

# ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

15<sup>th</sup> December 2024 Third Sunday of Advent (C)

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Website: [www.stfrancisparish.org.uk](http://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

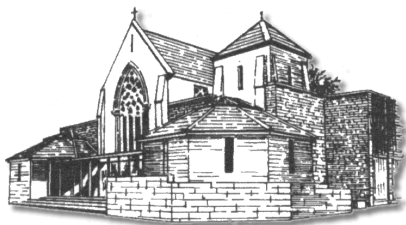
Parish Office hours: 10am – 12 noon Tuesday and

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



## GAUDETE SUNDAY



**‘Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say rejoice (St Paul’s letter to the Ephesians 4:4)**

On this third Sunday of Advent we light our rose coloured candle. It marks a midway point of our season of preparing for the Lord’s birth with the candle that represents joy. The latin word for ‘joy’ we have today is Gaudete.

**THERE WILL BE MASS ON FRIDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30PM AS WELL AS CONFESSIONS WITH A VISITING PRIEST 6.15PM – 7.15PM.**

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM ARCHBISHOP JOHN WILSON:** In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain “we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world”. This, Archbishop John said, “is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It’s a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It’s God’s love story towards our world and each one of us”. Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, “is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us – me and you – to do. To stay with Him in prayer”. You can watch the full message here <https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmessage2024> or via the QR code below.

**WARM WELCOME:** We are so pleased that now we can give you all a warm welcome. Our heating system in both the church and house are fixed and up and running. Thank you all again for your patience. Nice early Christmas present for everyone.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate the children of our parish who celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the First time last weekend. The priests who came to help were very pleased to be part of this special occasion and commented on how good and well prepared the children were. Bravo to all of you! It was also very pleasing to see so many of our parents come to receive the Sacrament as well. Our deep thanks to the Catechists who give much time and care to the preparation of our children. Our parish was truly blessed last week.

**AND THE WINNER IS...** We will find out next Sunday 22nd December at the 10am Mass who are the lucky winners of £100 and £1,000 in our Parish Lottery. You can only win if you are in it. There will be a chance in the New Year to take part for just £13 for six months to purchase a number and increase your chances of winning 'big time, baby!' It's possible to join on line here: [stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery](http://stfrancisparish.org.uk/parish-lottery)

**REPOSITORY:** New stock for 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 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> December. Anytime 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 16<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**STAMPS FOR THE BLIND:** As we are getting more post with Christmas Cards this time of year, we would like to ask you not to throw away your stamps on your envelopes but please carefully tear or cut them off, and bring them to the church porch and place them in the box, marked Stamps. Please do not donate damaged or torn stamps. These are taken and help raised money for the Kent Charity that help the Blind. Thank you.

**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)	£1,196.44
Second Collection last Sunday	£322.39
Second Collection this Sunday: DEW ASSOCIATION	
No 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 24      Lottery Number 338      Prize £25

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<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
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Robert Jones RIP
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Don Watts RIP
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Terry and Kevin Ruaux RIP
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	All the kind people who donate food
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	10.30am	Stuart McLeod RIP
	7.30pm	
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	10.00am	Deceased Madre Family
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Stanislawa and Franciszek Lupa RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Tony Brenton RIP
	10.00am	Ernestina Louisa Winterhalter RIP
	11.30am	Joseph and Margaret Brooks RIP
	6.00pm	Birthday Greetings

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

Bishop William Brown, Frank Cox, Patricia Gubbins, John Renders, Daphne Pigott, Shane Doyle, Souraya Hutchinson, Leslie Malins Betty Knott, Doris Shepherd, Edward Jones, Franciaa Luen, Peter Capon, Stanley Rosemeyer, Mary Bray, Rosalind Humphries, Elizabeth Shufflebotham, Derek Hook, Kathleen Holkham, Floryse Berville, Michael Cunniffe, Frank Kelly, Sister Kathleen Dalton, Christina Gubbins, Dorothy Hand, John Kelly, Bill Kenny, David Long, Mary Humphrey, Annie Demantino, Eileen Mooney, Baby Harry Felgueiras, Melody McNeilly, Ethel Rosemeyer, Alan Hurrell, Joseph Carlos, Edward Chapman, Kate Gleeson, Eileen Breney.

**A CHANGE OF TIME:** As from Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025, the 11.30am Mass will start at 11.45am.

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

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

**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.