

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 £1,453. Mass attendance 823.

10th November (Saturday Vigil) Sunday 11th November	Thirty-Second Sunday 6pm Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle) 9.15am People of the Parish 11am Michael Ingrams RIP (Benson Family)
Monday 12th November	Saint Josaphat 9.30am Maureen Clark RIP (Howell Family)
Tuesday 13th November	Feria 9.30am Michel Faulle RIP (C Fayand)
Wednesday 14th November	Feria 9.30am Thanksgiving – Alston Antao (K Antao & Family) 10.45 Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 15th November	Feria 9.30am David Kelly RIP (M Kelly)
Friday 16th November	Feria 9.30am Aljo Pullan, Chris Pullan & Anthappan Pullan RIP (N Roy)
17th November (Saturday Vigil) Sunday 18th November	Thirty-Third Sunday 6pm Joseph & Mary Lowg & Family (K Self) 9.15am People of the Parish 11am Pauline Barker RIP (A&P Lane)

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 Archbishop's Administration Fund. Next week's second collection is for the Maintenance Fund.

Fr David writes...

It is ok to take good care of ourselves. By wearing the appropriate clothes is a kind of self-respect. The manner in which we present ourselves to the world is essential. The image that we want to project ourselves gives expression to our own unique personality. One of the ways that we love ourselves is through the image that we project to others. There is a certain dress code in order to go to a job interview for example. There is another way of dress code when we are relaxed with friends. I think common sense does come into the picture here. However sometimes common sense is not common at all. The REAL problem is created when the IMAGE becomes the most important element in our lives. We start believing that only designer clothes for example give us a sense of self-acceptance. When we start buying always from the "right" supermarkets in order to be seen. When we just love to rub shoulders with the powerful, the movers and the shakers. The type of person who loves to be seen is a well-known character in literature and life in general. When we start feeling a sense of entitlement – we start living in a very exclusive world – we start looking down at people who are not coming from our own class system. We don't even feel that we can socialise with them. We feel that we are superior to others. Sometimes this attitude stems from deep feelings of inferiority. It is called inverted snobbery.

How beautiful it is to meet someone who can feel at ease with people from different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds. When someone values not the bank account or the position in society of the individual but the richness of the character. There is something so enriching when we meet people who lack pretence and meet you where you are at. It is so refreshing to meet genuinely nice people without any hint of airs.

From today's gospel we realise that even in Jesus' time these people were readily spotted and existed. Human nature seems not to have changed much. Jesus is especially critical of this character type. Who also happens to be a religious leader, who swallow the property of widows. They pray for show, and enjoy the privileges that come with the office. Their condemnation will be severe according to Jesus. In many respects Jesus' critique of the religious authorities is echoed nowadays by Pope Francis' critique of clericalism – us priests, bishops and Cardinals. However even though maybe you are not part of any religious authority, the critique can apply to you to. How are we using our positions in authority? Our roles at work? In the organisations we are part of? Do we feel a sense of entitlement and superiority? In the second vignette in today's gospel, Jesus criticises the rich, who give large sums of money to make a show and to attract the attention to their giving. Even though their gifts were large, and undoubtedly made a difference, these people gave from their excess. It was pocket change and not milk money.

The scene is set in the Temple area. Around the walls of the court of women there were thirteen collecting boxes, known from their shape as trumpets. They were set up for people's contributions towards the costs of the sacrifices and running expenses of the temple. Many rich people put in large sums of money – some no doubt, trumpeting the size of their collection. However a poor widow put in two of the smallest coins in circulation. In the arithmetic of the kingdom the widow's offering is worth more than all the other contributions. Whereas the others give from their surplus, she gives milk money. For Jesus it seems that true generosity is measured not by what people give but by what they have left after they give. The poor widow leaves herself with nothing. She cannot give more, for she has nothing more to give. In Jesus' estimation she is a mighty widow. This action reminds me of what Saint Mother Theresa used to say – "Love until it hurts". This widow in giving everything, had to live in faith in the providence of God towards her. She must have been a truly free person inside. This type of lifestyle is not for the faint hearted. Normally we calculate whether we and our families are comfortable before we decide to give. It is a natural way of behaviour.

