

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

29th September 2024 Twenty Sixth 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 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 75455



A NEW LECTIONARY FOR A NEW YEAR

This forthcoming Advent we shall be introducing a new Lectionary - the book the readings at Mass are read from. This is because the translation shall be different and all parishes will be using the new wording from Advent.

AFTERNOON FOR READERS to introduce the new translation for the Lectionary.

To address questions such as: Why the change in translation? How is it different from the translation we're using now? What different sorts of translation are there? What does it mean in practice, for readers? How is the Lectionary arranged? Also, an opportunity to reflect on some broader questions: The Word of God in the life of the Church. How we understand the Old Testament in the light of our faith in Christ. Led by Bishop Paul Hendricks.

VENUE: Church hall of St Thomas of Canterbury, 59 Burgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2HJ. **DATE:** Saturday 2nd November 2024. **TIME:** 2pm to 4pm

NOTE: The hall will be open from 1pm, for anyone who may like to come early and bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee available

We ask for the prayers and help of St. Francis of Assisi this coming Friday 4th October as we celebrate the feast of our patron.



ALTAR SERVERS: During 11.30am Mass this Sunday, we shall be giving particular attention and thanks to our Altar Servers with a number of them being presented with medals in recognition of their ministry to our parish. We have a magnificent team of servers and we are very grateful to them for their commitment and their reverence which allows our liturgy to flow and assist us with our worship, especially during Holy Week.

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.

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.

FAREWELL: Bishop Philip Moger, who has been an assistant bishop of our Diocese since February 2023 serving the South London area, has been appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Plymouth. Bishop Philip's farewell Mass will be at 6pm on Friday 1 November at St George's Cathedral, which will also be a Solemn Mass of All Saints.

**IS YOUR CHILD DUE TO START PRIMARY
OR SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SEPTEMBER 2025?**

ST. SIMON STOCK SCHOOL: Open Events for entry in September 2025

Open Mornings Tuesday 26 September, Tuesday 1 October & Friday 18 October
9am – 10.30am. Please arrive 9.30am to provide time for the tour.

Open evening Thursday 3rd October 5pm – 7.30pm. Headteacher talks at 5.15pm.
6pm & 6.45pm

Sixth Form Open Evening Thursday 3rd November 5.45pm – 8pm. Talk commences
6pm. Please visit www.ssscs.co.uk/open-events-2024

ST FRANCIS SCHOOL: If your child was born between 1st September 2020 and 31st
August 2021 they are due to start school on 1st September 2025.

At St Francis we offer a nurturing, active and enriching Catholic education,
facilitated by dedicated and caring teachers to help all children reach their full
potential.

Please call the school office on 01622 771540 to view the school and meet the
team. Applications for September 2025 must be submitted by 15th January 2025.

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE: Wimbledon The Sacred Heart parish Saturday
October 26th wimbledon@rcaos.org.uk;

Woolwich St Peter the Apostle parish Saturday 2nd November
woolwich@rcaos.org.uk;

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,288.07
Second Collection last Sunday	£304.03
Second Collection this Sunday: Sick and Retired Priests	
Second Collection next Sunday: CAFOD Fast Day	

Direct Debits – August 2024

Standing Order Gift Aid	£3,029.00
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 29th September	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Domingo Rindicz RIP
	9.00am (PH)	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	10.00am	Nijole Kelly RIP
	11.30am	Paddy Egan RIP
	6.00pm	Private Intention
Monday 30th September St. Jerome	10.30am	Lola and Pablo Navarro RIP
Tuesday 1st October St. Therese of the Child Jesus	10.30am	Virgie and Frederick D'Silva RIP
Wednesday 2nd October The Holy Guardians	10.30am	Rose Joanna Brook RIP
Thursday 3rd October	10.30am	Anniversary Mass
Friday 4th October St. Francis of Assisi	10.30am	J.P. Birchenough RIP
Saturday 5th October	10.00am	Unborn Children
Sunday 6th October	6.00pm (Sat)	Terry and Kevin Ruaux RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Jennifer Bailey RIP
	10.00am	Rev. Joseph Bennett RIP
	11.30am	Ellen Coram RIP
	6.00pm	Private Intention

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

Edward Donoghue, Anne Murphy, Mary Hulme, Barbara Vik, Douglas Theaker, Bridget Nolan, Paddy Egan, Patricia, Ada O'Brien, Maria Navarro, Brenda O'Hare, Bishop Peter Amigo, Mr Ward, Jack Wilson, Marya Pinto, Honora Pierce, Joan Namey, Fiorina Winch, John Lobo, Robert Robson, Shirley Descombe, William Aylward, William Campbell, Kathleen Boyce, Rev. Chris Cassidy, Kathleen Boyce, Frank Martin, John Flynn, Tom Seacombe, David Hughes, Pauline Taylor, John Finn, Ventilie Logan, Rosa Card, Ted Gale, Hilda de Silva, George Meeham.

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 Paulo Rodrigues shall be celebrated Friday 11th October 10.30am.

The Requiem Mass for Zena Hales shall be celebrated Monday 14th October at 10.30am. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

COUNT: This weekend is the second weekend of four where we shall be counting the Mass attendance. Our attendance last week was 1,032.