

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 £1,374. Mass attendance 696.

9th February (Saturday Vigil)	Fifth Sunday 6pm Neil Meehan RIP (Meehan Family)
Sunday 10th February	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)
Monday 11th February	Feria 9.30am Geraldine Chacon (J&P)
Tuesday 12th February	Feria 9.30am Wilbur & Betty Wright RIP (R&E Wright)
Wednesday 13th February	Feria 9.30am Jean Rawlings RIP (Foundation Mass) 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 14th February	Saint Cyril, Monk and Methodius 9.30am Ken Craen RIP (J Craen)
Friday 15th February	Feria 9.30am Teresa Adams RIP (J Keen)
16th February (Saturday Vigil)	Sixth Sunday 6pm Maria Carletti RIP (D Suzzara)
Sunday 17th February	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Maureen Clark RIP (J Clark)

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 – Until further notice the rosary prayer will be said every Thursday after Mass.

Fr David writes...

Leonard Cohen, the legendary Canadian poet and singer, who died in 2016, apart from his beautiful song Halleluiah, is also known for a set of powerful lyrics from his song "Anthem" off the 1992 album *The Future*. The album is full of references to traumatic historical events including Hiroshima and the Second World War. Its message of hope in darkness is particularly striking to us today. "Ring the bells that still can ring, forget your perfect offering, there is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in". When we look around us in the world today, we can find it difficult to envisage a ray of hope. The big phenomenon of people escaping their own countries for political and economic reasons. Political leaders that only seem to envisage the solution of the current political and social situation in self-preservation by closing borders. The fear and anxiety created by terrorism. We wonder sometimes when is it all going to ever end! Sometimes I wonder whether we have resigned ourselves to the fact that it is our generation's destiny. On a personal level we are acutely aware that our life is not perfect. We are all wounded in one way or another. This realisation can either lead us to despair and feeling a sense of hopelessness or else it can liberate us when we become aware that we do not need to be perfect anyway.

Henri Nouwen, the great Dutch Spiritual writer in his book "The Wounded Healer" laments that most Christian Leaders are not prepared to be spiritual leaders for hurting people. He says that "our service will not be perceived as authentic unless it comes from a heart wounded by the suffering about which we speak". Simply put, wounded healers offer their hurts to help others receive comfort and encouragement. Being a wounded healer starts with a deepening self-awareness of our own personal struggles and receiving empathy from God and other people that we need. Being filled with love we can overflow with love to others so that they know that they are not alone. I believe that this is what Cohen is also saying when he sings "there is a crack, a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in". Somehow in seeing ourselves and the world around in this perspective, the wounds or the cracks become indispensable for new life.

The same story is told in the Gospel today. Peter and his companions are professional fishermen and do their work at night when the fish come to the surface. They have worked hard at the right time but have caught nothing. Now the expert fishermen are being told by a carpenter/rabbi to put out during the day. Peter must have struggled with this suggestion. However, he allowed himself to trust beyond understanding and risked being led by Jesus. He obeys the word of Jesus, and the word of Jesus comes home to him when they do indeed catch a giant shoal of fish. Peter recognises the hand of God in what has happened and at the same time realises his own sinfulness. And his pastoral advice to Jesus was to go away and not be bothered with the likes of him. Jesus does not take Peter's advice to put distance between himself and sinners. Jesus travels into people's lives, not away from them. He entertains sinners, he enters their homes, meets their families, eats at their table, listens to their stories, and calls them to a new way of life. Throughout his life, Jesus is never far from sinners. Jesus not only doesn't distance himself from Peter, he wants him to share that mission with him. In order to do this he calls Peter away from his fixation with his own sinfulness and preoccupation with himself. Peter has acknowledged his own unworthiness.

That is the beginning of his and everyone's path for genuine spiritual growth. Self-awareness is the foundation of every healthy human being. "Know thyself" advises Socrates. Knowing ourselves with all that gives us life and also with all that is truly dark in us. The acknowledgement of our wounds instead of making us resort to self-loathing which leads us nowhere, we can allow God's grace and love to penetrate through our souls. The light can penetrate through the cracks. Not only in getting to know ourselves as beloved of God as we are, warts and all, but also to allow ourselves to reach out to others in love. Helping them to feel that they are not alone. Jesus moves the conversation on and invites Peter to see himself as a leader who, because he is in touch with his own unworthiness, will bring other people closer to God. Jesus draws out the worth in Peter and challenges him to do the same by becoming a fisher of people.

