

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) SUNDAY 3rd MAY 2026

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH

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Email: maidstone@rcaos.org.uk

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

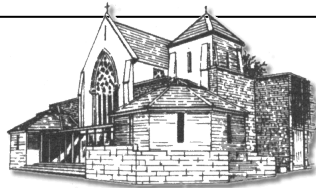
Parish Office hours: 9am-1pm (Mon, Tues, Fri) and 12pm-4pm (Wednesdays only).

Church Shop: Open Sundays 9am – 11.30am and 30 mins before and after Sunday 6pm Mass.

Catholic Schools

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

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



"I AM THE WAY"



"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do" (John 14:12)

First reading: A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

Second reading: A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Peter.

Gospel: John 14:1-12 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life.'

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY 2026: Sunday 3 May is Safeguarding Sunday. In line with today's Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday or via the QR code.



WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027: We have an exciting opportunity for two young adults who will be aged between 18 and 35 as of August 2027, to attend World Youth Day in Seoul, South Korea in a group led by Archbishop John Wilson. This will take place between Tuesday 2nd August and Monday 9th August 2027. Within the insert in this newsletter, you can find all the information in regards to this. If you would like to donate money to help sponsor young adults to have this opportunity, please speak to one of the clergy team or email the Parish office: maidstone@rcaos.org.uk.

FLAME 27: On Saturday 6th March 2027, FLAME 27, there will be a Catholic Youth event that takes place at the OVO Arena Wembley attended by thousands of youth in years 9 and 10 (secondary school - during that school year). Our own Youth Group are looking to take some of our young people, with costs supported by the Parish and the Knights of St Columba. If you are the parent or guardian of a young person who would be interested in this but is not part of our youth group, please send an email to Fr Stephen at stephentrafford@rcaos.org.uk.

BAPTISM CLASS: The next Baptism class will be on Thursday 7th May at 7pm in the Church.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you are looking to book a Mass intention soon, please note that there is little Mass availability until mid-July. If you would like to book an upcoming Mass for the next few months, please contact neighbouring parishes to enquire whether they have upcoming available Masses. *Thank you from the Parish Office.*

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: Masses will be celebrated Saturday 30th May at 12pm, and Sunday 31st May at 3pm. On Sunday 7th June, there will be a Corpus Christi Mass for the family and children of the programme.

MARRIAGE & WEDDING PREPARATION: It is a requirement of civil law that you give 6 months' notice to your local parish church and clergy if you wish to be married. If you are looking to be married in the Catholic Church at St Francis, or any other Catholic Church nationally or internationally, please give the Parish clergy at least 6 months' notice so they may begin the administrative process with you in good time leading up to your marriage. *Thank you.*

CONFESSIONS: Friday 11.00am – 11.30am

Saturday 10.45am – 11.30am

ADORATION: Every Friday 9.15am – 10.15am and 11.00am – 7.00pm

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash) £ 1,426.48

Second Collection last Sunday Priest's Training Fund £ 713.31

Second Collection this Sunday No Second Collection

Second collection next Sunday No Second Collection

Parish Lotter Winner Week: 18 Number: 125 Prize: £25

Please note. There was an error in last week's published winning number. The correct number for week 17 is 312.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 3rd May <i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	Sirpa Edwardes RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Marlene Jacobs RIP
	10.00am	Terry & Kevin Ruaux RIP
	11.45am	Duncan Middleton RIP
	6.00pm	Ted & Barbara Whiting RIP
Monday 4th May <i>The English Martyrs</i>	10.30am	Isobel Sherlock RIP
Tuesday 5th May	10.30am	Stefania Swierczynska RIP (20 th death anniversary)
Wednesday 6th May	10.30am	Kevin Ruaux RIP
Thursday 7th May	10.30am	Kevin Ruaux RIP
Friday 8th May	10.30am	For all forgotten souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them
Saturday 9th May	10.00am	Mary Maureen East – Birthday Blessings & complete recovery
Sunday 10th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	Welfare and wellbeing of Monika & family
	8.30am	Len Godard RIP
	9.00am (PH)	In Reparation for Abortions in Brewer Street
	10.00am	Rose Enendu RIP
	11.45am	Luis & Rosario D'Silva RIP
	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:

*Sophia, James McQuillan, Anthony Elliott, Patrick Woods, Shanti de Zoysa
Muriel Underwood, Kate McBennett, Bogdana Kelvie, Iolanda Piper, Roger Selvon,
Mary Roscoe, John McKenna, Winifred Kerr, Jamara Kaliszwska, Robert Marshall,
Florence Ludgate, Luis Parra, Marion Cistone, Sylvia White, Patrick Groarke,
Blodwin Wilson, Hazel O'Connor, Juie Braconnier, Mary Walsh, Oliver Egan,
Elizabeth Hales, Antoine Salerno, Vicente Abaco, Eddie Paul, Mary Gorman,
Christopher Maurice, Peter McBennett, Chris Willson, Margaret West*