

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd September 2024 Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (B)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH

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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 75455



‘Anyone who welcomes one of these little ones in my name, welcomes me’ (Mark 9:35)

ANNIVERSARY: This Thursday 26th September we celebrate the 42nd Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church of St. Francis. At the Mass, the candles will be placed and lit at the twelve places on the wall where the Bishop anointed with Chrism at the time of its Consecration.

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 Canon 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

HARVEST COLLECTIONS: Next weekend is Harvest Weekend and our young people will be collecting donations of fruit and vegetables, both fresh and canned at all Masses to be given to needy families. All donations will be very gratefully accepted. 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.

INTERNATIONAL MASS: To celebrate our patronal feast of St Francis along with our cultural diversity, the members of Flame Youth Group will be leading an International Mass on Saturday 5th October at 6pm. This will be followed by a party with food and music in the hall of the URC, slightly further down Week Street. **EVERYONE IS INVITED** and encouraged to bring a taste of their national food and if desired, to wear national dress. If you can help with the food at all, please put your first name only on the list in the porch or see Geraldine or one of the Flame members or clergy after Mass. It promises to be a great parish event, so please support our young people.

MASS AT SAINT MICHAEL'S (OLD) CHURCH, EAST PECKHAM (TN12 5NG). Mass will be celebrated in honour of Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael at 4pm on Saturday 28th September.

PRESENTATION: This Sunday 22nd September during 10.00am Mass, we will be presenting 52 children of our parish with their books as they begin their First Holy Communion preparation. We offer up prayers for our First Communion children and their parents today.

CONFIRMATION: Bishop Paul Hendricks will be here to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 19th October. The young people of our parish and Deanery have returned to complete their journey of preparation. We keep them in our prayers.

ALTAR SERVERS: On Sunday 29th September during 11.30am Mass we shall be giving special attention to our Altar Servers. We are very grateful for the dedicated service they give to our parish throughout the year.

REPOSITORY: Confirmation cards and gifts now in stock...

The new Lectionary, which includes the scripture readings for Mass will come into use from Advent 2024. If you would like to pre order a new Sunday or Weekday Missal, please enquire in the church shop.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICE OF OUR DIOCESE: A reminder that our annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse is coming up on the **25th September 2024, at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral**. We hope the event will be well attended, particularly by our Clergy and Parish communities, to demonstrate Southwark's commitment survivors of abuse.

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE:

Worcester Park St Matthias parish Saturday 28th Sept

worcesterpark@rcaos.org.uk;

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND: Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on **4-6 October**; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or Maura: 07795 498445, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£989.79
Second Collection last Sunday	£244.08
Second Collection this Sunday: School for deaf children in Tanzania	
Second Collection next Sunday: Sick and Retired Priests	

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
TOTAL	£6,469.24

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 22nd September	6.00pm (Sat)	Bryan Moyes RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Jennifer Bailey RIP
	10.00am	Dennis Coatsworth RIP
	11.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	6.00pm	John Rice RIP
Monday 23rd September St. Pius of Pietrelcina	10.30am	Kevin Paul Ruaux RIP
	12.30pm	Requiem Mass Fiona Cutting RIP
Tuesday 24th September Our Lady of Walsingham	10.30am	Wedding Anniversary
Wednesday 25th September	10.30am	Benedict Kitamireke/Immaculate Nalusiba RIP
Thursday 26th September Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church of St. Francis	10.30am	People of the Parish
Friday 27th September St. Vincent de Paul	10.30am	May and Fred Corns RIP
Saturday 28th September	10.00am	Kevin and Terry Ruaux RIP
Sunday 29th September	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	
	9.00am (PH)	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	10.00am	Nijole Kelly RIP
	11.30am	Paddy Egan RIP
	6.00pm	Private Intention

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

Sr Mary Ignatius, Ray Wilcock, David Carley, Veronica Bodkin, Romano Buschini, Mary Lennon, Stefane Godsall, Sidney Whibley, Eileen Walder, Carmel Dooley, John Blunden, Margaret McDonnell, Eileen Pearce, Margaret Jarvis, Samantha Palmer, Martin Fay, Harry Gout, Lesley Parker, Derek Clinton, Peter Allies, Serena Wazir, Patrick Hynes, David Bell, Veronica Riley, Hugh House, George Kelvie, Jack Smith, Catherine Terrill, Stephan Fuller.

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.

REQUIEM MASS: The Requiem Mass for Fiona Cutting will be celebrated this Monday 23rd September 12.30pm. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

COUNT: This weekend is the first weekend of four where we will be counting the Mass attendance. Our average Mass attendance last year was 951