Jesus hopes that his disciples will take up the cue from that example of real piety, not from the scribes hungry for status and honour. He hopes that we as his followers would be equally generous with our own resources. Those resources are not always measured in money. We are invited to give of our time, our talents and gifts, our understanding. We are asked to give not only just from our abundance but from our substance. That kind of giving always hurts because we feel all spent after it. Like the widow we might feel that we have nothing else to give. Somehow Jesus is inviting us to live by this paradox. That there is life and freedom in loving until it hurts. Everyday demands are made on us. You as parents, grandparents, managers and colleagues. We surely need to take good care of ourselves first but let us pray to God to give us the ability not to be scared in giving of ourselves, of our love, our forgiveness, our patience, our resources. Let us not always count the cost. Because, as St Francis of Assisi states - it is in giving that we

receive, it is when we pardon that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born in eternal life. Do we believe this statement?

Thank You from Fr Barry

Fr Barry would like to thank everyone for the theatre vouchers he received from the parish for his birthday. He's looking forward to a trip to the theatre with his twin brother.

The Missionary sisters of St Peter Claver will be here to sell their Mission calendar at all Masses this weekend. Having a Mission Calendar at home is a good way to remind ourselves throughout the year of our baptismal commitment to spread the Gospel to all people. Please support the Sisters in their work.

The Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place **on Monday 19th November at 7.30pm** in the Community Centre. You may raise any relevant issue using the PPC mailbox which is ppc@stjamespettswood.org or place a note in the suggestion box in the church porch.

Volunteers Are Needed to Help Prepare Christmas Lunch with Fr David on Tuesday 25th December!

Would you like to help organise, prepare, cook and share, Christmas lunch for Fr David and his parish guests in the Community Centre this year? And maybe plan a Christmas game (charades, bingo?) and a film to watch after lunch too – not forgetting to allow time for the Queen's speech! If you have ideas and would like to help, please email the Parish Office: parish.office@stjamespettswood.org.

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be on Tuesday 13th November – 5pm to 7pm.

St James' School Open Day

St James' School will be holding an open morning for prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2019 (children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015) on **Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 9.15am**.

Booking is not necessary. The Head Teacher will give a short speech, there will be a tour of the school and Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) will be handed out. The whole event will last approximately one hour. This is essentially an information morning for parents - children may attend if necessary, but be mindful that our children will be working in school. Please don't worry if you cannot attend the open morning - our **Supplementary Information Form for the September 2019 intake will be available to download from our website from the 21st November**. Any questions regarding school admissions please contact the school office on 020 8467 8167 and NOT the Parish Office.

Evangelisation Pillar

"Broken" BBC TV Series – here in the Community Centre

Our next episode is **on Sundays 11th November, and 18th November**. The door opens at 7pm for 7:10pm prompt start, followed by a discussion and finishing around 9pm. Please come and join us.

SS Joseph & Swithun Parish – Bromley Advent Reflection on Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home

Come and join the Advent events and reflect on how we can find new ways forward together to care for our common home and our finite resources in our homes, our parish, our world. These two Advent sessions will prepare us to be in tune with our World away from the commercial rush of Christmas.

- Wednesday 28th November 7.30pm-9.30pm Church Hall – Simple Supper and Global Healing Film.
- Wednesday 5th December 7.30pm – 9.30pm Church Hall – Sharing Session and Reflection on

Social Pillar

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is rapidly approaching and there are many ways for you to get involved.

You can:

- Take home some raffle tickets (these are on sale at the back of the church from this weekend onwards)
- Look at the sign-up list (also at the back of the church) and see where you can help.
- Bring some cakes to sell on the day.
- Bring some food to sell. The more varied the dishes the more exciting the culinary experience!
- Help on a stall.
- Create (with friends) a stall to show off your country's crafts, decorations, biscuits!!
- Donate a bottle for the bottle tombola.
- Donate a brand new, possibly an unwanted gift, for the children's raffle.
- Children and the young at heart wear a Christmas jumper.
- Finally, come along and enjoy the fair on Sunday 9th Dec after both masses.

Please contact me if you need any further advice/ help.

Mary O'Mahony

mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org

Dad and Me

The next meeting of Dad and Me will be held at the community centre on Saturday 17th November at 10am – 11.30am.

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 Film Night will be at **7.30pm on Saturday 17 November** in the Community Centre. We will be showing Mike Leigh's Academy & BAFTA award winning Film "Topsy Turvy". This is described as a "witty & entertaining dramatisation of the famous partnership between lyricist William Gilbert & composer Arthur Sullivan. With a wealth of authentic Victorian detail, this account of the lives of the musical duo concentrates on the good-natured antagonism between the two creative geniuses, focusing on the turning point on their road to fame & riches - the production of 'The Mikado'. "A sign-up sheet is in the porch. We look forward to seeing you!

Liturgy Pillar

Music Workshop

We invite all music lovers to our next music workshop which is being held in the Community Centre on **26th January 2019 from 10.00pm – 2.00pm** led by Meg Shepherd. Please put this in your diaries now!

Annual Day of Recollection

Bishop Pat Lynch invites all Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word to the Annual Day of Recollection on Saturday 17th November at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Bell Trees Grove, SW16 2HY. Registration will be from 10.30am. The day will conclude with Mass at 3.00pm celebrated by Bishop Pat. During the day Fr Saju will talk on the theme of Journey in St Luke's Gospel. Please contact the parish office to book your place.

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 today 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

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 7.30am till 9.00pm. the next will be on Friday the 7th December. **All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.**

Pastoral Pillar

November: Remembering in A Special Way Our Deceased Loved Ones

If you would like your deceased loved ones to be remembered during November, please place their names in the box provided and we will keep them on the altar for the whole of the month.

A Memorial Mass for Deceased Clergy will take place on Tuesday 13th November at 11.30am at St Edmund's in Beckenham. All are welcome.

The Annual Cemetery Mass will take place at St Mary's, Crown Lane, Chislehurst, at 12 Noon on 24th November 2018, followed by the Blessing of Graves

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

St James' Youth Group

The next Junior Youth Group will be held on Saturday 17th November in the Community centre from Noon to 2pm. £1.50 per session - which includes lunch.

Faith in Action Award Ceremony – 10th November 2018

As part of the Faith in Action Award in Bromley Deanery for 2018, the following young people will be receiving their awards from Archbishop Peter Smith in recognition and celebration of their achievements and service to those in need in their parishes, schools and communities: Mark, Ciarán, Gabriel, Louis, Nancy, Olivia, Grace, Olivia, Eve, Katie-Linh, Lydia, Mia, Theodora, Michelle, Maya, David, Holly, George, Eva, Biodun and Tristan. All the candidates have demonstrated amazing commitment and enthusiasm over the last year and as we come together to celebrate our youth as a deanery community, we ask that you keep them in your prayers. For more information about the Faith in Action Award please contact: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org.

Christ the King Youth Day (24.11.18 at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley)

Are you in school years 7 and above? If so, you are warmly invited to **Christ the King Youth Day at St Joseph's Church, Bromley on Saturday 24th November 2018 from 2pm until 6pm.** Preparations are underway for a day packed with fun, music, art and reflection led by the **Catholic Youth Ministry Team** and will be followed by a Youth Mass at 6pm. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day. **If you would like to get involved with the musical activities, please make sure to bring your instruments with you on the day.** So tell your friends and invite them along to enjoy a fantastic, youth-led celebration for the Feast of Christ the King. We look forward to seeing you there! (Suggested voluntary contribution £2).

Advent and Christmas

Children's Choir, Christmas Day 9:15 Mass.

Calling all kids year 2 and up to help sing for the Christmas 9:15 Mass.

We need your voices to get into the Christmas Spirit!

There will be several practice sessions where we will sing through the songs. We are singing songs which will be familiar to the Children.

