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 £1,392. Mass attendance 664.				
Seventh Sunday				
6pm People of the Parish				
9.15am	Ellen & Victor Clark RIP (J Clark)			
11am	The Poulton Family (Monaghan Family)			
Feria				
9.30am	Inshore Fishermen (CWL)			
Feria				
9.30am	Teresa Adams RIP (F Simon)			
Feria				
9.30am	Carmen Novaes Suzzara RIP (D Suzzara Delf)			
10.45am	Eucharist Adoration			
Feria				
9.30am	Atena Daemi (J&P Group)			
Saint David				
9.30am	Seamus & Josephine McMorrow			
7.30pm	Eucharist Adoration			
Eighth Sunday				
6pm	Maureen Clark RIP (J Clark)			
9.15am	People of the Parish			
11am	Mirrel Cucay (Riza Rowan)			
	Seventh 6pm 9.15am 11am Feria 9.30am Feria 9.30am 10.45am Feria 9.30am 30am 7.30am Feria 9.30am 5aint Dav 9.30am 7.30pm Eighth Se 6pm 9.15am			

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

Next week's second collection is for the poor parishes.

Fr David writes...

As we know, this week, Pope Francis convened 190 bishops and other prelates from all over the world to discuss the protection of minors in the Catholic Church. This meeting is the first of its kind at the Vatican and a sign that the Pope and Church hierarchy are finally acknowledging that the sexual abuse crisis has become a global issue. Literally the credibility of the Church is at stake. Vatican officials say the meeting's themes will be responsibility, accountability and transparency. During this week I had the opportunity to watch two very powerful documentaries regarding the lives of real victims of clerical abuse in the US and another documentary regarding clerical abuse in Spain. It is really heart-breaking to watch the victims grappling with the effect of their abuse as children. The devastating consequences that the abuse had on their lives and especially on their relationships. Many of them had blocked out their traumatic experiences as defence mechanisms. Their abuse surfaced in their consciousness after sometimes twenty or thirty years. The mind has its own way of protecting us when we experience any kind of trauma. They categorically all yearned to be heard and believed by the institutional church. They are all after justice, that those who had messed up their lives would be made to accountable for their actions.

Now truly, how could anyone who had been so damaged by another person ever be able to forgive their perpetrator? Some of them left the church altogether and they feel that the church had massively let them down. They are living their lives consumed by anger towards the church. An anger which is fuelled by their deep utter sadness, feeling betrayed twice by an institution which they loved. A priest whose daughter was killed in the 7/7 London suicide bombings says she is still unable to forgive the terrorists years after the major incident. Ms Nicholson resigned from her parish when she was unable to forgive the bomber who killed her daughter. "Forgiveness is too easy language. It's too complex" she said. Now can we ever blame a mother who had lost her 24 year old daughter in such a barbaric way and is still struggling with forgiveness? We can never judge anyone if we have never experienced a traumatic experience ourselves. Forgiveness is definitely complex. I am not saying impossible – however it is complex. On the other hand, we know that un-forgiveness consumes us too. We know through personal experience what happens to us when we allow resentment and bitterness towards someone who has hurt us deeply. Our whole existence becomes focused on the hatred and revenge of the other. Un-forgiveness can take over our whole lives.

The principle characters in today's first reading, Saul and David, are the leading figures in this heart-breaking story: a story of friendship, betrayal and misfortune, a story of ambition, power and madness. In spite of being exiled and hunted everywhere, David still loves Saul and never seeks to harm him. All he wants to do is to sing the king out of his depression. Three times David had his opportunity to kill Saul. But he declined. Saul is puzzled by David's loyalty and attachment, by his refusal to treat his father-in-law Saul as his enemy. David disarms him. It is a story of someone who chooses not to be consumed by his anger and un-forgiveness towards the person who is making his life hell. David's choice becomes the act which changes Saul's heart towards him.

In the Gospel then Jesus enjoins his disciples to follow the basic imperative of loving generously: "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly...Give and there will be gifts for you... because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back". Jesus does not ask his disciples to fall in love with their enemies – that would be wholly unrealistic. The followers of Jesus are challenged to be determined about their enemies' welfare, to be stubbornly gracious and to refuse to pay back violence with violence. Hatred can be defeated only by love. Injury can be healed only by forgiveness; evil can be controlled only by goodness. That may not reflect human wisdom, but it is Jesus' wisdom in action. It was also David's response to King Saul's aggression. Somehow Jesus' wisdom is confirmed, because if we allow someone else to determine our happiness, the other person would be victorious.

