

**Welcome to our weekly newsletter. We hope you enjoy your time at St James' and we look forward to seeing you again next week.**

Thank you for your offerings last week of £1,465. Mass attendance 665.	
<b>6th October</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Twenty-Seventh Sunday</b> <b>6pm Frank Donelan RIP (Donelan Family)</b>
<b>Sunday 7th October</b>	<b>9.15am People of the Parish</b> <b>11am Terence Quinlan RIP (E Quinlan)</b>
<b>Monday 8th October</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Mary Casartelli</b>
<b>Tuesday 9th October</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Bridget &amp; Paul Wiggins</b>
<b>Wednesday 10th October</b> <b>(Please note change of time)</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>10am Requiem Mass for Maureen Clark</b>
<b>Thursday 11th October</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Josephine &amp; Seamus McMorro</b>
<b>Friday 12th October</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Thanks to the Holy Spirit</b>
<b>13th October</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Twenty-Eighth Sunday</b> <b>6pm Derek Williams RIP (K Salter)</b> <b>9.15am Michael Ingrams RIP (Howell Family)</b>
<b>Sunday 14th October</b>	<b>11am People of the Parish</b>

**Confessions** are heard on Saturday, 5.00-5.45pm, or by appointment.

**Morning Prayer** takes place Monday – Friday at 9.10am. All are welcome to attend.

**Pondering the Word** (*Lectio Divina*) - A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays 11am-12 noon, except for Bank Holidays, here in the Church. All are welcome.

**Rosary** – Every day after Mass there is rosary. All are welcome.

**Second Collection**  
This week's second collection is for CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day.

## Fr David writes...

Life teaches us that things can go terribly wrong. People do make mistakes. We do fail in our commitments. Infidelities do happen. Hurt does appear on the agenda. Spouses do become victims and oppressors. Endless silences do happen. Marriages do collapse. We don't start off wanting all this negativity to happen. We commence most likely being enthused by the relationship. We truly believe that this partnership would make us happy. We dream of walking hand in hand into the sunset of life. We do hope for a happy and meaningful life together. And for some, this dream does happen. This year in our parish alone, we have been blessed to celebrate three of our couples' 50 years of marriage, two couples celebrating their Ruby anniversary and another couple celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup>. What a blessing for them and us as a parish! And they are surely a testimony that long lived marriages do happen, and people do work hard to keep their marriage going. However, there are other marriages which for one reason or another do not work out the way the couple hopes for. This brings a lot of heartache, not only for the couple involved but it effects the whole family system.

Recently a friend of mine disclosed to me that after thirty years of marriage, her husband confessed to her that he does not love her any longer and he needs time to understand what he needs to do next. Not surprisingly this news has had devastating consequences on the mental health of my friend. She confesses that she did not see it coming. So she is going through her own grappling with difficult questions. Was it her fault? Was she not enough for him? When did it go really wrong? Was she in denial? All these questions only help to exacerbate her self-loathing. Instead of feeling angry at him for inflicting such pain on her, she is trying to find fault in herself. Every relationship is different. Some relationships are worth fighting for. Other relationships especially if there is domestic abuse of any sort, one needs to find the inner strength to end them for their own sake and for the sake of their children. For whatever reason the relationship ends, it always leaves the individual, especially if he or she is the victim, feeling ashamed.

In society nowadays, separation and divorce are much more accepted. Not so long ago, it was a taboo and something to look down on. In the context of the Church, the question of divorce is still very controversial today. Pope Francis, although still championing the concept of marriage as being for life, he knows that we, the Church cannot put our heads in the sand in thinking that all marriages should work out nicely. Through his exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, he is trying to look at the pastoral implications of divorced people within our church. In what way, can we still be welcoming and inclusive. On the other hand, as we know, there are elements in the Church inclined to take a much more rigorous attitude towards divorced people and they base their argument and reasoning on today's gospel.

