

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Second Sunday of Advent (C)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH

Tel. 01622 756217

Email: [maidstone@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:maidstone@rcaos.org.uk)

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 75455



---

**AS IS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE WORDS OF ISAIAH THE PROPHET,**



**‘PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD.’ (Luke 3:4)**

**EXTRA HELP IN THE SEASON OF ADVENT:** For the next two Fridays in Advent during the Season of Advent we will be celebrating an extra Mass every Friday 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. We will also be holding additional Confessions 6.15pm – 7.15pm before the Mass. A visiting priest will be coming to hear Confession at that time

**BISHOP JOHN HINE:** A number of you will remember when Bishop John Hine was Fr. John Hine and served as a priest here at St. Francis during the 1970's before setting up the parish of St. Peter's Bearsted, which included the building of the Church. He was appointed its first Parish Priest in 1978. He also served his final retirement days in the Deanery of Maidstone in the parish of St. Andrew's, Tenterden. The Requiem Mass of Bishop John Hine will be celebrated at St. George's Cathedral this Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm. There is also a Vigil Mass on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00pm which will be the celebration of the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

**PARISH CAROL SERVICE/NATIVITY/MULLED WINE – December 14th at 2pm.**

All parishioners, young and old, are strongly encouraged to join in this parish event where traditional carols will be part of a Nativity play. If you have a child of primary age with you, there may be a surprise for them at the end! There will be drinks and mulled wine along with mince pies for anyone who comes to the presbytery afterwards. This is a parish social event in the busy run-up to Christmas, so please make the most of it.

**A CHANGE OF TIME: As from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the 11.30am Mass will start at 11.45am.** The reason is that 10.00am is so full that people at 10.00am Mass leave the Church by 11.20am. 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 11.03am Mass but with very little time for them to spend time 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 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025. We trust that you will find this change of great benefit to many of you and thank you for your understanding.

**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...

**RAFFLE TICKETS:** These will be available, to win some great prizes, at all Masses at the back of the church and also at the organ at the 10am and 11.30am Masses only.

**FEED THE HUNGRY AT CHRISTMAS:** 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**CLEAN CHURCH:** We are very grateful for the team of people who clean our church but would really appreciate some help. If you can give time after Wednesday morning Mass every week, or whatever amount of weeks, then please come and see the team and they will be delighted to see you.

**FLAME BAKE SALE:** Many thanks to all who supported the Bake Sale a couple of weeks ago. It was so successful that we will be repeating it with more Christmas gifts and extra offerings from the repository, on **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December**. Please be prepared to purchase some great baking and other goods.

**BIBLE AND BEVERAGE:** If you are in your 20's and 30's and you would like to have some prayer time and fun time then please do join the Bible and Beverage on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December. We will gather in the Church 7.30pm of praying with the Gospel for an hour followed by drinks, eats, music and games in the priest house next door. New arrivals will be especially welcome.

**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT:** Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery. For details see the poster on the noticeboard, pick up an invitation leaflet at the back of church or email [southwarkrenewal@gmail.com](mailto:southwarkrenewal@gmail.com)

#### **COLLECTION:**

First Collection last week (cash)	£1,151.20
Second Collection last Sunday	£209.68
Second Collection this Sunday: Christmas Flowers	
Second Collection next Sunday:	
Direct Debits – November 2024	
Standing Order Gift Aid	£2,919
Standing Order Non-Gift Aid	£1,086.96
Collection Card	£3,097.98
Collection On-Line	£298.16
TOTAL	£7,402.10

**LOTTERY:** Week Number 23      Lottery Number 137      Prize £20

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Private Intention
	9.00am (PH)	Charles & Doris Shepherd & David Cole RIP
	10.00am	Rose Joanna Brook RIP
	11.30am	Holy Souls
	6.00pm	Dorothy Brady RIP
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December</b> Solemnity of the +Immaculate Conception	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	John Connaughton RIP
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Terry and Kevin Ruaux RIP
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	
<b>Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December</b> St. Lucy	10.30am	Private Intention
	7.30pm	
<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b> St John of the Cross	10.00am	Health and Wellbeing
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Mary Crimmins RIP
	10.00am	Deceased Priests of Maidstone
	11.30am	Winifred Le Roche RIP
	6.00pm	Dr Conor O'Loughlin RIP

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

John Thomas, Derek Naylor, Roy Holkham, Erminio Pirozzolo, Tristan, John Connaughton, Kathleen Cochrane, Mr Zakur, Cecilia Doherty, David Brown, Nora Parry, Florence McCormack, Elizabeth Stacey, George Dray, Margaret Lightfoot Frederick Clark, Alan Lake, Regina Kwiatkowska, Patricia Moran, Edith Edwards, Anthony Daniels, Anthony Gibbs, V. Power, Alice Wood, Greta Schlager, Concetta Chapman, Michael Fay, Kathleen Martin, Maria Lepetidou, Frank Turner, Patricia Stott, Harry O'Toole, Dorothy Thomas, Norman Smith, Michael Smith, Ena Gallagher, Maureen Fosher, Mary McKee, Kathleen Luckham.

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

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