

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 £1,427. Mass attendance 622.

8th September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Third Sunday 6pm Golden Wedding Anniversary of Angela & Ian Murray (Murray Family)
Sunday 9th September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)
Monday 10th September	Feria 9.30am Dr Margaret E Ledger
Tuesday 11th September	Feria 9.30am Seamus O'Mahony RIP (Justice & Peace Group)
Wednesday 12th September	Feria 9.30am Godfrey & Gaynor Whitley 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 13th September	Saint John Chrysostom 9.30am Bailey & Ethan Parker (Ann Parker)
Friday 14th September	The Exaltation of The Holy Cross 9.30am Thanksgiving (Denham Family)
15th September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Fourth Sunday 6pm Patrick Meehan RIP (Meehan Family)
Sunday 16th September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Michael Feeney RIP (Feeney Family)

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 the Catholic Education Services.

The Catholic Education Service acts on behalf of the Bishops Conference and is the chief negotiating and advisory body with the Government on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education and schooling.

Next week's second collection is for Home Mission. The Home Mission provides the Bishops with resources to support the spread of the Gospel in our own country.

Fr David writes...

I was honoured to be asked to attend a session on *Safeguarding* at St James' School this week. One of the questions the facilitator asked us to discuss was "who do you think are the most vulnerable children". One of the teachers answered, "those children who are hard of hearing and speech". The answer felt so right. Children without the ability to shout for help when they are being abused, emotionally, physically, sexually or neglected, are the most vulnerable. They have no way of expressing themselves for protection. The senses of hearing and speech, like most things are taken for granted. Without them, we feel disconnected from the world around us and from the people that inhabit our world. As part of my Practicum in Counselling, I had a client who was hard of hearing and speech. Unfortunately, I do not know sign language, and so in our sessions, we always had an interpreter with us to help us communicate with one another. The Client never could be in private with me. She had to disclose her innermost feelings and secrets always with some else in the room. The sessions gave me a glimpse of her world. Actually, it was a real privilege. I was privy to her feelings of being disconnected from others – her feelings of being ignored most of the time in the conversation around others. Her feelings of insecurity within her relationship with her boyfriend, stemming always from feeling that she is not being understood and him being insensitive towards her.

My experience with her helped me to enter a culture which was not my own. People who are hard of hearing and speech have definitely their own distinctive culture. Figuratively speaking, we can either block ourselves from hearing and speaking out or made to be voiceless by others in our lives even though we do hear and speak. In an abusive relationship for example, we are made to feel worthless and that we need the abuser for our own survival. That is why sometimes, an abused person finds it very difficult to leave their abuser and collude with him or her. Within themselves, they do not believe that they do deserve something better. Moreover, some are made to believe that it is their own fault that they are being abused. A bully makes you feel weak and voiceless. It is amazing on the other hand, to see people who for so long experienced feelings of inadequacy and lack of self-confidence and then see them flourish because they feel empowered to be themselves through counselling for example or because they had found someone who truly loves them for who they are. It is such a gift to experience this growth and transformation.

In today's gospel, Jesus comes face to face with a deaf man who has a speech impediment. The man is doubly afflicted. He is a Gentile, hence regarded by the orthodox Jews as unclean, and is also physically disabled. Jesus takes him aside away from the crowd, and cures his deafness and speech impediment. The Aramaic word *Ephphatha* literally means 'Be Opened'. Jesus does not want us to remain disempowered, locked up within ourselves. Jesus wants us to take our rightful position in the community. There is no one in Jesus' eyes that need to remain hidden. Jesus comes to liberate us from all that is hindering us to live fully. Maybe our own shame sometimes encloses us in our self-made cells. Not allowing us to breathe and dream. Sometimes it is other people who wants us to remain hidden and locked up because of their own insecurities. They would feel threatened by our free spirited selves.

As you have heard last week, Pope Francis was accused of being part of a system of covering up the sexual abuse scandal of the American Cardinal McCarrick. The archbishop who accused him publicly was asking him to resign from being Pope. I was personally shocked to hear this but unfortunately not totally surprised. For years, I have been following the rift that has been happening between those who admired Pope Francis for his ability to open us up to the Spirit of God and those who wanted us to remain locked up in our deafness and without having any voice. Pope Francis threatened the status quo of certain elements in the church. They cannot see Pope Francis as a breath of fresh air. Empowering us to become adult Christians. Exercising our own discernment processes.

Ephphatha! Be Opened – Jesus is telling us through his model of theology. Throughout the gospel, Jesus calls us to be open to the possibilities for transformation through selfless love, for re-creation that

is enabled by humble generosity. Jesus opens not only the man's ears but also his entire person to life in the community. *Ephphatha* is the prayer of every disciple that we may be opened from our fears, our arrogance, our self-centredness, that make us deaf to God speaking in our midst and mute in responding to the crises of our sisters and brothers in our midst. I would like to continue today to pray for all the victims of sexual abuse especially those abused by church members, for the Eucharistic Congress this weekend in Liverpool and also for the intentions of our beloved Pope Francis. I invite you to join me in praying for these intentions.

