

**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 £1,381. Second Collection £765. Mass attendance 766.

<b>9th March</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>First Sunday of Lent</b> <b>6pm Deceased Members of the Fenner Family</b>
<b>Sunday 10th March</b>	<b>9.15am People of the Parish</b> <b>11am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)</b>
<b>Monday 11th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Sheila Stenning (H&amp;T Forde)</b>
<b>Tuesday 12th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Fr Barry Hughes</b>
<b>Wednesday 13th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Michael Feeney RIP (Feeney Family)</b> <b>10.45am Eucharist Adoration</b>
<b>Thursday 14th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Mary &amp; Frank O'Leary RIP (Jamieson Family)</b>
<b>Friday 15th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Brian McKay (The Catenians of St James')</b>
<b>16th March</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <b>6pm Lara Novaes Cremonesi RIP (D Suzzara)</b>
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	<b>9.15am Clare Hanelman</b> <b>11am People of the Parish</b> <b>6pm Stations of the Cross</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.

**There will be no Pondering the Word on Monday 11th March on account of the Week of Accompanied Prayer.**

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

## Second Collection

This week's second collection is for the parish maintenance fund. Next week's second collection is for CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day (which is Friday 15th March).

### Fr David writes...

One of my spiritual heroes is Thomas Merton. Since reading his autobiographical book *The Seven Storey Mountain*, in my twenties, I got hooked. Thomas Merton was a spiritual seeker and he pushed the boundaries of Christianity by exploring the connection between Christianity and Buddhism especially Zen Buddhism. He was an American Trappist monk, writer, theologian, mystic, poet, social activist and scholar of comparative religion. One of his main themes was our ability as human beings to construct of the false self and our search to live out our lives out of our true self. For him, every one of us is shadowed by an illusory person – a false self. For him my false self is the one who wants to exist outside the reach of God's love, outside of reality and outside of life. And such a self cannot help but be an illusion. As human beings, we are not very good in recognising illusions, least of all the ones we cherish most about ourselves, the ones we are born and raised with. We construct this false self from childhood in order to be accepted and loved. The problem sometimes is that we live our whole lives out of our false self. We ground our identity on what we think we will get recognition in life. However we know sometimes that we are not what we have constructed. To be a saint according to Thomas Merton is to be my true self. Therefore the problem of sanctity and salvation is in fact the problem of finding out who I truly am and of discovering my true self, my essence or core. Trees and animals have no problem. God makes them what they are without consulting them and they are perfectly satisfied. With us it is different. We can be ourselves or not, as we please. We are at liberty to be real or to be unreal. We may be true or false, the choice is ours. We may wear now one mask and now another. Thomas Merton says – "if we have chosen the way of falsity, we must not be surprised that truth eludes us when we finally come to need it and that confusion reigns".

If Jesus was, as Christians believe, both fully human and fully God, he too had to battle with the false self. He too must have been tempted by false ways of being and excessive attachments to his personal style. In his humanity, his identity in God's love could not have been obvious from the first moments of consciousness as an infant. He had to find himself and in doing so must have been tempted by many false ways of living his life. We know this to be true because of today's Luke's narrative of Jesus' temptations in the desert. After forty days of fasting, Jesus would have been famished. The first attempted seduction of the tempter was to turn stones into bread – a temptation of power. But Jesus said no to the invitation to establish his identity on the basis of his doing, particularly doing something which was not under the submission to the authority of God. Then the tempter invited him to throw himself from the top of the temple into the crowds below, so they would immediately recognise him as a Messiah. Again Jesus rejected this temptation too. He chose not to base his identity on prestige. And in so doing he took a further step to anchor his identity in the Father, not in what people thought of him. Finally the tempter offered him all the kingdoms of the world. But once again Jesus rejected the offer, refusing to find his identity in possessions. He knew himself in terms of poverty of spirit and the loving will of the Father. He knew therefore that power was a poor substitute for this.