Can Peter draw out the best in people? There is a marvellous teaching here. Jesus doesn't write us off because we are sinners, Jesus sees beyond the sin. Jesus sees the worth of the person. The good news in today's Gospel is that sometimes we look at our own personal struggles with sin and we can feel guilty or, even worse, ashamed of who we are. Some of us experience self-loathing because we do not feel worthy of God's love. The good news is that God loves us as we are. God wants us to be happy. In experiencing God's love for us personally can be the moment of true conversion. It also is the way for true self-acceptance, gaining of inner peace and happiness.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 19th February 2019 between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

Second Collection –This week’s second collection is for the Maintenance Fund.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Charlie Harrington and his parents Geoff and Louise, also Keela Marcovich and her parents Thomas and Sarah.

The Parish Pastoral Council

PPC Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the PPC to cover the position of Secretary and the Communication Pillar lead, any Parishioner interested should contact the Parish Office via email.

Safeguarding at St James’

We invite all groups to attend a safeguarding session which is being held in the Community Centre on 3rd April from 7.15pm to 10.00pm, led by Helen Sheppard, the Diocesan safeguarding Co-ordinator.

A Message from Zosia Bajorek

A diagnosis of dementia can be life-changing for individuals and their families at any age, but every year 42,000 people are diagnosed with dementia between the ages of 30 and 65, known as young onset dementia. These individuals may still be working, have a mortgage and have a young family themselves and so the impact of dementia can be even greater. YoungDementia UK is a charity to help support these individuals, families and carers going through this difficult time. To help support YoungDementia UK on the 17th March I am running the Reading Half Marathon to raise money for this wonderful charity - a cause very close to my heart. If anyone is willing to donate, please read my story here:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pageId=1010901> and know that your donation will make a difference to the lives of many.

Evangelisation Pillar

Eucharistic Ministers

On Monday 4th March at 8pm in the church there will be a meeting for all existing Eucharistic Ministers and anyone interested in becoming a Eucharistic minister.

Confirmation 2019

Confirmation Parents' Evening Reminder

A reminder of the Confirmation Parents' evening **coming Monday 11th February 2019 7:30pm** in the Community Hall. The meeting is for the parents only (not confirmandii) with the catechists and Fr David. If you are not able to attend, please contact the parish office.

First Holy Communion 2019

The Fifth preparation session is on Saturday 2nd March from 4.30pm to 5.45pm.

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord. Your time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God. Takes place for an hour **each Wednesday** shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.45am.

First Friday of the Month. A time of silent meditation in an evocative atmosphere created by soft background music and candles. From 7.30pm till 9.00pm. The **next will be this Friday 1st March. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.**

Pilgrimage/Cultural tour to Oberammergau & Salzburg – 25th May to 30th May 2020

We are organising a pilgrimage/ culture tour to Oberammergau for May 2020. This is the famous Passion play that is performed every 10 years. We need to establish the level of interest and potential numbers so please contact the parish office if you are interested.

WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER - Sunday 10th March to Saturday 16th March 2019

Please **take an Invitation** from the lobby and reflect whether you should make the time to accept this invitation to the Week.

To secure a place please complete the application form (back page of the Invitation) and either place it in the box provided in the entrance to your church or get it to the parish office. The application form is also available online at tinyurl.com/PettsWoodWAP.

This Week of Accompanied Prayer is for both newcomers to the experience, and previous participants. So if you attended our Week in 2013 or 2016 you are very welcome to come again.

Please note that you have two more weeks to return completed application forms (closing date is 24 Feb).

If you have any questions, do feel free to contact [Chris or Doreen Hairs](#).

Social Pillar

Dad and Me

The next Dad and Me will be on Saturday 16th February, 10am to 11.30am

Quiz Night 23rd February 8 pm

The Catholic Women's League will be holding their Annual Quiz Night on Saturday 23rd February at 8pm in St James' Community Centre. Doors open at 7.30. Drinks available from the bar. There will be a raffle. Tickets are £7 and include light refreshments. Profits from the evening will be donated to charity. In the past we have made donations to CAFOD, the Alzheimer' society, the Icare Day Centre Trust, St James' development fund, St James' Dementia Café and CWL national charities which include Relief and Refugee, Social Welfare and the Services Committee.

Make up your own table or join with others on the night to make a team. To book please phone 020 8467 3697.

Parent and Toddler Group

The St James' parent and toddler group has reopened on Friday afternoons between 1.30pm-3.00pm. £2.50 per family.