Some Pharisees ask Jesus if it is against the law for a man to divorce his wife. The question of divorce was among the most divisive issues in Jewish Society. The book of Deuteronomy stipulated that a husband could divorce his wife for impropriety. Interpretations of exactly what constituted impropriety varied greatly, ranging from adultery to accidentally burning the evening meal. Further, the wife was regarded under the law as the husband's chattel, with neither a legal right to protection nor recourse to seeking a divorce on her own. The husband could divorce the wife for almost any reason, and the woman was treated as little better than property. Divorce was easily granted among the male Jews in Jesus' time. In today's gospel, Jesus cites the Genesis account of creation of man and woman to emphasise that husband and wife are equal partners in the covenant of marriage. As an authoritative teacher of the Torah himself, Jesus cites Genesis in making an absolute prohibition of divorce, something allowed by the law. In a world where marriage was taken lightly because divorce was managed easily, Jesus calls everyone to go to the beginning to uncover the original plan of God. It's a call to return to the roots of marriage. This is not to punish the people with idealism, but to invite them to live in loyalty to God's original call.

In any case this prohibition was and remains extreme. We can see evidence that the early Church considered this extreme because Matthew's gospel which uses Mark as its source, already amends the prohibition and makes an exception for divorce in cases of unlawful marriage. Paul also, writing before the gospel was written, was aware of Jesus' radical teaching on divorce. Paul basically says that if a Christian has an unbelieving spouse who separates, the Christian person is not bound. Today the Church refers to this as the Pauline privilege and it applies for RCIA and other cases. As adult Christians we need to approach our faith with a certain maturity. Rather than accept at face value each and every saying in the Bible, or even each and every saying of Jesus, we discern the meaning of the text in a community of faith. That is what Pope Francis is trying to tell us in *Amoris Laetitia*. Today as we recommit ourselves to celebrate and support Christian Marriage for life, let us also be pastorally sensitive to those who were not so blessed in their marriages and who need us as Church more than ever in their plight to support them and welcome them.

**“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries** – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 9th October – 5pm to 7pm.

### **St James’ Parish Pastoral Council (The PPC)**

Our PPC was formally inducted in February 2016 following a number of months of information sharing and a process to recruit interested parishioners as its first members. The role of the PPC is to discern, and aim to meet, the needs of our parish and we work together within a framework of ‘Pillars’ to do this. Since 2016, the PPC has been evolving, and some of our initial members completed their time of service and moved on toward other roles and responsibilities.

**So, we now have the opportunity to invite new members to join us, and we need leaders for the Liturgy, Evangelisation and Communication Pillars.** If you have the ability to lead, and maintain the momentum in, one of these Pillars, and could participate constructively with the shared responsibilities of the PPC, then we would like to hear from you.

Initially, please send an expression of interest by email to [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org). Please say which Pillar you would like to lead and briefly describe the skills and experience you could offer to support this. Please keep to 200 words, or less, at this stage and reply no later than 30th October.

A process, in line with the PPC’s constitution, would follow.

Thank you for your interest.

*Nigel – Chair of Parish Pastoral Council*

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

#### **First Holy Communion 2019**

If you would like your child to take part in our parish programme for First Holy Communion, please send an email to the Parish Office with all relevant details, child’s name, date of birth, school, names of parents, address and contact details. Candidates must be in Year 3 or above. All preparation classes are held on Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.45 and will run from January to June. Dates for First Holy Communion are 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018. You can [download a registration form](#) from the parish website if you wish.

#### **Confirmation 2019**

Calling all year Nine and above students who wish to be confirmed next year. There is a “Come and See” meeting on Monday 5th November at 7.30pm in the Church. This meeting is for candidates and their parents. At the end of the meeting, packs will be distributed ready for enrolment onto the programme which starts with a kick off day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 11.30am to 6pm followed by Mass. If you intend to come to the meeting on the 5th November, please let the parish office know by phone or email: [parish.office@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:parish.office@stjamespettswood.org).

For your information the first two Confirmation preparation sessions are Monday 3rd December and Monday 10th December, all sessions run from 7.00- 8.30. Complete list of dates will be available in the booklet you receive at the ‘Come and See’ meeting.

We look forward to meeting you all.

*The Catechists*

**RCIA – Journey in Faith begins again with a Welcome session on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2018 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.**

It is for Adults 18 plus who may be:

Searching for meaning in their lives and want to explore spirituality.

Wanting to know more about the person of Jesus and Christianity.

Feeling the need to belong to a Community of Faith.

Exploring the possibility of becoming a Catholic.

Journey in Faith is also for those who are already Catholics but feel the need to deepen their faith.

And for those who are already Christian but wish to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join the journey with us or just come along. Application forms are located at the back of the church, please take one and return to the parish office.

### **“Broken” BBC TV Series – watch and discuss the series together in the Community Hall**

You have heard Fr David preach on it ..... It has won multiple awards including BAFTA and Sandford St Martin ..... This 6 episode TV series (rated 15 because of mature themes) raised serious issues about living the Eucharist in daily life. As part of the focus on Adoremus, we will be showing one episode in each of the following Sunday evenings in the Community Hall. (**7<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> October (then 2 weeks gap), 4<sup>th</sup> November, 11<sup>th</sup> November, and 18<sup>th</sup> November**). Door opens at 7pm for 7:10pm prompt start. After watching the episode, there will be time for sharing and discussion with the evening finishing around 9pm. Please come and join us.

### **Eucharistic Congress – Liverpool - Resources**

Many of the very good talks from the Eucharistic Congress are now available on the internet. They can be accessed via a link in the parish home page (purple button - Adoremus) or [http://www.stjamespettswood.org/crbst\\_1436.html](http://www.stjamespettswood.org/crbst_1436.html)

Amongst these good resources, our recommendations to you are:

- For people who want a really stimulating talk –Bishop Barron is on top form in: Sainthood, Sanctity and What makes us Holy (Saturday afternoon)
- For people who want a fresh take on the Mass – try Bishop Barron excellent talk on the Mystery of the Mass (Saturday morning)
- For catechists, teachers and parents: Sr Margaret Atkins talk on Teaching the Eucharist contains much food for thought – literally. (Friday)

## **Liturgy Pillar**

### **Children’s Liturgy**

Please note Children's Liturgy will NOT be on when there is a Church Parade Mass. There will be no Liturgy on 14th October, 11th November and 9 December as we do not have enough leaders. If you would like to lead or help please contact Hannah via e-mail [childrens.liturgy@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:childrens.liturgy@stjamespettswood.org)

### **St Francis Of Assisi Feast Day**

Blessing of the pets this Sunday 7th October at 2pm in the parish gardens.

**Eucharist Adoration** - takes place for an hour **each Wednesday shortly after the morning Mass starting at 10.45 am and finishing at 11.45 am**. This Devotion to the Eucharist is a time of silent prayer and quiet music. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

**First Friday of Month** - Eucharist Adoration also takes place on the **1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month from 7.30 pm – 9pm**, the next will be on the 2nd November and concludes with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

## **Pastoral Pillar**

### **Remembering our deceased loved ones throughout November.**

There will be an opportunity to remember deceased family and friends at all Masses throughout November. In preparation, from the weekend of 6th / 7th October sheets of paper will be available in the Church porch if you would like your loved ones to be remembered. Please place their names in the box provided and then the names will be put in a basket and placed on the altar.

**Memorial Mass to be held at 3pm on Sunday 4th November.**

For all those who have lost a family member or loved one in the last year, a special Mass will be held in the Church and all Parishioners are most welcome to attend. After the homily, we will read out the names of those parishioners who have died this past year and whose funerals took place at St James'. If you have lost a loved one in the last 12 months whose funeral took place elsewhere and you would like their name to be read out please let the Parish Office know by Thursday the 1st November in order that it may be added to the list. As each individual name is read out a family member or friend will be invited to bring up a candle with the name of their loved one on it and place it by the statue of the angel in their memory. At the end of Mass you are invited to take the candle home. In addition, those who wish to have other deceased loved ones remembered will also be invited to bring up a candle if they so wish. The Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Community Centre when members of our Pastoral Care Team will be present should you feel the need to talk to someone.

### **Memory Café**

If you're away on holiday or simply having a day out would you mind taking a moment or two to send a postcard from wherever you are to our memory café here at St James'!

It's amazing how photos trigger memories of holidays and trips for our guests! If we can get more from the UK and abroad, that would be amazing.

Our address is: St James the Great Memory Café, St James The Great Church, C/O Parish Office, 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY. Thank You.

### **Helplines and Counselling Services.**

As part of our care for the community a list of helplines and counselling services has now been added to the Parish website and also, placed in the porch. The purpose of this is to give contact details of various organisations which can provide help in difficult times thereby enabling people to seek privately the information and support they may need.

### **Social Pillar**

#### **Christmas Fayre Volunteers Meeting.**

There will be a meeting on Thursday 11th October at 8pm in the Social Centre. Please come along and share your ideas of what you want the Fayre to look like. If you have previously run a stall or have an idea for a new one now is your chance to get involved. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

*Mary O'Mahony*

#### **New Year's Eve Party Volunteers Meeting.**

Do you have an idea about this night? Should it be themed? What about music? Food? Drink 😊

Come along on Thursday 18th October at 8pm in the Social Centre and help make this a successful parish event.

Looking forward to ideas that will help relaunch this event.

*Mary O'Mahony*

#### **Parent and Toddler Group**

Could we please remind parents that the St James' Parent and Toddler group has reopened on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3.00pm, £2.50 per family.

#### **Film Club**

Our next screening will be on Saturday 20 October at 7.30pm. We will be showing "Woman in Gold" which is based on a true story. It stars Helen Mirren as Maria Altmann, a Jewish refugee living in Los Angeles, who together with her lawyer fought the government of Austria for almost a decade to reclaim Gustav Klimt's painting of her aunt, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, which was stolen from her relatives by the Nazis in Vienna just prior to World War 2. She took her legal battle all the way to the USA Supreme Court, which ruled on the case in 2004.

Running time 1 hour 49 minutes. [A sign-up sheet is in the porch.](#)

### **Communication Pillar**

### **Web Streaming at St James'**

Fr David would like to invite you to a meeting on Monday 22nd October, 8pm in the community centre to discuss the parish web streaming. All parishioners welcome.

### **Justice & Peace**

#### **Foodbank needs**

This week's update from the organisers lists the following needs: **rice pudding, custard, long life fruit juice, cold meat, men's and women's deodorant, washing up liquid and washing powder.** Thank you for your continued support.

#### **Manna Centre**

With Winter fast approaching, the challenges of homelessness at this time of year put additional pressure on the resources of the Manna Centre. As a parish we have been generously supporting this worthy cause through 6-monthly collections over a number of years. Our last collection for this year will be the weekend of 20/21 October and items that are particularly needed include:

***Towels for showers***

***Sleeping bags***

***Blankets***

***Toilet rolls***

***Kitchen rolls***

***Toiletries including disposable razors,*** Deodorants, Shaving Foam, Shampoo, Disposable razors and soap

***Warm men's clothing including hats, socks and gloves, and trainers***

Take a look at the display at the back of the church for more information about the Manna Society and its work, or contact Nick Babb from the Justice & Peace Group ([nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org)).

### **Polite Reminders**

The Parish disabled parking spaces are for Blue Badge holders only.

Parking – Please be aware of our neighbours in the surrounding roads, please do not block driveways or double park your car.

Please refrain from eating and drinking in the church.

### **Seeing a Chaplain if You Are Admitted to Hospital**

- **Protecting personal information** (data protection) is really important when you become an inpatient in hospital.
- **So please specifically ask hospital staff to pass on your details** to the hospital's Roman Catholic chaplain as soon as you are admitted if you would like a Chaplain to visit you.
- **Fr David would always be very happy** to visit you too, so please ask a relative or friend to let him know about your admission. You, or they, can email Fr David on: [father.david@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org), or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

**Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping***

**13th October 2018**

**Cleaning the Church** S Lams, L Monsah, D Generowicz, K Salter

**10th October  
Wednesday Coffee**

M Howell, S Barradell

**14th October 2018**

<b>Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 6pm (Vigil)</b>	<b>Sunday 9.15am</b>	<b>Sunday 11am</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	K Drabowicz	A&L Delamain	Uniformed Groups
<b>Readers</b>	P Dabrowski J Wedderspoon	H Denham A Coughlan	Parade Mass
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	C Cosgrave P Cosgrave T Babb B Babb R Wright	A Ward D Hairs B Cotta W David B D'Arcy	T Willard R Del Guercio Z Bajorek T Troy A Bunnage
<b>Bar</b>			A Barradell M Horner
<b>Coffee</b>		G&D Brookes	S Ingle A Huntington
<b>Altar Servers</b>	N Cracknell R&F Norman-Brown P Marshall	Z Cotta	F Ikenye D Fernandes V Marcolina

**Tellers**

M Shea, T Wrafter, K Evans