

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (A) SUNDAY 1st MARCH 2026

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH

Tel. 01622 756217

Email:

Website: www.stfrancisparish.org.uk

Parish Priest: Canon John Diver johndiver@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Stephen Trafford stephentrafford@rcaos.org.uk

Also Resident: Fr Peter Norris (Retired)

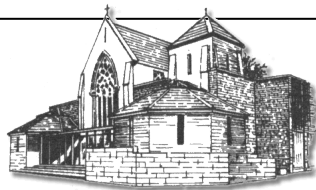
Deacon: Rev. Ian Black

Parish Office hours: 9am-1pm (Mon, Tues, Fri) and 12pm-4pm (Wednesdays only).

Catholic Schools

St Francis Primary School: Queen's Road ME16 0LB 01622 771540

St Simon Stock Secondary School: Oakwood Park ME16 0JP 01622 754551



“RISE, AND HAVE NO FEAR”



*“And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only.”
(Matthew 17:8)*

First reading: A Reading from the Book of Genesis.

Response to the Psalm: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord.

Second reading: A Reading from the Second Letter of Saint Paul to Timothy.

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 'His face shone like the sun.'

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: The extended hours of exposition will begin on Friday 13th March, after the morning Mass at 11am – and will continue through to 7pm. Many thanks to those who have forwarded to volunteer and be with the Lord during the day.

RENEWAL WORKS: The renewal works to the side chapel for the replacement or the new glass roof begin work this month. Once the work starts, there will be restricted access to the chapel. Thank you for your patience while this work is being carried out. *Canon John.*

SECOND COLLECTION FOR ORPHANED CHILDREN IN ZAMBIA ON 8th MARCH.

A staggering 60% of the population of Zambia are living below the poverty line, and in rural areas, the figure is even higher, at nearly 80%. Given this backdrop, Fr Samuel of the Kiltegan Mission in Zambia, is dedicated in helping orphaned children in the local community. May we thank you for your continued generosity during these challenging times. May God bless you. *The Dew Association.*

BIBLE & BEVERAGE: Our Young Adults Group is hosting a guest speaker at its next meeting on Thursday 12 March 2026. The speaker is a seminarian and will cover topics of Vocation and Marian Devotion. We meet in the church at 7.30pm for the talk, followed by a Q&A, and ending with a social in a nearby pub afterwards. All young adults (ages 18-35) are warmly invited to attend. Our group is growing in fellowship each month - currently standing at 15+ regular attendees - and always welcomes new members. For more details or questions, please contact youngadults@stfrancisparish.org.uk, or visit the link to complete a contact form: <https://www.stfrancisparish.org.uk/young-adults-group/>.

BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE EVENT: A one day event taking place in different deaneries between 9am and 4.30pm. It's a day where couples can *privately* explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills. *There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Booking is essential.* Contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.

The dates for BABM 2026 are:

7 March Tonbridge Parish (Tonbridge Wells Deanery), 23 May Wallington (Sutton Deanery), 13 June Hythe (Dover Deanery), 27 June Tooting (Wandsworth Deanery), 3 October West Norwood (Lambeth Deanery)

2026 SYCAMORE GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER: The Sycamore Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course (8.30pm – 9.30pm), which has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team, the Agency for Evangelisation and Sycamore, a programme about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang, Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for: married couples to enrich their friendship and love and engaged couples who want to continue exploring their faith together. The 2026 Sycamore Growing in Faith together (GIFT) dates are: March 10,17,24,31. Contact Carole on: mflkent@rcaos.org.uk.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA: The Knights had their first meeting since the ceremony at St. Francis on the 22nd of February. Some key roles were filled and they have also volunteered to help with some of the behind the scenes roles at St Francis as well as more visible roles at The Easter Vigil. Please continue to pray for us as we continue our ministry in this Parish.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI: Tangney Tours have been in contact and the number of places is being filled up, so if you are considering going, please contact them as single rooms are increasingly difficult to obtain.

CHURCH SHOP: Open Sundays 9am – 11.30am and 30 minutes before and after Sunday 6.00pm Mass. Lenten booklets: 'Walk with Me' and 'day by Day' are now available for purchase in the Church shop.

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

ADORATION: Every Friday 9.15am – 10.15am

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash) £ 1,310.75

Second Collection last Sunday No Second Collection

Second Collection this Sunday CAFOD Family Fast Day (Lent)

Second collection next Sunday Zambia. Orphaned Children.

Standing Orders for *January*

Direct Debits £3,853

Collection Card £3,176.47

On-Line £197.48

TOTAL £7,226.95

Parish Lottery Winner

Week: 9

Number: 240

Prize: £25

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 1st March <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	Eric Bailey RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Russell Pike RIP
	10.00am	William Harvey RIP
	11.45am	Monika Harkins RIP
	4.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 2nd March	10.30am	Franciszek & Stanislaw Lupa RIP
Tuesday 3rd March	10.30am	In Reparation for Abortions in Brewer Street
Wednesday 4th March	10.30am	Tony Gough RIP
Thursday 5th March	10.30am	William Rawlins RIP
Friday 6th March	10.30am	Chinnama RIP (13 th Death Anniversary)
	7.30pm	Jim Browne RIP
Saturday 7th March	10.00am	Kevin Ruaux RIP
Sunday 8th March <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	Private Intention
	8.30am	All pregnant mothers for a safe birth
	9.00am (PH)	June Wood RIP
	10.00am	Jean Jermy RIP
	11.45am	Luis & Rosario D'Silva RIP
	4.00pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>
	6.00pm	People of the Parish

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time, and for those who have died recently:

John Turner, Janet Norfolk

Margrit Naylor, Dick Hyland, Mary Dalliwell, Veronica Cook, Fr Joe Whooley, Anthony Smith, Audrey Mendes, Mary McElroy, Una Jenkins, Patricia Deasy, Josephine Evans, Mary Capeling, Ned Sullivan, Marion Forster, John Dooley, Frank Weston, Jack Helm, Joanna Patterson, Stephen Flaherty, Jack Powis, Annelise Down, Iris Baker, Rita Haggerty, Daisy Raemers, Hilde Fenner, Michael Martin, John Donlon, Mary Bonujace, Sr Angie Lubren, Kevin Ruaux, Mary Docker, David Godding, Doris Thompson, Anna Bingham, David Everden

CHANGES TO LITURGICAL SCHEDULE IN LENT: Every Friday during Lent, there will be Adoration and Confessions from 6.15pm and Mass at 7.30pm. On Sundays at 4pm, there shall be Stations of the Cross. On Friday 13th March, after Mass there will be light fever until 10.00am. A Penitential Service will be held on Wednesday 11th March at 7.00pm at St Francis. Alternatively, you can attend the Penitential Service which will be held in West Malling on Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm.