

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th May 2024 Sixth Sunday of Easter (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

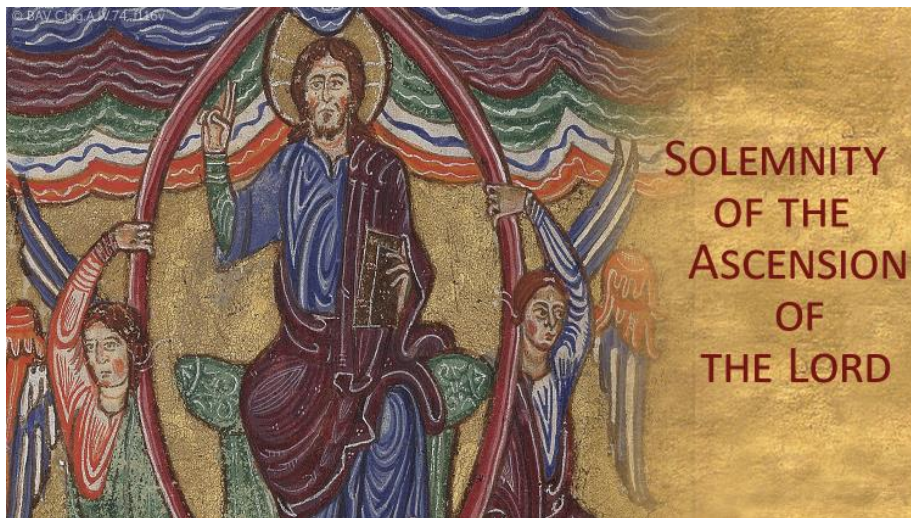
Parish Office hours: 10am – 12 noon Tuesday and Friday (email or telephone only)

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

'God goes up with shouts of joy, The Lord goes up with trumpet blast.'(Psalm 46)



This Thursday we will arrive at the 40th day of the Easter Season which we celebrate as The Ascension. Jesus Christ took his Apostles to the Mount of Olives and in their sight, he was taken back to his place in heaven at the right hand of the Father. Jesus left his final promise that he is with us always. This is a holyday of obligation where we are all to attend Mass. Mass times on that day are 10.30am and 8.00pm.

EASTER STATIONS: You will notice that there are pictures on the pillars around the church. These are the Easter Stations – 14 key moments from the Resurrection of Jesus. We shall be holding a prayerful journey around the Easter Stations (similar to what we do for the Lenten Stations of the Cross) this Thursday 9th May at 7.20pm, just before the Mass of The Ascension.

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.

At the beginning of the 10.00am Mass this Sunday we shall be crowning the Statue of Mary.

SILVER JUBILEE: Save the date of the evening Wednesday 12th June. Canon Liam will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood. Mass followed by party with everybody of the parish invited. This will be held in the hall of the URC just opposite Burger King.

Canon Liam shall be holding another celebration of Mass at his home parish of English Martyrs, Strood, where he was ordained priest 25 years ago. This will take place Saturday 15th June at 12.00pm. This will be his opportunity to open up the invitation for other clergy and other parishes that he has previously served.

ARE YOU IN YOUR 20's or 30's: Different from our usual monthly gathering because it is Ascension Mass this Thursday, we can gather to hear the Word of God and worship at the 8.00pm and then head across to The Society Rooms as usual. We gladly welcome anybody who has not been before but wishes to join us.

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.

MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + 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 13th 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 31st 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 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 23rd – 30th 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

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,184.67
Second Collection last Sunday St. George's Cathedral	£207.57
Second Collection this Sunday Parish Development Fund	
Second Collection next Sunday Catholic Communications Network	

Direct Debits – March 2024

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

LOTTERY: Week No. 18	Lottery No.98	£15
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 5th May	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	Private Intention
Monday 6th May	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Tuesday 7th May	10.30am	A K Joseph Arayathel RIP
Wednesday 8th May	10.30am	Thanksgiving
Thursday 9th May ASCENSION OF THE LORD	10.30am 8.00pm	Private Intention
Friday 10th May	10.30am	In Reparation for Abortions
Saturday 11th May	10.00am	Private Intention
Sunday 12th May	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Brenda Daly RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Private Intention
	10.00am	Private Intention
	11.30am	Devasia RIP
	6.00pm	Richard Smith RIP

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

Florence Ludgate, Luis Parra, Marion Cistone, Sylvia White, Patrick Groarke, Blodwin Wilson, Hazel O'Connor, Mary Walsh, Oliver Egan, Elizabeth Hales, Antoine Salerno, Vicente Abaco, Eddie Paul, Mary Gorman, Christopher Maurice, Peter McBennett, Chris Willson, Margaret West, Shaun Ellesmere, Margaret Colyer, Gary Ratcliffe, Constance Good, John Collins, Dermot Barrett

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.