

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

19th May 2024 Pentecost Sunday (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

THE CHURCH BEGINS



OUR MISSION IS FOREVER

'When the work, which the Father had given the Son to do on earth was accomplished, the Holy Spirit was sent on the day of Pentecost that He might forever sanctify the Church. He is the Spirit of life, a fountain of water springing up to eternal life. By the power of the gospel he allows the Church to keep the freshness of youth and leads her to perfect union with Christ her spouse. The Spirit and the Bride both say to the Lord Jesus, 'Come!' (Constitution of the Second Vatican Council)

MAIDSTONE DEANERY CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2024: Applications are invited from young people in **Year 9 or above**, to join our 2024 Deanery Confirmation programme, who live in the parishes of Maidstone Deanery (St Francis', Maidstone / St Peter's, Bearsted / Holy Family, Park Wood, / St Thomas More, West Malling / St Theodore's Cranbrook/ St Andrew's, Tenterden / Sacred Heart, Goudhurst).

The programme will run on mainly Sunday evenings at St Francis' Church, Maidstone, beginning in June, a break throughout the summer holiday, continuing through September - October, with the **Confirmation Mass scheduled for Saturday 19th October, 3pm.** (Venue TBC)

Applicants must be Catholics, who have made their First Holy Communion.

Applications must come from the candidate themselves.

Applicants will commit to attending all of the sessions.

Applicants must also be willing to participate fully in all aspects of the programme.

To request an application form, which also gives details of dates and times of sessions, please email: confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk

The closing date for applications is **Monday 3rd JUNE**

Any other questions can be raised either through this dedicated confirmation mailbox, or by contacting Deacon Ian

SILVER JUBILEE: Wednesday 12th June, Canon Liam will be celebrating 25 years of priesthood. Mass at 6.30pm will be followed by reception with everybody of the parish invited. This will be held in the hall of the United Reformed Church, 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 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. 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.

DAY FOR LIFE 16TH JUNE: The focus for this year's Day for Life will be opposition to assisted suicide (euphemistically called 'assisted dying').

With the intention of praying and advocating for the establishment of a culture of care at the end of life, the theme for the Day for Life is: *“The Lord is my Shepherd – Compassion and Hope at the End of Life”*. There will also be a *Day for Life Novena*, which will run from the 23 May to the Feast of the Visitation (31 May) and which will be available on the Bishops’ Conference website.

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

SECOND COLLECTION. ZAMBIA. ORPHAN CHILDREN. The Second Collection on 19th May is to help orphan children in Zambia, and is run by the Kiltegan Mission. May we thank parishioners for your continued generosity during these challenging times. May God bless you. The Dew Association (Co-ordinator).

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,376.55
Second Collection last Sunday	£168.40
Second Collection this Sunday Zambia Orphan Children	
Second Collection next Sunday Parish Levy	

Direct Debits – April 2024

Standing Orders - Gift Aid & Non Gift Aid	£4,643.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2,217.93
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£34.12
TOTAL	£6,896.01

LOTTERY: Week No. 20 Lottery No. 79 £25

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 19th May Pentecost	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Ramon de Meer RIP
	10.00am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
	11.30am	Joseph Antony RIP
	6.00pm	Wellbeing
Monday 20th May Mary Mother of the Church	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Tuesday 21st May	10.30am	Richard Smith RIP
Wednesday 22nd May	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
Thursday 23rd May Our Lord Jesus Christ Eternal High Priest	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Friday 24th May	10.30am	John & Mary, John Cassidy & Dorothy Saunders RIP
Saturday 25th May St Bede the Venerable	10.00am	Tolu Akintunde RIP
Sunday 26th May	6.00pm (Sat)	Theresa Adebisi RIP
	8.30am	Stanislawa Lupa RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Mary Crimmins RIP
	10.00am	Maureen Ray RIP
	11.30am	People of the Parish
	6.00pm	Rita and Eric Emerson RIP

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

George Enfield, John Purdie, Jane Ford, Michael Keoh, Christel Warner, Patrick Power, Douglas Tozer, Elizabeth Gilbert, Kenneth Capon, Phyllis Thorne, Christina Walter, Joe Pinto, Eileen Walters, Alan Wrighton, Edward Rolph, James Paley, Barbara Munn, Lieselotte Jones, George Williamson, James Overill, Stephen Harris, Minnie Cotterell, Claude Sevenoaks, Baby Chloe Pile, Nellie Minchella Margaret Flynn, Sydney Emmerson, Albert Shaughnessy, Aileen Sinclair, Eileen Ovenden Lola Hill, Bruce Ramsey, Edith Hurst, Theresa Donovan, Catherine Fosher, Catherine Town, Doris Nicklin, Donald Batty, Maria del Carmen Smith.

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.

WELCOME: A very special welcome to MATILDA BRENNAN, LEWIN BRENNAN and ELIAS KAZAN who celebrated their Baptism over the weekend.

8.30am Mass: During the 8.30am Mass this weekend we congratulate Madaleine who shall be receiving her First Holy Communion.

10.00am Mass: During our Fledgling Mass 10.00am this Sunday we congratulate Sarah who shall receive Confirmation and her First Holy Communion.