

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 £1,361. Mass attendance 761.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day collection, including gift aid, amounted to £1,672.

13th October (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty Eighth Sunday 6pm Derek Williams RIP (K Salter)
Sunday 14th October	9.15am Michael Ingrams RIP (Howell Family) 11am People of the Parish
Monday 15th October	Saint Teresa of Jesus 9.30am Robert Feeney RIP (Feeney Family)
Tuesday 16th October	Feria 9.30am John Horner RIP (Horner Family)
Wednesday 17th October (Whole School Mass)	Saint Ignatius of Antioch 9.30am Thanks to St Jude 10.45 Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 18th October	Saint Luke 9.30am David Kelly RIP (M Kelly)
Friday 19th October	Feria 9.30am Margaret & Kenneth Jackson RIP (Jackson Family)
20th October (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty Ninth Sunday 6pm Roswitha & George Wood RIP (McCabe Family)
Sunday 21st October	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)

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.

Fr David writes...

Like me, I am sure, you would have met people whom you would have described as being a “good” person. What makes a person “good” in our eyes? Goodness we equate with generosity of heart. Someone who is usually unassuming and yet is ready to walk the extra mile in order to help others. In the context of Church, we might associate goodness with piety. A person who is always at church praying. However, good people are usually much more than pious people. They are people who are not interested in gossip, in judging others. They are people who avoid toxic people. Whose eyes radiate joy and peace. Good people are usually inclusive people. People feel welcomed by them. Good people normally do not know that they are good. They just are. They are people of integrity. Each one of us has our own interpretation of a “good person”. It varies according to the value system which we hold dear to us. Moreover real good people are still human beings, having to struggle with their own demons and shadow side. Maybe it is not so visible, but the reality is that each one of us does grapple with our Achilles heel. We are all wounded in some way. Each of us has our vulnerable point. And the vulnerable part of us usually defines where we hold on to for our security.

Our sense of security is intimately linked with our identity. Education builds us up. Empowers us. It also gives us a good foundation to feel secure within ourselves. So how is it that we meet sometimes educated people who seem to be so insecure within themselves? That they need to show off their degrees and academic achievements every time they have a chance. A secure person does not need to prove anything to anyone. Or else some people feel secure surrounded by the latest gadgets and wealth. If they do not possess the latest item on the market, they feel they are a failure or a nobody. If our security and identity is defined according to what we possess, then we become enslaved to possessions. The need can become an addiction. The emptiness is so massive that we are constantly looking out to fill it up with things. Somehow, we need to learn even from an early age, that our identity and security is not based on external things or people, but from being comfortable in our own skin. In befriending ourselves. We need to like ourselves. Self-loathing transforms itself into so many different false securities.

In today’s gospel, Mark paints a vivid scene of a rich man meeting Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. He is a good man. This man has sincerely tried to keep the Law all his life. Clearly though this observance is not enough. It is his dissatisfaction with mere observance that has led him to run to Jesus. Jesus tells him *“There is one thing you lack. Go and sell everything you own and give the money to the poor, and you will have a treasure in heaven, and then come and follow me”*. Wow this young man did not know what hit him then. He was not expecting that answer from Jesus. Jesus is asking him to risk everything. He is inviting him to experience a freedom which is the result of not depending for his security and identity on possessions. This is scary stuff. He is being encouraged to live a life depending not on things but on providence. The cost of discipleship is too much. He turns and goes away, sad and disappointed, to return to the wealth that holds him from being a disciple of Jesus. The sorrowful departure of the would be disciple that Jesus loved is one of the most touching scenes in the Gospel.

The story of Jesus’ encounter with the rich man and Jesus’ teaching on wealth are issued as a challenge to us today. We live in a society that measures success in terms of economic growth and security, a society which rewards the rich with more riches. There is nothing wrong in being comfortable in life. The danger lies that our own values can centre on power, profit and property even at the expense of others. Wealth can become a mini god for a person who identifies his own security on money. One can easily lose one’s moral compass. If our identity is locked into our possessions, who are we when our possessions are taken from us? We are afraid that if we have nothing, we are nothing.

