

Welcome to our weekly newsletter. We hope you enjoy your time at St James' and we look forward to seeing you again next week.

NOTES OF PPC MEETING AT THE END OF BRIEFLY

Thank you for your offerings last week of £1,421. Mass attendance 689.	
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)
Monday 18th February	Feria 9.30am Teresa Adams RIP (J Craen)
Tuesday 19th February	Feria 9.30am Faustino Efreem Suzzara RIP (D Suzzara)
Wednesday 20th February	Feria 9.30am Nonhle Mbuthuma (J&P Group) 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 21st February	Feria 9.30am Mary Brown RIP (Mary O'Mahony)
Friday 22nd February	The Chair of Saint Peter the Apostle 9.30am Patrick Kirwan RIP (R&E Wright)
23rd February (Saturday Vigil)	Seventh Sunday 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 24th February	9.15am Ellen & Victor Clark RIP (J Clark) 11am The Poulton Family (Monaghan 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.

Fr David writes...

Some months ago, I attended a meeting outside the parish in which I did not feel at ease. My whole being wanted to escape. I am sure you could also identify times when you felt out of place in a meeting. The dynamic turned into a very negative one. I could feel that a lot of my buttons were being pushed. At one point, I decided to psychologically retreat a bit and tried to analyse both what was happening in me and also what was happening within the meeting. It could have been easy to react impulsively on my part, however I decided to think before I acted which is not always easy to do. Once I deciphered what was happening, I had a choice. Either to collude with the others and join them in character assassination which was being played out or the other option was to remain silent and so look like accepting anyway the unhealthy dynamic. Or else, the other option which is never the easiest one which is to speak out and say as diplomatically as possible what I was feeling even though I knew that I would have been the only one there to do so. I decided to go for the latter. I spoke out and put my cards on the table. Moments like these I am learning either provide you with real friends or else enemies. Somehow the truth does threaten people. It demands courage and a strong sense of self in order to be able to do so. The options are either of collusion for the sake of conformity or that of confrontation which sometimes in certain circumstances for the sake of integrity needs to be done. In my younger days, I used to opt for silence and end up raging inside myself. Nowadays, I try to discern the situation and act accordingly. Wisdom, cultural learned behaviour, personality traits and age help or hinder us in moments like these. If we value acceptance by others far more than being true to ourselves, then we might decide to collude or remain silent.

Both Jeremiah in the first reading and Jesus in the gospel were definitely not trying to be popular. The first reading starts with a sharp statement, but also a disconcerting one: "Cursed is the one who trusts in human beings". There is already so much distrust in the world. We are already very suspicious and wary. The painful experience of betrayal, infidelity and intrigue, implemented by unsuspecting people and friends, leads us to say unfortunately that trust is good, not to trust is even better. Is Jeremiah perhaps inviting us to be more cautious, to be even more on guard? The prophet is telling us not to put our confidence in the values that are proposed by human beings. Jeremiah is inviting us to base our lives on God instead. Jeremiah was not a popular prophet. Jesus' words in today's gospel, the beginning of what is known as Luke's sermon on the plain (as distinct from Matthew's Sermon on the Mount), describe a world turned upside down. That at least, is how it must have seemed to the people who first heard them. Jesus pronounces a series of "beatitudes" followed by a contrasting set of "woes". Who are the blessed, the happy in this vision of God's kingdom. It is those who are poor, those who are hungry, those who weep, those who are despised and rejected by the world. In contrast, says Jesus "Alas" for the rich, for those who have their fill, for those who laugh, for those of whom the world speaks well.

The message must have sounded like balm for the poor and harsh for the rich amongst his hearers. However, it certainly would have been against the expectations of all those who heard it. But is Jesus describing a world turned upside down? Or is he depicting the way in which an upside down world is turned the right side up? This is an important theme in Luke. In Luke it is very clear that God's preferred option is for the poor and disadvantaged! Jesus' preaching was certainly about love, but it was about much more. Somebody preaching love is no threat to the establishment, no threat to the powerful. Somebody preaching love can easily be dismissed as a dreamer and best left alone. Today's gospel gives us some of Jesus' preaching that likely created enemies for him. His preaching favoured the poor, hungry, weeping and hated. Jesus definitely created enemies not of the poor but of the powerful. It is they who ultimately will put him to death.

Luke has something to say to us today. This message is not limited to the time of Jesus. Let us remember St Oscar Romero today. He was assassinated during Mass because he was the voice of the voiceless – of the poor. He became a threat for the landowners in El Salvador. It is for us too today. When we preach God's word, we don't always experience acceptance. Sometimes we experience rejection too, once we proclaim God's word. Where do we find ourselves? In the four beatitudes or the four woes? What is he trying to tell me, living in Petts Wood in 2019? Does my pursuit of wealth make me complacent to my relationship with God? Does it blind me from the needs of others who are less privileged than I am? Is my lifestyle based only on values of today's culture or am I ready to be counter-cultural in the choices that I make? Do we feel that Jesus is asking too much of us? Do we see him as an enemy or as a friend? Are we ready to stand up for the truth rather than being always accepted and popular? May God give us the wisdom and the courage to hear what he wants to say to us through the readings of this week.

“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.

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

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.

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?pagelId=1010901> and know that your donation will make a difference to the lives of many. Thank you.

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

The Sixth preparation session is on Monday 25th February from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

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.**

The World Day of Prayer (formerly the Women’s World Day of Prayer) 2019 service will be held on Friday 1 March at 2.00pm at Petts Wood Methodist Church, Queensway (the church almost opposite Morrisons’ supermarket).

