

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 £1,542. Second Collection for Home Mission was £451. Mass attendance 734.

22nd September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Fifth Sunday 6pm Quadsia Khan & Family (A&P Cane)
Sunday 23rd September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am John Jagger RIP (S Jagger & Family)
Monday 24th September	Our Lady of Walsingham 9.30am Children & Students as they move to the next stage of their lives (CWL)
Tuesday 25th September	Feria 9.30am Mary & John Hallahan (N Fealy)
Wednesday 26th September	Feria 9.30am Bishop Peter Doyle – Golden Jubilee (CWL) 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 27th September	Saint Vincent de Paul 9.30am Seamus O'Mahony RIP (Howell Family)
Friday 28th September	Feria 9.30am R Appleby RIP (K Chan)
29th September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Sixth Sunday 6pm Tony Garcia RIP (Howell Family)
Sunday 30th September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Amanda Maclsaac RIP (JP Maclsaac)

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 parish maintenance fund.

Fr David writes...

Sibling rivalry is real! Some of us have lived in families where competition was the norm. Sometimes even encouraged. As children we competed with our sisters and brothers for our parent's affection and attention. For this reason, some of us have resented having siblings. We were highly sensitive towards making sure that we had our mother's or father's full admiration. Unfortunately though, some of us grew up feeling that our parents treated us as second best. This was ingrained in our psyche, making us feel as adults either more determined to achieve or else always feeling like victims. Whilst others have felt that they were the preferred child at home. Once we experience ourselves as the blue eyed child, we become addicted to it. Somehow, some of us, as people, we feel constantly the need to excel. Some of us strive for excellence and success constantly at the expense of our health and relationships. This can make us feel superior than others and sometimes even arrogant. And if we fail, we feel that the world around had completely collapsed. Our self-identity revolves around being always the best athlete, academic or professional. There is no room for failure and vulnerability in our lives. We feel addicted to feeling and being "special". There is of course nothing wrong in being ambitious but when ambition becomes the primary focus in life, then there is a problem. As adults, we still have our "inner child" acting up. And we encounter dysfunctional families as adults whose issues stem from childhood. Dysfunctional parenting fuels this competition and resentment amongst the siblings even as adults unfortunately. I experience these dynamics sometimes amongst families during funerals. Once bereaved, we become vulnerable and this vulnerability heightens the negative unresolved issues within families.

Mark tells us in today's gospel, how the disciples respond to Jesus' second prediction today of his passion: "They did not understand what he said, and they were afraid to ask him". The disciples cannot comprehend the future of powerlessness that Jesus maps out for himself. They do not dare to ask him to clarify and instead they start their own discussion group about power and prestige. They were fighting about who was the most special amongst them. The disciples project their own unresolved sibling dynamics on Jesus. Jesus becomes the parent. When the group arrives in Capernaum, Jesus asks them what they have been arguing about on the way. It didn't take long for their seminar on power to grow into an argument about which of them was the greatest. To this question, the disciples respond with the silence of shame. It is in this silence that Jesus takes a little child, sets him in front of them, puts his arms around the child and challenges his disciples to accept the little one. When they can welcome that little child, they can welcome the real Jesus. A child was totally powerless at the time and community of Jesus. He or she had no rights at all.

A child is totally dependent on adults for emotional, physical and psychological needs. And yet the vulnerability of a child opens us up to the divine. Their sense of awe and wonder. Their openness to learn. Their spontaneity and creativity put us adults to shame. They perceive what we cannot see. Jesus is inviting his disciples to embrace the child first of all within themselves. The inner child needs to feel reassured and embraced and loved. The inner child is the key to help us understand ourselves now as adults. The inner child helps us to understand why we are triggered with anger or sadness in certain situations. The inner child helps us to understand our needs. We need to spend some time and come in touch with our child within if we really want to understand who we are today. The child might still feel insecure and as an adult he or she tries to over compensate with ambition, possessions and all kinds of addictions.

Jesus offers a permanent challenge to his followers to welcome the powerless both within and outside of themselves. He invites them to take to heart the weakest members of the community. He himself, places himself in their company. Special hospitality should be offered to those from whom we can benefit the least. Their vulnerability is something that Jesus not only shares but values. He really does put the "child" centre stage and makes him a symbol of the counter cultural sign for any Christian. He turns our modern value system on its head. Yet we like the disciples have difficulty seeing that. We continue to debate popularity, count twitter followers or Facebook friends, and admire those with power and authority. However in today's gospel we are reminded to consider those who have little standing in the world. Shock Horror! The great Christian spiritual writer Richard Rohr says "Christianity is a lifestyle – a way of being in the world that is simple, non-violent, shared and loving". Have we, as Christians, truly engaged with this counter-cultural value system yet?

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 25th September – 5pm to 7pm.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Ziggy Salter and his parents Patrick and Megan.

Evangelisation Pillar

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.uk.