When we harbour hated, revenge and hold forgiveness from another, it is us who will be suffering mainly. After going through the initial emotions of anger, hurt and retreating to protect ourselves, one needs to pray for the gift of forgiveness in ourselves. How many times have I met people who are not speaking to their own mother or father, for example for years, because they had been hurt by something they had said or done. Sometimes wasting valuable quality time because of pride. And then regretting this time when we lose the person for ever. Yes forgiveness is very hard and complex, and yet is it worth living the rest of our lives in this prison of hate? Life is too short for that. Let us pray to let go of our pride and live in peace with ourselves. Let us also pray for the success of this very significant meeting in the Vatican and may the victims of clerical sexual abuse find some kind of healing.

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on Tuesday 26th February 2019 between 5pm-7pm. No appointment needed.

200 Club

Congratulations to all our February winners:

£100 Deidre Marshall

£50 Tom Wrafter

£25 Danielle Scutt

£25 Tony Babb

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

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/showROFundraiser-page?pageId=1010901. Or donate on the sponsorship sheet at the back of the church.

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 and on the

first Friday of the month 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).

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

Today is the LAST DAY for returning your application for the Week of Accompanied Prayer. Do consider whether to be a participant, each weekday finding half an hour to pray on your own, and then meeting your Prayer Companion here for another half hour at a time of your choosing. It will be worthwhile, and is a good thing for Lent too.

Please collect the Invitation from the lobby, fill it in and place it in the box straight away. Or make an online application at tinyurl.com/PettsWoodWAP.

If you have any gueries, feel free to contact Chris or Doreen Hairs

Welcomers Needed for the Week of Accompanied Prayer

We will need people to welcome the participants on two days. There will be two people welcoming at each session in the foyer at the back of the church. Could you spare time to cover just one slot on either Monday 11th or Friday 15th? Slots are mostly 30 minutes, with a few for 45 minutes available during either the morning, afternoon or evening sessions. If you are interested to help us please sign up on the sheets in the porch this coming weekend.

Social Pillar

Catholic Women's League

This month's CWL meeting will be held at 8pm in the Community Centre on Monday 25th February. Ladies if you would like to learn more about the CWL please come along.

The meeting will be followed at 8.30 by a talk about Woodcarving given by our Chairperson, Audrey. Anyone, men or women, interested in learning about woodcarving, perhaps as a new hobby, would be very welcome.

The Passage

The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people. Please support a St David's Day concert in aid of The Passage at Methodist Central Hall, Westminster on Friday 1 March 2019 at 7.00pm. Please book online through Eventbrite (https://passage-saint-david-day-concert.eventbrite.co.uk). Full details to book are on the website www.passage.org.uk or telephone 020 75921856 or email info@passage.org.uk

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

Our next film will be shown on Saturday, 9 March, at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

For your diaries! Subsequent Film Nights so far arranged will be on Saturdays 13 April, 11 May, 15 June, 13 July, 14 September, 19 October & 16 November.

Please note that because of licensing conditions, we are no longer permitted to advertise the title of films being shown. Look for notices in church or the printed copy of Briefly.

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 a 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.

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**

Next meeting

The Justice and Peace Group will meet on Wednesday 27 February at 7.45pm in the Community Centre. All parishioners are assured of a warm welcome

Lent Carbon Fast

As Christians, we are called to care – to care about and to care for Creation. We are invited to live more simply, reduce our ecological footprint and live in deeper harmony with all life on God's earth. Our Justice and Peace Group has been working with 3rd Petts Wood Cubs to help our Parish to carry out some simple actions which could change the way we live and help us to think about our environment. On 2nd/3rd March the Cubs will be selling our Carbon Fast Lent calendar for £1. Any profits will be shared between our Parish Mission in the Philippines and purchase trees for the Woodland Trust. Please support this Lent initiative if you can.

Youth Pillar

An evening of Prayer, Worship and Adoration

at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, SE1 6HR.

Tickets cost £10 each. For large group bookings please contact Southwark Catholic Youth Service. scys@rcaos.org.uk

Pastoral Pillar

Bereavement Retreat, Ayelesford 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:

mflbereavement@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

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

Please note there will be no Memory Cafe on Tuesday the 12th of March only.

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.

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 2nd March	
Cleaning the Church	Uniformed Groups / Catholic Women's League

Wednesday Coffee 6th March	S Barradell, M Mulvey
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Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	T Connolly	A&L Delamain	M Cooper K Edwards
Readers	J Bajorek K lams	B Cotta C D'Souza	Z Bajorek R Del Guercio
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Bajorek R Wright T Babb B Babb P Driscoll	K Chan A Ward T Blythe A Delamian B Cotta	R Del Guercio N Longhurst R Mwansa K Evans A Evans
3ar			M Smith N Longhurst
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	S Ingle A Huntington M Mulvey
Altar Servers	Jude Francis Abigail Mario Paulina Peter		Valentino

Tellers	C Delf, M Troy
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