To make this as convenient as possible, sessions are 10:20am - 10:50am (between the two Masses) in the side room of the Parish Hall. Parents could have a Coffee/Tea while we sing through the hymns.

Sessions:

10:20am - 10:50am Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th and 16th

Please come to as many of the sessions as you can. Ideally at least 2.

If you are interested, please give your names to youthchoir.stjames@gmail.com so we have an idea of numbers.

Christmas Choir

- **Our Advent service will be held on Sunday 16th December at 4pm and on Christmas Eve, we will start with carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass.**

We are inviting singers to join our Christmas choir which sings in four-part harmony. **Rehearsals** have started - and will be held every Thursday from 7.30 - 9pm i.e., November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and December 6, 13, (with possibly another rehearsal just before Christmas if needed). This is a lovely way to participate in our parish' festivities so if you enjoy singing, please come along.

Christmas Crib – Poinsettias Needed

If you would like to donate some poinsettias for the crib this Christmas, they would be gratefully received. Please drop them off at the Church on the weekend of 15th and 16th December.

Religious advent calendars, Christmas cards and the like are now on sale in the repository and from the stall in the church porch after all Sunday Masses.

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.

Justice & Peace

Greeting cards to Victims of Injustice

After all Masses next weekend there will be an opportunity for everyone to send a message of hope in a greeting card to a victim of injustice, from a selection made by the Justice & Peace Group. Here is a chance to show solidarity with someone to whom a simple greeting will be a great encouragement, a reminder that they are not forgotten. The cards will go all over the world, so a postage contribution of £1 would be appreciated.

Foodbank Christmas hampers

The organisers are now preparing for Christmas, and have sent a list of items they try to provide for those in need at this time. Ideally, they would like to receive these items by the first week in December, but earlier is fine. So if you can help by donating any of the following items, we should be very grateful: mince pies, various sized Christmas puddings, tinned salmon, pickles/chutneys, Christmas biscuits, Christmas cake/fruit cake, Christmas sweets/chocolates, biscuits for cheese, Christmas savoury assortments (crisps, pretzels, nuts, etc.), large tinned hams, any other Christmas items. £5 supermarket vouchers are also very useful additions to a hamper.

Global Healing

If you are on the CAFOD mailing list, you will probably receive information and a flyer about a film called "Global Healing". Anyone may watch this online, but parishioners can also borrow the J&P Group's DVD copy of the film free of charge. Better still, the Group will be organising an event next year featuring the film and offering the parish an opportunity to reflect on Our Common Home, as Pope Francis calls Earth in his encyclical *Laudato Si'*. As you can read elsewhere in Briefly, St Joseph's is holding two reflection evenings during Advent based on "Global Healing". Please contact roger.wright@stjamespettswood.org if you would like to borrow the film or get the online link.

Memorial Rose Garden

We have ten red rose bushes that have been planted in our memorial rose garden, if you would like to purchase one in memory of a loved one please complete the form at the back of the church, take the envelope supplied and post it through the parish office or pop it in the Mass Intention box. Roses cost £15. Thank you.

All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra perform

Mass in Bb - Hummel

Requiem - Faure

Saturday 24 November 2018 at 7.30pm

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

Bookings & enquiries 01689 823857

www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk

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, or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

Weekend 17-18th November 2018

Cleaning the Church

Eucharistic Ministers

Wednesday Coffee

S Barradell, M Howell, B D'Arcy

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	K Kirby	D&C Hairs	S Barradell S Kavanagh
Readers	K Salter K Lams	C Hairs H Denham	Z Bajorek R Del Guercio
Ministers of Holy Communion	T Babb B Babb R Wright J Bajorek P Cantopher	D Hairs W David S Cotta T Forde M Howell	S Ingle R Mwansa R Del Guercio Z Bajorek T Troy
Bar			F Simon B Fleeman
Coffee		G Brookes D Brookes	C D'Arcy T Lowe
Altar Servers	P Marshall R&F Norman-Brown Jude J MacFadyen	L Delamain A Lynch	D Fernandes

Tellers

A & S Barradell