Film Club

Our next film will be shown this Saturday, 9 February in the Community Centre. This will be the highly acclaimed Shadowlands, a 1993 British biographical drama. It focuses on the relationship between C.S. Lewis & American poet, Joy Davidman, her death from cancer, & how this challenged Lewis's Christian faith. It stars Anthony Hopkins & Debra Winger & won a BAFTA Award for Best British Film & another for Best Actor in a Leading Role.

The film runs for 2 hours, 11 minutes & will start promptly at 7.30pm. The bar will be open beforehand & as always, a warm welcome awaits. We do hope you can make it!

Liturgy Pillar

Children's Liturgy

Please note that when there is a Church Parade Mass (10th February 10th March and 14th April) there will not be Children's Liturgy.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank – new list

The Project Manager's message this week shows a few changes in the requirements:

UHT milk and fruit juices, squash, vegetarian food (tinned or dried – macaroni cheese, ratatouille, vegetable curry, etc.), cooking sauces, custard, jam, chocolate spread, peanut butter, washing-up liquid, and razors. Finally, thank you very much, but we are **fully stocked with pasta, cereal and soup**.

Pastoral Pillar

St James The Great 'Memory Café'

Here at St James' we run a Dementia Café on the first two Tuesdays of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm in the Community Centre. This is a time for guests with dementia and their carers to come for refreshments and a chat in a comfortable and safe environment and if they wish, join in with activities such as quizzes, games and music. If you would like to know more, please contact:

pastoral.care@stjamespettswood.org

or telephone the Parish Office: 01689 827100. **We look forward to welcoming you.**

Helplines and Counselling Services.

A list of helplines and counselling services is available on our website, and in the church porch, for anyone who might need this.

Youth Pillar

Flame 3 – 2nd March 2019: Don't miss out, book your tickets now!!

We're excited to announce that the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK is returning to London's Wembley Arena, as CYMFED organise Flame 2019. Many exciting speakers have already been announced and the day is expected to be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our shared faith on a grand scale. The theme for this event is '#Significance' and you can find out all about the programme for this event by visiting CYMFED's website: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame2019/>. CYM Bromley Deanery will be taking a group to Flame this year and we will be travelling by coach. We still have some tickets left at the discounted price of £20, so if you are aged 14 – 29yrs and would like an amazing day, bring some friends and come along – tickets are selling fast so don't miss out! To reserve your tickets and to find out more, email: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org or contact your parish office.

Finance Pillar

Fundraising by shopping online

Several parishioners over the last few years have helped the parish by raising donations through **easyfundraising.org.uk**. Recently we reached the milestone of £3,000, for which we thank everyone who has made purchases that way. Over 3,400 retailers including Amazon, eBay, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Booking.com, tour operators, now make donations on every purchase (from 0.5% to 5% of cost). The top supporter parishioner has raised £388 (all transactions are completely anonymous), so why not embrace the idea and help St James'? To get started, follow the item on the left menu bar of the parish website. Once you've registered, you have the option to install an automatic donation reminder in your browser to make sure no purchase misses its reward.

Any questions, please contact roger.wright@stjamespettswood.org. Thank you.

Pilgrimages within the Diocese

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Visiting Lourdes, Lisieux, Paris, Nevers, Rocamadour and Montligeon by luxury coach from 25th May to 2nd June for £789 including all excursions.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From 3rd September to 11th September for £1,259 including all excursions.

Pilgrimage to Poland

From 10th October to 17th October including all excursions for £897.

For further information call Mrs Mozzi on 02084720843 or 07859027301

Polite Reminders

Parking

- The Parish disabled parking spaces are for Blue Badge holders only.
- Please be aware of our neighbours in the surrounding roads, please do not block driveways or double-park your car.

In Church

Please refrain from eating and drinking while you are in 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.

Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

Weekend 16th February

Cleaning the Church

Altar Servers / Readers

Wednesday Coffee
20th February

Sheila Barradell, Madeleine Howell

17th February 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Gallagher	A Delamain L Delamain	G Whitley M Ingledew
Readers	K Salter	H Denham	R Del Guercio

	K Lams	A Coughlan	D Ducat
Ministers of Holy Communion	C Wakefield J Callinan P Driscoll C Cosgrave P Cosgrave	A Delamain D Hairs B Cotta W David T Forde	K Evans A Evans P May S Ingle R Del Guercio
Bar			M Smith N Longhurst
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	T troy J Cosgrave
Altar Servers			
Tellers	P Cosgrave, P Dabrowski		