

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (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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## A CALL TO THE PERMANENT DIACONATE

So, what is a Permanent Deacon? The Permanent Deacon is an ordained man, married or single, called to be open to God's love, promises and guidance in the service of the Church, assisting the Bishop and Priest locally and the wider church as the case may be. The name deacon comes from the Greek word 'diakonia', which means 'service'. This means the deacon is called to serve, like Christ, who came to serve, and not to be served. Therefore the Diaconal Ministry is a ministry of service with three main functions: 1) The ministry of the Word - proclaiming the Gospel. 2) The ministry of the Altar - distinct service at Mass, and 3) The ministry of Charity - espouse charitable works. St Paul outlines the qualifications of the Deacon in his first letter to Timothy (1 *Timothy* 3:8-12)

- A deacon is self-controlled in his actions, speech and interactions must have respect for others and respected.
- A deacon is sound in faith
- A deacon has been tested
- A deacon is faithful to his wife if married
- A deacon manages his children and household well

If selected, Diaconal candidates undergo a programme of formation; human, spiritual, theological and pastoral.



Are you a man between 21 years to 58 years, prayerful, with the desire to love God and God's people within the Archdiocese as well as the wider church community?  
Are you involved in services within your parish and/or community?  
Do you feel called to be a Permanent Deacon?  
Do you have the gift to help members of the Church to discover and put into action their gifts and talents and the ministry of Christ?  
Have you tried many things and still feel drawn to a closer relationship with Christ and His Church?

If you have answered 'yes' to one or more of the questions above, and require further information about the Permanent Diaconate, then contact Deacon Ian who is the Director of Formation for our Diocese. [ianblack@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:ianblack@rcaos.org.uk)

### **Come and see what the Lord has in store for you!**

*This message was provided by Fr. Bart Dudek whom many of you remember as a priest who served here at St. Francis until ten years ago. He is now the Episcopal Vicar for the Permanent Diaconate of the Southwark Diocese.*

**PARISH LEADS:** An initiative that has come from the Diocese, mainly the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis, is to introduce a system for every parish of having Parish Leads. This would cover the three main areas of Catechesis, Evangelisation and Formation. It does not mean being a Leader and Commander but a resource of support for all in the parish who would provide these ministries. There is also an opening to be a Mentor for the whole Maidstone Deanery in these three areas. Full training and explanation will be provided by the Diocese. If this is something that you can commit yourself to then please let the parish office know, preferably by email.

**BARBECUE:** We shall not be holding our usual gathering for Bible and Beverage this month because of The Anniversary. However, we would like to invite anybody and everybody in their 20' or 30's to come to a Barbecue on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July – welcome to arrive any time after 6.00pm at the Priest House. Just a purely social gathering. Please do not worry that you have not been before. Newcomers will be especially welcome. We are blessed with so many people coming to Church every Sunday but not really having the opportunity to meet people who share your Faith and Joy in the Lord. This will be a perfect opportunity to allow us to make you more part of our parish family and even find out what you want from this group. Open for ideas, Prompt anybody you know who you think would like to come. Don't be shy. We are very friendly. See you there!

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

**LOTTERY: AND THE WINNER IS.....** The draw for the £1,000 lottery prize took place after the 10am Mass last Sunday. One person of our parish is very happy with some extra pocket money for their Summer Holiday. To join the lottery for a chance to win next time, application and QR code are now available at the back of the church. You can also join on line at [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery/](http://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery/) Collections will start from 6<sup>th</sup> July to the 21<sup>st</sup> July for Saturday evening and Sunday after the 8.30am Mass until the beginning of the 11.30 Mass.

### **STELLA MARIS – SEA SUNDAY:**

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or be texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you

### **EMAIL:**

Our Parish Gift Aid team are obliged to send a message of thanks to all who contribute and support our Parish Gift Aid scheme. We wish to express our gratitude with a message sent by the email address that you have supplied. If you have any objections to this please let the Parish office know as soon as possible, our deepest appreciation for your support.

### **COLLECTION:**

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,221.12
Second Collection last Sunday Parish Development	£254.13
Second Collection this Sunday Sea Sunday (Stella Maris)	
Second Collection next Sunday	

### **Direct Debits – June 2024**

Standing Orders - Gift Aid & Non Gift Aid	£3,940.96
Collection CARD Offerings	£2,023.53
Collection ONLINE Offerings	£885.27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,849.76</b>

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Joseph Fitzsimons RIP
	8.30am	Stefan RIP
	9.00am (PH)	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Ernest Coram RIP
	11.30am	Private Intention
	6.00pm	Tina and Vivian D'Silva RIP
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July</b> St. Bonaventure	10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July</b> Our Lady of Mount Carmel	10.30am	Eileen Margaret Sinclair RIP
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	10.30am	Thanksgiving
<b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July</b>	10.30am	Stuart McLeod RIP
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July</b>	10.30am	Canon Joseph Simmons RIP
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> July</b>	10.00am	Terry and Kevin Ruaux RIP
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Matthew Otaigbe RIP
	9.00am (PH)	John Ballagher RIP
	10.00am	Thanksgiving
	11.30am	Canon Liam Anniversary
	6.00pm	Maria Emerson RIP

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

Eileen O'Neill, Patrick Deasy, Winifred Norman, Sr Mary Ines, Vera Brutton, James MacLellan, Mary Blackeby, Thomas Halliwell, Robert Flemington, Elsie Parsons, Fred Blogg, Estella Mulcahy, Patrick Thompson, Joseph Flynn, Jane Farnell, Catherine Riley, Patrick England, Winifred Moore, Dorothy Hammond, Julia George, Michael Fitzpatrick, Gary Phillips, Bertin Chabot, Addikirata Di Marco, Elsie Fitzgerald, William Elliott, Claire Turner, David Finn, Aureen Bartley, Sheila Clark, Jean Martin, Douglas Hoskins.

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

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

### **MARCH FOR LIFE UK:**

March for Life UK happens in London on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September. There are many attempts at the moment to further liberalise abortion in the UK and to silence those offering an alternative viewpoint whether that's 'pills by post' abortions, 'decriminalisation', buffer zones or censorship on pro-life students at universities. The dangers of these situations are being highlighted by the theme for this year's March for Life which is 'Abortion isn't Healthcare'. Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Find out more at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk)