

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

22nd December 2024 Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14

1RH Tel. 01622 756217

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 754551



**'A SAVIOUR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU.
HE IS CHRIST THE LORD' (Luke2:11)**



**CANON LIAM, FATHER SIMON PETER, FR PETER AND DEACON IAN WISH YOU
EVERY BLESSING AND PEACE THIS CHRISTMAS TIME
AND TO ALL YOUR FAMILIES.
GOD BLESS AND THANK YOU.**

FEASTS OF THE WEEK

26th December: St. Stephen

27th December: St. John

28th December: Holy Innocents

29th December: St. Thomas Becket

1st January: Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

CONFESSIONS: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available:

Thursday 24th December 9.30 – 11.00am, 1.00pm – 2.00pm.

No confessions on Friday 27th December or Saturday 28th December.

ADORATION: There will be no Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday 27th December.

JUBILEE: Every 25 years the Universal Church observes a jubilee year. Many of you will remember the year 2000 as being our last jubilee year, which of course means 2025 will be our next one. It's an opportunity for the Church throughout the world to work together in faith and call upon God's grace to come upon us. Pope Francis has nominated the year 2025 as a Year of Hope. So, our prayer and worship is to ask for the great gift of Hope. 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". He has invited parishes to encourage more Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during the year, so Friday morning Adoration will begin at 9.15am and last the full hour. Also, the first Friday of every month we shall have Adoration from 6.30pm – 7.15pm followed by Mass at 7.30pm. Our parish church will be open every day 8am – 6pm. May our lives be open to God's grace this coming year and become people of real hope.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: Please remember that Christmas Day collection is your personal offering to Canon Liam and Fr. Simon Peter.

YOU COULD BE A WINNER: This Sunday 22nd December at the end of 10.00am Mass we shall be making the draw for our Parish Lottery - firstly for £100 and then for the grand prize of £1,000. Come January 2025 we shall be asking people to renew their Lottery subscription either by standing order or payment in the porch after Mass. We would very much like to welcome new participants in our parish lottery. Its only £13 per number for six months - which is not bad considering that you could win £1000 next Summer. We are also asking for people to help with collection for payments at the end of each Mass for only three Sundays. Please let Fr. Liam know if you are able to help with this. It is an easy job but full instruction will be given as to what to do. We are very grateful to all who take part and organise our parish lottery.

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.

REPOSITORY: New stock for Christmas now available. Children's books, Christmas Cards, Nativity Sets and much more.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash)	£1,151.25
Second Collection last week:	£228.38
No Second Collection this Sunday	
No Second Collection next Sunday	

Standing Orders for November:

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

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

Catherine Jones, Patrick Long, Mary Fearne, Kathleen Carter, Bridget West, Norma Mallon, Mary Rutherford, Harold Jarvis, Pat Hopkins, Joyce Waterfield, Yvonne Gordon, Peggie Smith, Mary Gallagher, Peter Boylan, Joe Digman, John Bilborough, Margaret Sage, Tina Corelli, Kathleen Horan, John Shine, Eileen Budnikas, Mrs McReavy, Ada Watson, John Rocha, Vincent Jarvis, Stacey Jones, Paul Mealin, Irene Sturgess, Eleanor Hall, Caroline Milton, Daisy Brown, John Sui, Joseph Jenson, Colleen Sergeant, Vittorina Durling, Frederick Capeling, James Brownson, Irene Burgess, Frank O'Connell, William Holland, Victoria Sergeant, Sister Paul Nolan, Mary Deeley, Abdul Tabouni, Christopher Parker, Sophia Schweitzer, David Hughes, Alexander Tolkun, Alice Henderson-Bell, Mary Chittenden, Margaret Hugo, Rose Hook, Marion and Stephen Moon, David Emmett, Margaret Jamieson, Mark Potter, aria Giovanelli, Tom Flynn, Caridad Johnson, Christopher Parker, Trevor Martin, Ian Wigston, Bernadette Alexander, Fr George MacGillivray, Edward Murphy, Ada Rogerson, Jeanne de Lafonviel, David Friday, Mary O'Keefe, Tony Adam, Frank Barrett, Anthony Boswell, Pat Hunt, Bernard Francis, Elizabeth Lanaghan, Laurence Byrne, Pilar Sayer, Wout van Wyngaarde, Franciszka Bartnicka, John Pearson, Jeanette Bailey, Hannah Chambers, Harold Neal.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 22nd December	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
Monday 23rd December	10.30am	Henri Goinden RIP
Tuesday 24th December		NO MORNING MASS
Wednesday 25th December The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ	6.00pm Carols	
	6.30pm Vigil (Tue)	Stanislawa and Franciszek Lupa RIP
	11.30pm Carols	
	12am Midnight	Patrick Gallagher RIP
	8.30am	Forgotten Souls
	9.00am (PH)	Holy Souls
	10.00am	Tom and Paddy Egan RIP
	11.30am	Charles and Joan Ryan RIP
		NO EVENING MASS
Thursday 26th December	10.30am	John Corfe and Rachel Taylor RIP
Friday 27th December	10.30am	Tina and Vivian D'Silva RIP
Saturday 28th December	10.00am	In reparation of abortions from Brewer St.
Sunday 29th December	6.00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
	8.30am	Alfredo Tayag RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Holy Souls
	10.00am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	11.30am	Private Intention
	6.00pm	Artemio and Luisita Garcia RIP
Monday 30th December	10.30am	Deceased Ruaux family
Tuesday 31st December	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Wednesday 1st January	11.15am	Holy Souls
Thursday 2nd January	10.30am	Tony Adam RIP
Friday 3rd January	10.30am	Deceased Goinden family
Saturday 4th January	10.00am	Michael and Frances Corbett RIP
Sunday 5th January	6.00pm (Sat)	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
	8.30am	V.J. Joseph RIP
	9.00am	John Ballagher, James and Joyce Glen RIP
	10.00am	Welfare
	11.45am	Luis and Rosario D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	David Lynch RIP