

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th November 2024 Christ the King (B)

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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

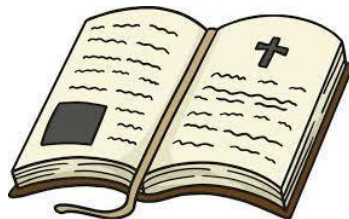
St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park, Maidstone, ME16 0JP 01622 75455



THE NEW LECTIONARY

FROM THE HOMILY GIVEN BY DEACON IAN BLACK

Next week, with the first Sunday of Advent, this year it nicely coincides with the 1st December, we start the new Church Year liturgically. But this year is a bit different from other years. As we start Year C for Sunday's and Year 1 for weekdays, there is going to be a significant change. We will



be changing over to the new Lectionary, that many have been speaking about, and has been mentioned in the newsletter and on the parish website. Well, what's all the fuss about?, what's different?, and how will it affect us here at St Francis?. To put it simply and into context, we may not notice a massive change, and as one of my deacon friends humorously observed - "the story, message, characters and ending don't change!" What you will notice is a change in some of the words and language that we have all been so familiar with. Why change? Why meddle? Why confuse? you may say, but the new lectionary aims to help us to gain a clearer and contemporary understanding of scripture. With time, language and its meanings change. The current lectionary readings at Mass are taken from the Jerusalem Bible - The English version has been in use since 1966, that in turn was translated from the French, which was published about 10 years before that, that in turn was translated from Latin, etc, etc...The new lectionary is taken from the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition. The text is also going to be laid out differently, making it easier to read and in turn listen to. The new text is also closer to the

original translations, and not subject to so much interpretation and what is called Dynamic or Literary equivalence (changing it to fit the meaning). So, how does this help us with the message of the readings for today, or throughout the coming years? I think we need to see this as an opportunity. The biggest opportunity is for us all to re-engage with the scriptures. There are many times that I read a familiar piece of scripture, but how often do I really think about what it actually means? Here's a chance, even if I start off trying to play spot the difference (apparently around 6% of the text has changed)! It will give us an opportunity to think-How does this make a difference? Is there something I've been interpreting in a different way all this time? What's the real message here? But most importantly, what is it that the scriptures tell me about living a life and reaching the ultimate goal of life eternal with the Father? That is to me what today's scripture is asking us to do, and here is Mother Church, through the divine inspiration of the Holy Spirit, giving us the tools and opportunity to achieve it. Let's embrace the chance rather than moan about it!

A CHANGE OF TIME: It gives us great delight to see so many people come to Mass every Sunday as numbers continue to increase, especially at the 10.00am and 11.30am Mass. One challenge this brings is that so many people at 10.00am Mass are trying to leave the Church through one set of doors, which means it's 11.20am by the time the Church is empty. People are arriving in their cars for 11.30am Mass but no space is available as the 10.00am crowd have not had a chance to leave yet; people are arriving in the Church for 11.00am Mass but with very little time for them to spend in prayer, light their candle, look in the shop or whatever it is they wish to do; welcomers, music, servers and priests getting ready for Mass are under an awful lot of strain in getting things ready for Mass when the people of 10.00am are still tidying up. It is for this reason that we have decided it would be a better idea to move the start of 11.30am Mass to 11.45am This will come into operation from Sunday 5th January 2025. We trust that you will find this change of great benefit to many of you.

LETTER: A copy of the letter that Canon Liam has written to Helen Grant, MP of Maidstone and Malling can be found in the Church porch. We have been all encouraged to contact our local MP either by letter or scanning the QR Code on the poster in the porch.

REPOSITORY: New stock for Advent and Christmas in the church shop: "Walk with me" and "Day by Day" booklets, Advent calendars and candles, 2025 diaries and calendars, Christmas cards, children's books, nativity sets and much more...

ADVENT WREATHS: Our beautiful Advent wreaths, made by the Fledglings group may be pre-ordered from this weekend and available on Saturday and Sunday 30th/1st December after the Masses. Due to the high cost of materials, these will be priced at £6 this year and **MUST** be pre-ordered with Geraldine, Lorraine, Cathie at PRESTON HALL, Liz in the repository or one of the clergy. Many thanks.

RAFFLE TICKETS: These will be available, to win some great prizes, at all Masses from this weekend and are priced at £1 per strip.

FEED THE HUNGRY AT CHRISTMAS: Many thanks to our generous donors of food, throughout the year. Last year, St Francis parishioners were extremely generous in donating food and gifts to the parish Christmas appeal. Your generosity made a massive difference to local families in difficulty, to the homeless, the clients of the day centre. Please, if you are able, donate a gift for a child or adult, preferably unwrapped and new. Collections of gifts will be taken until Sunday 15th December, and then distributed over that week. Also, we will be making up Christmas hampers for families, and donations may be brought to the musicians at Mass on the weekends of 16th/17th December. Any time before that, they may be dropped at the presbytery during office hours. Please, no mince pies, as we get a bulk donation for free! If anyone wants to donate meat (esp turkey) and/or vegetables and fruit, between 16th and 21st December to help make up the turkey dinners, please let one of the choir members know or one of the clergy. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,288.09
Second Collection last Sunday	£283.66
Second Collection this Sunday: Catholic Youth Services	
Second Collection next Sunday: Parish Development Fund	

Direct Debits – October 2024	
Standing Order Gift Aid	£3,136
Standing Order Non-Gift Aid	£2,093.96
Collection Card	£2,109.68
Collection On-Line	£190.07
TOTAL	£7,529.71

LOTTERY: Week Number 21 Lottery Number 311 Prize £90

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 24th November	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Ray Williamson RIP
	9.00am (PH)	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	10.00am	Dennis Coatsworth RIP
	11.30am	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
	6.00pm	Erlinda RIP
Monday 25th November	10.30am	John Corfe and Rachel Taylor RIP
Tuesday 26th November	10.30am	Zena Hales RIP
Wednesday 27th November	10.30am	Winifred Predergast RIP
Thursday 28th November	10.30am	James and Mary Hurson RIP
Friday 29th November	10.30am	Private Intention
Saturday 30th November St. Andrew	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Sunday 1st December	6.00pm (Sat)	Sirpa Edwards RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Winifred Joan Ryan RIP
	10.00am	Family
	11.30am	Luis amd Rosario D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	Private Intention

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

Albert Skinner, John Higgins, Phyllis Kennedy, Billy Stupple, Kathleen Smith, George Scott, Richard Power, Lucy Ireland, Elinor Nightingale, Dennis Coatsworth, Berthe Bacharach, Enid Mescall, Yvonne Webber, Cordelia White, Alfonso Finettie, John Devitt, Frederick Franks, Margaret Moorkite, Nora Blunden, Mary Hurson, Charles Butler, Francis Percy, Herbert Paine, Albert Clark, Mary Harkin, Roland Charles Philp, Charles Hamilton, Roger Hill, Andrew Kwiatkowski, George Silvester.

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

ADORATION: 9.30am – 10.15am every Friday morning.

CAROL SERVICE/NATIVITY/MULLED WINE: Advance notice of the date to put in your diary, so you don't miss this great parish event. Saturday the 14th December is the date.

FLAME YOUTH GROUP: This Sunday of Christ the King we celebrate as Youth Sunday, so we are delighted to welcome the Flame Youth Group to Sunday 6.00pm Mass who will be leading us in the readings.