Jesus knew who he was in God. He could therefore resist temptations to live out of a false centre based on power, prestige or possessions. By resisting these false ways of being, Jesus was moving towards an identity grounded in his relationship with his Father. An identity in which his calling became obvious as he came to understand who he really was. At the very beginning of the period of Lent, the Church provides us with this beautiful allegory. In the aridity of the desert, we come in touch with our own basic wound. I believe we all have our own vulnerabilities. The more vulnerable we are, the more we are tempted in that area of our lives which is the most basic. In life we do construct masks in order to survive. And yet if we are honest with ourselves, once we realise that we are living out of illusions, the false self, we lose even respect towards ourselves. We are always frightened of being caught out. During this time of Lent this year, let us take time out. Let us make more time to reflect on our own lives. Are we living lives out of our false self or out of our true self? What are the areas in which you are tempted in? Do you feel that you have no control over temptations? Take more time to pray for God's gift to help you live out of your true self. Let us try to participate in the different events which are being offered to us in our parish. Let this Lent this year be a different one. God bless you on this pilgrimage of 40 days.

**“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries** – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 12th March between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

### **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 7.15-10.00pm, led by Helen Sheppard, the Diocesan safeguarding Co-ordinator.

### **Lenten Programme**

#### **Readers, Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers**

These vital ministries are especially important during this season. If you are able to minister during the Holy Week Masses and special services, please sign your names on the sheets in the porch.

#### **Sunday 10th March**

Week of Accompanied Prayer Launch at URC Church on Willetts Way at 2.30pm followed by Stations of the Cross at 6pm here at St James’

#### **Stations of the Cross**

Every Sunday in Lent at 4pm.

#### **Tuesday 19th March**

Film – Pope Francis: A man of his word at 8pm in the Community Centre

#### **Tuesday 2nd April**

Lenten Reconciliation service at 8pm

#### **Tuesday 9th April**

Reflection on Henri Nouwen: The Mystic by Michael Ford at 8pm in the Community Centre.

#### **Tuesday 16th April**

Film – Mary Magdalene at 8pm in the Community Centre.

### **Finance Pillar**

#### **200 Club**

Firstly, thank you so much for joining the 200 Club which has proved to be a great success in the past year with over £7000 being raised for Church funds.

The new year starts on 1st April with the first draw taking place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. As many of you paid by cheque last year and assuming you wish to continue paying this way, I shall be grateful if you will send a cheque for £60 payable to St James’ 200 Club for the attention of Ken Evans at the Parish Office – 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood. BR5 1AY.

If, however you wish to pay by standing order at £5 per month (payable on the 1st of the month) please [email Ken](#). I do hope you will continue to support this excellent fund-raising initiative and thank you again for your generous support.

### **Youth Pillar**

#### **Youth Group**

The next youth group will be on Saturday 16th March from 12pm to 2.30pm.

### **Evangelisation Pillar**

#### **Week of Accompanied Prayer -WAP**

## Sunday 10th March to Saturday 16th March 2019

For all registered participants. You will be welcomed at the Opening Session TODAY (Sunday), 2.30 to 3.30pm at Christ Church URC. There all will pray together, you will meet your prayer Companion and receive some suggestions for your first prayer time.

**REMINDER:** For all meetings during the week (Monday to Friday) with Prayer Companions, please come at your agreed time to the Welcoming Area, which will be in the lobby of St James' church.

### For all parishioners.

The church will be open each day from 7.30am to 9.00pm for personal prayer.

Welcomers are still needed. Please sign up in the Lobby.

Any offerings of cookies/cakes for the Welcoming Area during the Week will be much appreciated.

And of course, please continue to pray for the week.

### First Holy Communion 2019

The seventh preparation session is on Saturday 16th March from 4.30pm to 5.45pm.

### Confirmation 2019

The seventh preparation session is on Monday 11th March from 7pm to 8.30pm

**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 and on the

first Friday of the month from 7.30pm till 9.00pm. **The next will be this Friday 5th April. 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.

## Social Pillar

Our next parish event is imminent-the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt. This will take place on Easter Sunday, 21st April, after the 9.15 mass.

