ST. FRANCIS CATHOLIC PARISH NEWSLETTER

ALL SAINTS DAY (A) SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2026

126 Week Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1RH, Tel. 01622 756217
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
Deacon: Rev. Ian Black, Also Resident: Fr Peter Norris (Retired)

Parish Safeguarding Representatives
Jana Sherrin maidstonesg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Ann Donovan maidstonesg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Parish Office hours: 9am-1pm (Mon, Tues, Fri) and 12pm-4pm (Wednesdays only).
Church Shop: Open Sundays 9am–11.30am and 30mins before/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

THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied... Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven."
(Matthew 5:6,12)

First reading: A Reading from the Book of Revelation.
Psalm Response: Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.
Second reading: A Reading from the First Letter of Saint John.
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

We welcome Fr Damian Diouf of the Society of Mary (the Marist Fathers). He will be present at all Masses this weekend and making the annual Appeal for their overseas missions. Any support you could give him in his appeal would be greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU: A warm thank you to all those who gave toward last week's DEW initiative. Your generosity has totalled almost £600 toward this fund and will go toward helping raise and support orphaned children in the Philippines. *Thank you.*

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES & HOLY SOULS: This Sunday we are holding the Blessing of the Graves at Sutton Road Cemetery (Sunday 1st November) at 2pm.

HOLY SOULS ENVELOPES: Envelopes for Holy Souls are now available at the back of the church for the month of November. They are available for donations to be made for all those who would like to have their loved ones remembered and will be placed on the altar at every Mass during the month of November. As a reminder, please **do not** book Masses using the Holy Souls envelopes, as they will not be processed. If you have lost someone in this past year known to the Parish, you are warmly invited to attend one of the Masses being held on Monday 2nd November (All Souls Day) to commemorate the faithfully departed. Masses will be 10.30am and 7.30pm.

REQUIEM MASSES: All are welcome to the upcoming Requiem Masses – please see the Mass Times and Intentions schedule on the last page of the newsletter.

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP: A missionary from Bethlehem (in the Holy Land) will visit us once again on the weekend of 14th - 15th November to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families there. Any help you could give to them will be greatly appreciated. *Thank you.*

YOUNG ADULTS MASS: Following the popularity of the Young Adult Masses in London, SCYS is delighted to introduce a monthly Young Adult Mass in Kent for those aged 18-35, taking place on the third Sunday of each month. On Sunday 15th November, Fr Stephen Trafford will be celebrating Mass at Sacred Heart Church, 63 West Street, Sittingbourne, ME10 1AN - beginning at 6pm and followed by a social gathering. If you are between the ages 18 and 35, please join us if you can for the first event of its kind and to support our vibrant young adult community of St Francis Parish.

INTERNATIONAL & YOUTH MASSES: For the Feast of Christ the King, on Saturday 21st November we will be holding our annual Youth Mass and International Mass at St Francis Church. All are of course welcome to attend the celebrations.

BAPTISM PREPARATION CLASS: Please join Canon John in the Church on Thursday 5th November at 7pm if you wish to prepare your child for baptism.

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT MEETING: If you are interested in supporting musical accompaniment/singing at 6pm Sunday Mass, please meet with the priests after 6pm Mass on Sunday 22nd November.

CHRISTMAS BAKE AND CRAFT SALE: Please support this event which will be taking place on Sunday November 22nd around all the morning Masses in the church porch. Many cakes and small craft items will be available. Raffle tickets will also be available at all Masses for a few weeks from next week until the draw for a hamper and lots of other wonderful prizes on Sunday 22nd November. Funds will go towards activities for our Fledglings and Flame Youth Groups.

