

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

5th January 2025 Epiphany of the Lord (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 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 754551



Star of Wonder Star of Night



‘And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was.’ (Matthew 2:9)

JUBILEE: Every 25 years the Universal Church celebrates a jubilee year. Many of you will remember the year 2000 as being our last jubilee year, which of course means this year, 2025, is our new Jubilee. 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 6.15pm – 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.

LOTTERY: Now January is here, 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.

REQUIEM MASS: We pray for the repose of the souls of Anthony (Tony) Wallwork and Margaret Cunningham. The Requiem Mass for Tony Wallwork will be celebrated on Wednesday 15th January 10.30am and the Requiem Mass for Margaret Cunningham will be celebrated on Friday 17th January 12.30pm. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

BISHOP JOHN HINE: The funeral for Bishop John Hine was celebrated at St. George's Cathedral last month. Bishop John Hine had served the Deanery of Maidstone for many years; as a curate here at St. Francis, as the first Parish Priest of St. Peter's, Bearsted and his final years at St. Andrew's, Tenterden. Everybody is welcome to attend a Memorial Mass for Bishop John Hine on Wednesday 22nd January 12pm midday. This shall be at St. Peter's, Bearsted, the church that Bishop John Hine was responsible for building. All the clergy of the Deanery shall be gathered with Canon Liam Gallagher presiding.

IN YOUR 20'S OR 30'S: Please come and join our Bible and Beverage group. We shall meet this Thursday 9th January at 7.30pm for an hour of prayer with the Gospel followed by a social gathering in the Society Rooms across the road. Come and enjoy!

A FULFILLING AND ENJOYABLE DAY: This is guaranteed for all married couples who attend a day hosted by the Marriage and Family Life Team called 'Building a Better Marriage'. To celebrate this Jubilee year of 2025, a one day Building a Better Marriage opportunity will be on 25th January at St Stephen Church, Welling or 1st February at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs. These are very popular and fill up quickly so please, without delay, book your place on such a wonderful opportunity and explore more how blessed you are in your marriage. Not to mention how blessed the Church is with your dedicated love to one another.

To join one of these day's please contact Carole on 07983 524 727 or email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

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.

CHURCH SHOP: Open every Sunday 9 am to 11.30 am.

COLLECTION:

First collection last week (cash) £984.77

No Second Collection last week:

Second Collection this Sunday Parish Development Fund

Second Collection next Sunday Catholic Children's Society Crisis Fund

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

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 5th January THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	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
Monday 6th January	10.30am	Dowling family RIP
Tuesday 7th January	10.30am	Florimon Amadis RIP
Wednesday 8th January	6.00pm Carols	Margaret and Joseph Brooks RIP
Thursday 9th January	10.30am	Marianne Esther Corfe RIP
Friday 10th January	10.30am	In reparation for abortions from Brewer St
Saturday 11th January	10.00am	Charles Johnston RIP
Sunday 12th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD	6.00pm (Sat)	Bernard Burns RIP
	8.30am	Private Intention
	9.00am (PH)	Leslie Wood RIP
	10.00am	Virgie and Frederick D'Silva RIP
	11.45am	Private Intention
	6.00pm	Sister Mary Agnes RIP

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

James Fury, Rita Shine, Patrick Tunbridge, Mary Temple, Kathleen Cameron, Leonard Childs, Andrew Maher, Anna Deeley, Kathleen Dominey, Joseph Kane, Albert Bruce, Margaret Ewers, Charles Knott, Baby Amy Eiffert, Margaret Lockyer, Patrick Keaney, Charles Woolley, Sr Joseph Callaghan, Maria Scott, Catherine Sevenoaks, Janet Willis, Anne Ryan, Mary Chown, Annie Roche, Tony McCarthy, Jenty Millen, Noel Kirgan, Kenneth Wade, Catherine Collier, Jana Scholefield, John Ratcliffe, Peter Appleby, Clare Montague, Doris Bell, Alice Henderson-Bell, Jim Jaques, Emily Fisher, Baby Marcie Durban, Mabel Finn, Monica Casey, Teresa De Franca, Maria Fernandez, William Mendes.

CONFESSIONS: The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available:

ADORATION: Every Friday 9.15am – 10.15am

First Friday only: 6.15pm – 7.15pm followed by 7.30pm Mass