If you would like to be involved in this there is a meeting in the community centre at 8.00 on Tuesday 26th March. If you cannot attend this meeting but want to be involved or have ideas to contribute please contact me on [mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org)

**The St James' Social Club** is responsible for the running and licensing of the bar in the Community Centre. The AGM will be held on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12:30 pm after the 11:00 am Mass in the Community Centre. The items on the agenda will be as follows:

- 1 Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 April 2018
- 2 Election of the Committee for 2019/2020
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Any other business.

All are welcome to attend.

### 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.

**Toddler group will not be open on the 15th March.**

## Liturgy Pillar

### **Children's Liturgy**

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

### **Easter Choir**

After the success of the music at Christmas, we are asking for parishioners to come and join the choir to sing at the Easter services this year. We will be rehearsing every Thursday until Easter, starting on February 28th at 7:30-9pm in the church, and then every Thursday until the Triduum.

### **Welcomers Meeting**

On Monday 1st April at 7.30pm in the church there will be a meeting for all Welcomers. and anyone interested in becoming a welcomer.

## **Pastoral Pillar**

### **Bereavement Retreat, Aylesford Priory, 22-24 March**

A Time for Mourning: A Retreat / Workshop for those suffering from the pain of loss will be held from 22 - 24 March at Aylesford Priory. This workshop aims to offer a time for quiet, prayer, talking & acceptance. It will be led by Elizabeth Partridge & Fr Francis Kensley. For more information contact Elizabeth Partridge on 01303 670880 or email: [mfbereavement@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mfbereavement@rcaos.org.uk). Flyers/booking forms are in the porch.

### **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. If you would like to know more, please contact:

[pastoral.care@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:pastoral.care@stjamespettswood.org)

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

**Due to a Parish event there will be no Memory Cafe on Tuesday the 12th of March. It will resume as usual on Tuesday the 2nd of April. Thank 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.

## **Justice & Peace**

### **Foodbank current needs**

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**

### **Message from Bethany**

Hi,  
I'm Bethany Towell. Many of you will know me from 3<sup>rd</sup> Petts Wood Scouts and Explorers. I am participating in a **World Challenge Humanitarian & Conservation Aid Expedition to Costa Rica** this July. In order to participate I have to raise approximately £5,000 to cover travel, kit, vaccinations, insurance etc. I have already raised £4,100 but I still have a way to go!  
Help me reach my target by joining me in a **Family Beetle Drive** evening at St James' Church Hall on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April** after 6pm Mass. This should be a fun evening for all the family. Save the date and more details will be advertised in the Briefly very soon.  
Many thanks for your support.  
Bethany Towell

## **A Message from Zosia Bajorek**

To help support Young Dementia UK on the 17th March Zosia raising money for this wonderful charity. If anyone is willing to donate, please read my story here: <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?pagelid=1010901> . Or donate on the sponsorship sheet at the back of the church.

### All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra perform

Stabat Mater - Schubert

Mass in G - Schubert

Saturday 23 March 2019 at 7.30pm

The Parish Church of All Saints, Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD

Bookings & enquiries 01689 823857

[www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk)

### 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, pavements 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](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org), or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

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

#### Weekend 16th March

##### Cleaning the Church

A Haylock, A Crosland, G MacManus, K Evans, F Raingard

#### Wednesday Coffee 20th March

M Mulvey, M Howell

#### 17th March 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
<b>Welcomers</b>	A Neal	D&C Hairs	L McDonald S May
<b>Readers</b>	I Stewart P Dabrowski	A Coughlan P Lowe	D Ducat M Ingledew
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	R Wright H Rotheron M Cahill C Cahill	T Blythe A Delamain D Hairs B Cotta	A Bunnage P Murray V Terry N Longhurst

	C Wakefield	W David	R Mwansa
<b>Bar</b>			P Cosgrave R Monaghan
<b>Coffee</b>		L Lynch S Barradell	T Troy J Cosgrave
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Mario Peter		
<b>Tellers</b>	L Lynch, M Ardron		