be found on the website of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark or be emailing the main chaplain of the Diocesan pilgrimage Canon Edward Perera on [edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)

First Collection last week (cash)		£1,376.36
Second Collection last Sunday	Priest's Training Fund	£371.97
Second Collection this Sunday	St. George's Cathedral Maintenance	
Second Collection next Sunday	Parish Development Fund	

Standing Orders - Gift Aid & Non GiftAid	£3,929.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2065.80
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£273.97
TOTAL	£6,269.73
LOTTERY: Week No. 17	Lottery No.59
	£80

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 28th April</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Gwen Gordon RIP
	10.00am	Health & Wellbeing
	11.30am	Alvaro Garzon & Alvaro Ivan Garzon RIP
	6.00pm	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Monday 29th April</b> St. Catherine of Siena	10.30am	John & Mary Stroud RIP
<b>Tuesday 30th April</b>	10.30am	In Reparation of Abortions
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May</b>	11.00am	Henry & Susan Simmons RIP
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May</b> St. Athanasius	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> May</b> Sts. Philip and James	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Saturday 4th May</b> The English Martyrs	10.00am	Isabel Sherlock RIP
<b>Sunday 5th May</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Private Intention
	9.00am (PH)	Molly Walsh RIP
	10.00am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
	11.30am	Private Intention
	6.00pm	

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

Dante Cochiarella, Mary Bulpitt, Margaret Bill, Jean Ritchie, Mary Ward, Zimohi Chigbo, Blanche Lockton, Margaret Browne, Agnes Mitchell, Bert Wilmhurst, Mary Jones, Michael Tudor, Sirpa Edwardes, Mary, Arthur McGinn, Elaine Conaghan, Patrick Devargo, Christopher Rogerson, Margaret Pointer, Cyril Collins, Margaret Edmonds, Robert Smith, Margaret Lynch, Douglas Law, Eric Emerson, Mary Croucher, Cecilia Hart-Davies, Daniel Deller, Marie Coull, Muriel Underwood, Kate McBennett, Bogdana Kelvie, Iolanda Piper, Roger Selvon, Mary Roscoe, John McKenna, Winifred Kerr, Tamara Kaliozwska, Robert Marshall, Florence Ludgate, Luis Parra, Marion Cistone, Sylvia White

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

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