ADVENT WREATHS: Orders for these were very popular to aid prayer, and orders are being taken now and will only be available to those who have pre-ordered. The wreaths cost £7 each and can be ordered either by placing your name and money in an envelope and handing it to a musician at 10am or 11.45am Mass or to a member of the clergy by Monday 23rd November. Wreaths will be made and ready for collection at the weekend of 28/29th November. *Many thanks.*

CHRISTMAS FOOD AND GIFT DONATIONS: Last year, St Francis parishioners were extremely generous in donating food and gifts to the parish Christmas appeal. This made a real difference. Please, if you are able, donate a gift for a child or adult, preferably unwrapped and new. Collections of gifts will be taken until Sunday 13th December. Also, we will be making up Christmas hampers for families, and donations may be brought to the musicians at Mass on the weekends of the 5th/6th and 12th/13th December. Any time before that, they may be dropped at the presbytery during office hours. Please, no mince pies, as we get a bulk donation for free! Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Finally, if anyone would like to help out by donating a turkey, a chicken or other meat joint or even fish, then it would be much appreciated. These will be cooked for the homeless and struggling families. Please let one of the musicians know if you would like to help in this way to arrange delivery/collection.

CONFESSIONS: Friday 11.00am – 11.45am
Saturday 10.45am – 11.30am
ADORATION: Every Friday 9.15am – 10.15am and 11.00am – 7.00pm

COLLECTION:

First Collection last week (cash)		£ 1,705.06
Second Collection last Sunday	Philippines. Orphaned Children.	£ 587.40
Second Collection this Sunday	No Second Collection	
Second collection next Sunday	Archbishop's Appeal	

Parish Lottery Winner **Week:** 18 **Number:** 79 **Prize:** £25

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 1st November *All Saints Day*	6.00pm (Sat)	Maurice Bell RIP
	8.30am	Paul Askew RIP
	9.00am (PH)	Terrence Shepherd RIP
	10.00am	Terry & Kevin Ruaux RIP
	11.45am	People of the Parish
	6.00pm	Private Intention
Monday 2nd November *All Souls Day*	10.30am	Kevin Ruaux RIP
	7.30pm	Maureen & John Diver RIP
Tuesday 3rd November *Saint Winefride*	10.30am	Fr John Whebble RIP
Wednesday 4th November *Saint Charles Borromeo*	10.30am	Phillip Patrick RIP
Thursday 5th November	10.30am	Peter & Moira McCaffrey RIP
	11.00am	*Gospel Prayer Group in Grove House.*
	2.00pm	*Requiem Mass of Elizabeth Adams*
	7.00pm	*Baptism Preparation Class in Church.*
Friday 6th November	10.30am	*Requiem Mass of Dominic Reynolds*
Saturday 7th November *Dedication of St. George Cathedral*	10.00am	In Reparation for Abortions in Brewer Street
Sunday 8th November	6.00pm (Sat)	Geoffrey Marchant RIP
	8.30am	People of the Parish
	9.00am (PH)	Marianne Esther Corfe RIP
	10.00am	Lenny Wilmshurst RIP
	11.45am	Luis & Rosario D'Silva RIP
	6.00pm	Deceased Knights of St Columba {Maidstone}

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

Elizabeth Adams, Dominic Reynolds

Bishop John Butt, Anne Edwards, Frank Titley, Desmond Casey, Ellen Spice, Charles Miles, Gladys Cashonan, Michael Mulrooney, Jessie Farnham, Geoffrey Marchant, Sheila Hemsley, Mary Mackell, Victor Ingram, Carmine Bascioli, Letitia Edwards, Esther Baines, Francisca Juanes La-Torre, Pamela Holdsworth, Anna Galeotalanza, Isaac Davies, Mary Snashall, Richard Jones, Patricia Garrett, Sheila Green, Anna Mullen, Andrew Cloughton, Richard Monroe, Joseph Fitzgerald, Catherine Fitzgerald, Bridget Egan, Kathleen O'Driscoll, James Atkinson, Moira McCaffrey, Emily O'Connor, Ann Cales, Francis Hugo, David Muller, Harry Sutcliffe, Ian Parlett, Andrew Akehurst