For your information the first two Confirmation preparation sessions are Monday 3rd December and Monday 10th December, all sessions run from 7.30pm to 9pm. 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

Catechists of Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Journey in Faith and Children’s Liturgy.

Fr David would like to invite you for a meeting on Thursday 4th October at 8pm in the community centre.

RCIA – Journey in Faith begins again with a Welcome session on Sunday 21st October 2018 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

It is for Adults 18 plus who may be:

Searching for meaning in their lives and want to explore spirituality.

Wanting to know more about the person of Jesus and Christianity.

Feeling the need to belong to a Community of Faith.

Exploring the possibility of becoming a Catholic.

Journey in Faith is also for those who are already Catholics but feel the need to deepen their faith.

And for those who are already Christian but wish to become full members of the Catholic Church.

Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join the journey with us or just come along.

Application forms are located at the back of the church, please take one and return to the parish office.

Parish Meeting on Adoremus

Wednesday 26th September 8pm at Community Centre

Ken Chan and Michelle Wilson attended Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool between 7th and 9th September 2018 as delegates for St. James. They will report back to the parish on the above event, and their experience of it on Wednesday 26th September 8pm in the Community Centre. Please come along to listen to their report, and to have your say on WHAT you like to do to follow up.

“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. (**Sundays: 30th September, 7th October, 14th October (then 2 weeks gap), 4th November, 11th November, and 18th November**). Doors open 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.

Liturgy Pillar

St Francis of Assisi Feast Day

Blessing of the pets on Sunday 7th October at 2pm in the parish gardens.

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 5th October and concludes with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastoral Pillar

Ministers of Holy Communion for Housebound and Hospital visits

Fr David would like to invite you for a meeting on Thursday 4th October at 11am in the Parish Office.

Memory Café

If you're away on holiday or simply having a day out would you mind taking a moment or two to send a postcard from wherever you are to our memory café here at St James'!

It's amazing how photos trigger memories of holidays and trips for our guests! If we can get more from the UK and abroad, that would be amazing.

Our address is: St James the Great Memory Café, St James The Great Church, C/O Parish Office, 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY. Thank You.

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

Christmas Fayre.

There will be a meeting on Thursday 11th October at 8pm in the Social Centre. Please come along and share your ideas of what you want the Fayre to look like. If you have previously run a stall or have an idea for a new one now is your chance to get involved. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

Mary O'Mahony

New Year's Eve Party

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

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.

Monday Club

Monday Club are looking for new members and new ideas to create a vibrant club for Monday afternoons. They meet from 1.30 – 4.30pm.

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.](#)

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League meeting.

The CWL meeting will be held at the earlier time of 7pm on 24th September. At 8 pm Sr Clare will give a talk entitled 'Responding to the cry of the poor' about her time in Zambia working for CAFOD. We would love lots of parishioners to come along and hear about Sr Clare's work at 8pm on 24th in the Community Centre.

CWL Military Whist Drive

The CWL will be holding a Military Whist Drive on Saturday 6th October at 7.30 for 8pm start. This is a fun evening suitable for all ages from 10 years old upwards. It costs £8 which will include light refreshments.

Justice & Peace

The Justice and Peace Group meeting scheduled for Wednesday 26th September has been postponed allowing attendance at the Adoremus meeting. It will now take place on Wednesday 3rd October at 7.45pm in the Parish Office meeting room (281A Crescent Drive). All parishioners are assured of a warm welcome.

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.

SVP Awareness Month

September is national awareness month for the Saint Vincent de Paul or SVP as it better known by. Here in Petts Wood we have a dedicated but small group of SVP members who are active throughout the year but to achieve more we are very keen to get some new members.

We are also keen to get some volunteers who can help us out perhaps 2-3 times during the year at our events and activities.

The work of the SVP is so rewarding and enjoyable and sometimes just a kind word or time can make such a difference. We also able to give financial support to those in need and referrals frequently come through the Parish Office from Fr David.

During the year the SVP has organised Shrove Tuesday, the Summer lunch for the senior Citizens, the visit of the St James' gardening Club to Southmore Court and the healing mass in conjunction with the Pastoral Team. We have also made many visits and have provided financial assistance to several individuals in real need.

To join us as a member or to assist us at future activities please contact us through the Parish office or SVP@stjamespettswood.org

The SVP wishes to thank all those who have assisted us or attended one of our events during the year.

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*

Cleaning the Church			
26th September Wednesday Coffee	B D'Arcy		
30th September 2018			
Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	I Garcia Finan	L & J Samuels	S Barradell S Kavanagh
Readers	L Rusmini A Prifti	S Cotta B Cotta	N D'Silva R Morrison
Ministers of Holy Communion	C Wakefield P Crosland R Wright J Gribben J Bajorek	S Cotta A Ward D Hairs B Cotta W David	Z Bajorek T Troy A Bunnage P Murray V Terry
Bar			B Meehan O Clutton
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	R Scott K Walsh
Altar Servers			
Tellers	A & S Barradell		