

ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) SUNDAY 10th 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

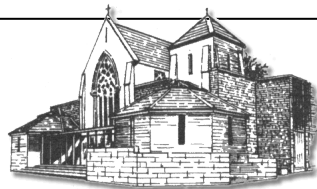
Parish Office hours: 9am-1pm (Mon, Tues, Fri) and 12pm-4pm (Wednesdays only).

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



BECAUSE I LIVE, YOU ALSO WILL



*"Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me.
And he who loves me will be loved by my Father." (John 14:21)*

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

Response to the Psalm: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

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

Gospel: John 14:15-21 'I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper.'

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY): On Thursday the 14th May, the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord. This is a Holy Day of obligation for all Catholics. There will be Masses held at St Francis at 10.30am and 7.30pm. Please see local Catholic churches for times of their Masses on this day.

BIBLE & BEVERAGE: Please note that the Young Adults group will be having their Bible & Beverage evening on a different day to usual this month. They will be meeting at 7.30pm in the Church on Friday 22nd May. This month the meeting will begin with a talk by Angela Black on Spirituality, followed by adoration and then a social. All 18-35-year olds are welcome to attend.

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.

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.

There are more information sheets and application forms at the back of the church, or you may find a digital copy of both online.

WYD 2027 DONATIONS: During the coming months, we are going to look to raise some money to help sponsor at least two young people to attend World Youth Day in South Korea next year, as previously announced. If anyone would like to give a private donation towards this cause, please speak to one of the Clergy team or contact the Parish office. *Many thanks in advance.*

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2026: The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 6th June 2026 from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include Holy Mass, Talk, Hour of Mercy with Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway, North London, Barking and Victoria.

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.

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.*

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

Friday Adoration Hours during the week of Monday 11th May to Sunday 17th May are reduced to 1.30pm until 7.00pm.

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)	£ 1,467.33
Second Collection last Sunday	No Second Collection
Second Collection this Sunday	No Second Collection
Second collection next Sunday	World Communications Sunday

Parish Lotter Winner	Week: 19	Number: 242	Prize: £25
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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 10th May <i>Sixth Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	In Reparation for Abortions in Brewer Street
	8.30am	Len Godard RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Robert Johnson RIP
	10.00am	Rose Enendu RIP
	11.45am	Luis & Rosario D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	People of the Parish
Monday 11th May	10.30am	Brian Foster RIP
	12.00pm	<i>Requiem Mass of Anthony Elliott</i>
Tuesday 12th May	10.30am	Patrick & Moira Mahon RIP
Wednesday 13th May	10.30am	Wellbeing & Return to the Church
	2.00pm	<i>Requiem Mass of Patrick Woods</i>
Thursday 14th May <i>The Ascension of the Lord</i>	10.30am	Kevin Ruaux RIP
	7.30pm	Safe Recovery
Friday 15th May <i>St John Stone</i>	10.30am	Zita Biagio & Zita Annunziata RIP
	12.00pm	<i>Memorial of Steve Tirant RIP</i>
	Please note. Extended Hours of Adoration are reduced today from 1.30pm to 7.00pm, rather than the usual 11am-7pm.	
Saturday 16th May <i>St Simon Stock</i>	10.00am	Ambassador Ejoh Aloysius Abuah RIP
Sunday 17th May <i>Seventh Sunday of Easter</i>	6.00pm (Sat)	In Reparation for Abortions in Brewer Street
	8.30am	Joseph & Margaret Brooks RIP
	9.00am (PH)	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Beatrice Rosaria RIP
	11.45am	Hubert Bonney-Aymard RIP
	6.00pm	Eric & Rita Emerson RIP

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

*Michael Walder, Sophia, James McQuillan, Anthony Elliott,
Patrick Woods, Shanti de Zoysa*

*Peter McBennett, Chris Willson, Margaret West, Shaun Ellesmere,
Margaret Colyer, Gary Ratcliffe, Constance Good, John Collins, Dermot Barrett,
Lt. David Dumbrell, Mrs Chater, Peter Floyd, Vivine Joseph, Basil West,
Honora Maliivos, James Hiew, Rebecca Hiew, Gerald Eotes, Betty Biggins,
Barbara Prodgers, Ciara-Jane Cutting, Elizabeth Ellard, Meczyslawa Kaminska,
Kevin H. Bell, Roland King, Marie Lembo, Annunziata Zita, Paul Topping,
Mercedes Kemp, Owain C. Couchman, Ian M. Carolan, Filippo Policelli,
Margaret Brooks, Dorothy Whitebrook*