Like the rich man in today’s gospel, attachment to our possessions can soon lead to us being possessed by our attachments. When this happens we are no longer free to accept the invitation of Jesus. Attachment to material goods can steal our freedom to choose. Jesus wants us to enjoy our inner independence, so that who we are is not dependent on what we have. Detachment from possessions frees his disciples to pay more attention towards others. I truly admire those people who can risk because of their great faith in God’s providence. Their inner freedom helps them to get out of their self-absorbed existence in order to engage in deeper priorities. Ultimately, once we put our focus on following Christ, everything seems to be into place. What are we called as individuals and as a family to listen to in this weekend’s gospel message? Can we risk a bit more to engage more to the truths of Jesus?

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 16th October – 5pm to 7pm.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Freddie & George Sargeant and their parents James and Felicity. Also Emily Blythe and her parents Jonathan & Theresa.

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. 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 PPC

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 8th and 15th June 2018.

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 10th 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.

For your information the first two Confirmation preparation sessions are Monday 3rd December and Monday 17th 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

Journey in Faith begins again. You are invited to a taster session - "come and see" - on Sunday 21st October 2018 from 2.00pm to 3.30pm.

Journey in Faith is for those who are searching for meaning in their lives and want to explore spirituality and wanting to know more about the person of Jesus and Christianity.

It is also for Catholics who feel the need to deepen and refresh their faith. And those exploring the possibility of becoming a Catholic and feeling the need to belong to a Community of Faith.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to come to the taster session on the 21st of October or just come along.

Celebrating the GOSPELS - Saturday 3rd November in the Community Hall

You are warmly invited to come to introductory talks on the Gospels. Brian Purfield, a biblical scholar and an excellent speaker from Mount Street Jesuit Centre will come to Petts Wood to help us appreciate

the joy and richness of the Gospels. Taking the feedback from last year, we have devised the day in two halves so more parishioners can come to either or both of the talks.

10:30 – 12:30 Gospel according to Luke (next liturgical year – Cycle C)

13:15 – 15:15 Gospel according to John (always fascinating)

Tea and Coffee will be provided, but bring a packed lunch if you are coming for the whole day.

“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. (**14th October (then a two week gap), 4th November, 11th November, and 18th 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)

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)

SS Joseph & Swithun’s 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 Global Healing Film.

Week of Accompanied Prayer 2019 - Opportunity to help make it happen

We are preparing another Week of Accompanied Prayer. It will be **Lent 2019 - 10th-16th March** (note in your diary?).

At its heart it is simple for participants. During the Week you spend 30 minutes a day in your own private prayer anywhere and then another 30 minutes a day, at a time of your choosing, with a Prayer Guide at St James'. A number of parishioners have already done it and found it very helpful.

But there is stuff to organise and **we need to bring together a team** to help arrange the details of the Week - eg publicity, welcoming, hospitality for the Guides, etc.

Please consider helping with this, and contact Chris or Doreen Hairs, either **by phone** (020 8467 0378), **by email** (chris.hairs@stjamespettswood.org or doreen.hairs@stjamespettswood.org), or **buttonhole them after Mass!**

Liturgy Pillar

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 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

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 2nd November, concluding 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.

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

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

Dad and Me

The next meeting of Dad and Me will be held at the community centre on Saturday 20th October at 10am – 11.30am.

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.

Youth Pillar

St James' Youth Group

The next Junior Youth Group will be held on Saturday 20th October in the Community centre from Noon to 2pm. £1.50 per session - which includes lunch.

Finance Pillar

Fundraising by shopping online

Several parishioners over the last few years have helped the parish by raising donations through **easyfundraising.org.uk**. A few days ago 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

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).

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*

20th October 2018

Cleaning the Church	O Clutton, M Mathews, R Blanco, R Mwansa, D Delf
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17th October Wednesday Coffee	M Howell, S Barradell
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21st October 2018

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	A Huntington	D Hairs C Hairs	S May M Cooper
Readers	C Kiely J Johnson	P Lowe R Lim	R Del Guercio D Ducat
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Gribben J Bajorek H Rothon M Cahill C Cahill	T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward D Hairs	V Terry N Longhurst T Willard R Mwansa P Murray
Bar			M Smith N Longhurst
Coffee		D Delf F Curran	C D'Arcy T Lowe

		E Aletta	
Altar Servers	R&F Norman-Brown P Marshall	Z Cotta	D Fernandes
Tellers	N Longhurst, P Cosgrave		