The service this year has been written by the women of Slovenia (one of the smallest countries in Europe). The Slovenian women have chosen the theme "Come everything is ready!" At the heart of the service is an open invitation for all to come to God's table and we will hear the voices of some of those coming to the table, wives, mothers, and grandmothers. Women from our local churches will be taking part in this World Day of Prayer service and we look forward to seeing you on Friday 1 March at 2.00pm at Petts Wood Methodist Church, The Queensway, Petts Wood.

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.

Are you still considering participating the Week of Accompanied Prayer, giving 30 minutes each day to private prayer and then meeting your Prayer Companion for a further 30 minutes? See the leaflet in the lobby for more information. This is a great opportunity to enhance your prayer life during the Lenten season.

There is just one more week to submit your completed application form to participate in the Week. Please place completed forms in the box provided in the lobby or post it to the Parish Office. Or the application form can be submitted online at tinyurl.com/PettsWoodWAP.

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

Social Pillar

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 01689 827100.

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 Night

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Film Night last Saturday. Due to your wonderful generosity, we raised a magnificent £135 in donations for the homeless charity LATCH in Bromley. An amazing result!!

Our next film will be shown on Saturday, 9 March, at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. We will be seeing "The Theory of Everything", the story of the celebrated physicist Stephen Hawking and his relationship with Jane Wilde, the arts student he fell in love with while studying at Cambridge in the 1960s. Stephen was given just two years to live following the diagnosis of a fatal illness at 21 years of age, yet he went on to marry Jane, with whom he had three children. Despite the collapse of his body, his academic reputation soared, and he went on to be called the successor to Einstein. Eddie Redmayne plays the lead role, for which he won an OSCAR, a BAFTA and a Golden Globe for Best Actor in 2015.

For your diaries! Subsequent Film Nights so far arranged will be on Saturdays 13 April (we will be showing Florence Foster Jenkins), 11 May, 15 June, 13 July, 14 September, 19 October and 16 November.

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. Any parishioners are welcome to join us for these special services, but we do ask for commitment to the rehearsals as the music that we are singing is to enhance the liturgy over these special services. 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. We are really looking forward to seeing you there.

National Novena to St Joseph

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10-18 March 2019 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr Brian Oswald MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

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

Youth Group

The next youth group will be on Saturday 23rd February 12pm to 2.30pm.

An evening of Prayer, Worship and Adoration

at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, SE1 6HR. – **Matt Maher** an eight-time – Grammy nominee and international contemporary Christian music artist, songwriter, and worship leader. A career highlight for Matt was performing at World Youth Day in Rio in front of Pope Francis and a crowd of 3 million people.

Tickets cost £10 each, this is to cover costs payment is through PayPal. For large group bookings please contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service: scys@rcaos.org.uk

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.

Safeguarding Office Administrator

We are looking for an office administrator to join our Safeguarding team in SE1. This is a full time job (0900 – 1700 Monday to Friday) and is offered initially on a 12 month fixed term contract. The key areas of work are administration of the DBS Disclosure application process, maintenance of national and local databases, administrative support to the Safeguarding training programmes and assistance in delivery of training as necessary, maintaining and updating of policy documents, forms and procedures and taking notes at safeguarding meetings. The ideal candidate will have a strong commitment to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults and will preferably have experience of working in this area. Excellent IT and communication skills coupled with evidenced understanding of confidentiality are also essential.

Salary: £23,000pa - £25,000pa depending on skills and experience. If you would like to apply for this job please email your CV to sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk by 22nd February 2019.

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 23rd February			
Cleaning the Church	P Driscoll, J Rogerson, M Mitrovic (Tuesday team – 26th February)		
Wednesday Coffee 27th February			
M Mulvey, M Howell			
24th February 2019			
Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	I Finan	D&C Hairs	G Whitley M Ingledew
Readers	M O'Mahony K Salter	R Lim S Cotta	N D'Silva R Morrison
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Callinan H Rothern M Cahill C Cahill C Wakefield	D Hairs B Cotta T Forde M Howell S Cotta	V terry K Chan T Troy A Bunnage P Murray
Bar			A Barradell M Horner
Coffee		L Lynch S Barradell	M Harrington K Walsh
Altar Servers	Jude Abigail Mario Paulina Peter		Valentino
Tellers	P Cosgrave, P Dabrowski		

PPC Meeting 07/02/19 – Summary

The PPC held a meeting on Thursday 7th February here is a summary:

Parishioner Items

Could a white line be painted on the steps by the upper car park?

The PPC agreed that this was needed and will be done as soon as possible.

When the parish invite speakers on the Gospel along to provide insights to parishioners, could the Gospel in its entirety be covered rather than just sections.

This will be passed to the Evangelisation pillar for consideration

PPC items

The revamped Parish website is almost ready to be launched

Work on Fr David's house is almost completed, Fr David expressed his gratitude to Sofia, Austin, Suzanne and Dawn for all their work.

Lenten programmes are now being planned and will include the launch of a new book by Mike Forde on Henri Nouwen

The live streaming of services is progressing however the 9.15 mass will not be streamed.

Pillar Updates

All the pillars have been working hard on behalf of the parish and highlights include:

- The success of the Memory Café
- The upcoming Careers Fair – Saturday 9th February
- The redevelopment of the website – launching soon
- Projects being looked at this year by the Finance & Premises pillar are the revamp of the back of the church and the replacement of the church boiler.
- The Christmas Fayre and New Year's Eve party were both extremely well-attended and popular – thanks to all the volunteers for all their hard work – next up The Easter Egg Hunt
- The Christmas services were very successful
- Liturgy pillar welcomed a new leader – Jennifer Baracho, Easter events now being planned