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 11th September – 5pm to 7pm.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Jaden Mensah and his parents Daniel and Elaine.

Liturgy Pillar

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 **1st Friday of each month from 7.30 pm – 9pm,** the next will be on the 7th September and concludes with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastoral Pillar

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.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank needs

The organisers have asked us to say a big thank you to everyone who helped support the Foodbank during the summer holidays, when a lot more food left their warehouse for the distribution centres in the form of school meals packs. It was a very busy time for them and stock dwindled, but they didn't have to buy anything in. They are now very short of: **tinned cold meat, custard, rice pudding, cooking sauces and long life fruit juice.** Also needed are **all types of men's toiletries, ladies' deodorants, washing powder, washing up liquid and nappies size 4 upwards.** Thank you for your continued support.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day 2018

Harvest Fast Day is on Friday 5th October and the Justice and Peace group would like to invite you to a briefing by CAFOD on Sunday 16th September at 2.30-4.30pm in the Community Centre. Coming to our briefing is a wonderful opportunity to meet other CAFOD supporters and to learn more about CAFOD's work. The briefing this harvest will give you an insight into the focus community in Uganda. We will discover how CAFOD's partners are saving lives by providing access to clean drinking water, thanks to the generous support that parishes like ours give each Family Fast Day. To book a place or to find out more information, please contact Nick Babb nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org

Social Pillar

Dad and Me

The next meeting of Dad and Me will be held at the community centre on Saturday 15th September at 10am – 11.30am.

Film Club

Thank you to all those who attended the Film Night on 1 September. Your generous response raised an amazing £140! As was highlighted at the screening, how we best manage donations henceforth will be considered in consultation with the Justice & Peace Group & the Parish Council. While we still wish to support vital causes within the local community, it is also necessary to balance this with addressing pressing needs within our Parish.

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.](#)

Reminder: Film Club dates for the remainder of the year are Saturday 17 November & Saturday 15 December.

Evangelisation Pillar

Diocesan Day for Catechists – Saturday 22nd September.

On behalf of the Archbishop, we would like to invite all catechists and children's liturgists to attend the annual diocesan day for Catechists at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. If you are interested in attending please contact the parish office.

RCIA – Journey in Faith begins again with a Welcome session on Sunday 21st 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.

Youth Alpha and Alpha for adults: Alpha is a chance to explore the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith in an informal, welcoming environment. Holy Innocents' Orpington is running a youth Alpha course (for 13 to 19 year olds) on Sundays (7.30-9.15 pm) starting Sunday 30 September and an adult Alpha course on Fridays (12.30-2.30 pm repeated 7.30-9.30 pm) starting Friday 28 September. Everyone, of whatever faith background, is welcome. For more details, contact Stephen Walsh (07778 612050) or visit holynnocentsorpington.org.

Youth Pillar

Save the Date: CYM Careers Fair – 9th February 2019

Following the success of our first CYM Careers Fair in April this year, we are planning to hold a second careers event on **Saturday 9th February 2019 from 11.30-2.30pm** at St James the Great Church, Petts Wood. Come and take part in 'mock interviews', receive one-to-one careers advice from industry professionals, find out about the range of opportunities relating to modern day apprenticeships, peer ministry and GAP year opportunities and receive practical tips to help craft the perfect CV.

Volunteers needed! We are extremely grateful to all the parishioners, from a wide range of industries and professions, who kindly volunteered their time in April to advise and share their considerable experience with our young people. Looking ahead, we would love to hear from interested parishioners with key experience and core skills to share who would like to be involved in our second Careers Fair; please email: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org to find out more and to register your interest.

Thank you.

Polite Reminders

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

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, or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.
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Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

15th September 2018

Cleaning the Church

Uniformed Group/Catholic Women's League

**12th September
Wednesday Coffee**

S Barradell, B D'Arcy

16th September 2018

Mass

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9.15am

Sunday 11am

Welcomers

M Gallagher

A Delamain
L Delamain

M Cooper
K Edwards

Readers

J Bajorek
M O'Mahony

P Lowe
R Lim

D Ducat
M Ingledew

**Ministers of Holy
Communion**

J Bajorek
H Rothon
M Cahill
C Cahill

M Howell
B Cotta
W David
T Forde

T Troy
N Longhurst
T Willard
R Mwansa

	R Wright	A Ward	K Chan
Bar			F Simon B Fleeman
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	C D'Arcy T Lowe
Altar Servers	N Cracknell R&F Norman-Brown P Marshall		Zoe Emily F Ikenye
Tellers	L Lynch, M Ardron		