

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

8<sup>th</sup> September 2024 Twenty Third 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 Lubulwa

Also Resident: Fr Peter Norris (Retired)

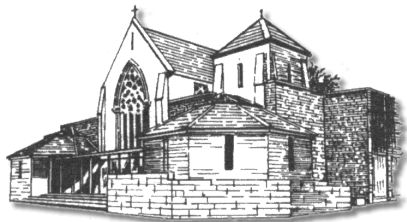
**Deacon:** Rev. Ian Black

**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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## BE OPENED



Jesus said to the deaf man with a speech impediment 'Ephphatha', meaning 'Be Opened'. This moment is remembered every Baptism. The minister will touch the ears and lips of the child, during which he will say, 'May the Lord soon touch your ears to receive his word and your mouth to proclaim his faith to the praise and glory of God the Father.' All our words we receive in to our hearts are to be words of goodness and truth. The same for the words we proclaim. Only they reflect Jesus Christ who is Truth who is the Word of God.

**FAREWELL FR. LAWRENCE OPIO:** We have been most pleased to welcome Fr. Lawrence for his service here at St. Francis for the past two months but now the time has arrived for him to depart back home to Uganda. He wishes to say, 'Thank you so much for the lovely stay here and allowing me to be part of the life of St. Francis parish. Wonderful things are happening here at Maidstone with so many people coming to Church and I am sad to say goodbye to it all. My visit here has been so enjoyable for me – I have especially appreciated the kindness of the people and the Parish Priest introducing to many great films including Jaws and Raiders of the Lost Ark. I will miss you and keep you in my prayers.'

**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. In September, we shall be beginning our weekly meetings known as Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) – a very friendly gathering for anybody who is looking to find out more about the Catholic Faith. Always remember that attending and wondering never means commitment – so anybody is free to attend without making any definite decisions. Why not just come and see? We look forward to welcoming you.

**IN YOUR 20's OR 30'S?:** We had a most enjoyable evening in July when we gathered for our Barbecue. As you can see we are a very happy and friendly bunch. Now we gather again for our Bible and Beverage - prayer and reflection time followed by our social in The Society Rooms. Please do join us for worship and enjoyment at 7.30pm on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September. An hour of praying with Scripture, called Lectio Divina (see the next paragraph) with a social chat with a drink or two. What more could you ask? We especially welcome newcomers.

**LECTIO DIVINA:** Is a way of praying with Scripture which we do in our Bible and Beverage group. Choosing a passage, meditating, praying and contemplating silence. Please see this link for a fuller explanation:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svKtNn\\_5bO8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svKtNn_5bO8)

**REFERENCES:** Around this time of year many parents of our parish will be applying for their child to attend St. Simon Stock School from September 2025. They also ask the Parish Priest, Canon Liam for a reference. Rather than asking Fr. Liam from all directions and at all sorts of times for a reference, he will provide an open surgery for this opportunity on Monday 14th October 6pm - 9pm in the Church. Please do your best to attend this window of opportunity. Canon Liam will not sign reference forms before this date

## FEED THE HUNGRY

Many thanks for your generous donations of food etc which are collected from Grove House and distributed to those in need of extra help. We would be most grateful for donations of tins, pasta, biscuits, soap, shower gel and UHT milk. Thank you very much for your ongoing support - it is much appreciated.

A parishioner who usually attends **Mass at Preston Hall** is offering to gather any further donations from parishioners there each week and to ensure that those non-perishable items can be added to what is distributed on a weekly basis from Grove House. If you feel able to donate to this initiative, please do

**MANY NATIONS AS ONE CHURCH:** We wish to celebrate the large amount of nations that are represented here in our parish in the one church, sharing one faith. Our parish youth group, Flame, are inviting you all to the 6.00pm Mass on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October where Mass will be celebrated with prayers and readings offered up in various languages followed by a big feast. We ask that people be willing to prepare food that is traditional from their home nation for others to share. More about this later but we are most grateful to our Flame youth group for providing this opportunity for us to enjoy. Save the date.

## COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,239.36
Second Collection last Sunday Parish Development Fund	£244.04
Second Collection this Sunday Catholic Education Service	
Second Collection next Sunday Home Mission	

## Direct Debits – August 2024

Standing Order Gift Aid	£3,029
Standing Order Non-Gift Aid	£1,227.96
Collection Card	£1,957.82
Collection On-Line	£254.46
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,469.24</b>

<b>LOTTERY:</b> Week No. 10	Lottery No. 269	£20
Week No. 11	Lottery No. 110	£25

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	John Richards RIP
	10.00am	Henry and Susan Simmons RIP
	11.30am	Luis and Rosario D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	Sandra Nourse RIP
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Bernard Atkinson RIP
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Eileen Sinclair RIP
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.30am	Private Intention
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September</b>	10.00am	Luis and Rosario D'Silva RIP
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Tom Kelly RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Jan Salamonczyk RIP
	10.00am	Pauline Gilman RIP
	11.30am	Vivian and Tina D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	George Arianayageh RIP

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

Mary Sancto, Antoni Jankowski, Lydia Stone, Tom Horsom, Tony King, Filippo Di Franco, Frances Blackeby, Philomena O'Hare, Harry Taylor, Albert Driver, William Donovan, John Simmonds, Bernard Willis, Thomas Forbes-Amer, Margaret Maguire, Freda Packer, Douglas Smith, Wilfred Duarte, Jane Haydon, John Moran, Seamus Kearney, Joseph Quinn, Paul Butcher, Patricia Price, Anthony Moran, Frederick Wakeford, Joseph Babalola, Sheila Priestley, Mary Lester, Arthur O'Dea, Mark Howard, Robert Wells, Lycia King, Jackie Sexton, John Johnson, William Paterson, Francis Brennan, Maria Carpenter, Patricia Tottenham.

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

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

### **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION:**

The Holy Father has produced a message for the *Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024*. This is celebrated from this date until 4 October, the Feast of St Francis of Assisi. The Holy Father's message is entitled "Hope and Act with Creation" This is the link a you tube clip with a message from the Holy Father.

[Pope Francis' Message for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2024 - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development](#)

There is also a printed message on a noticeboard in the church porch