

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 £1,271. Second Collection £914. Mass attendance 697.

29th September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Sixth Sunday 6pm Tony Garcia RIP (Howell Family)
Sunday 30th September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Amanda MacIsaac RIP (JP MacIsaac)
Monday 1st October	Saint Therese of the Child Jesus 9.30am Aisling Dolan (The Deasy Family)
Tuesday 2nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels 9.30am Well-being of Clare MacLeod (B&G Ford)
Wednesday 3rd October	Feria 9.30am Bridget & Paul Wiggins 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 4th October	Saint Francis Of Assisi 9.30am Barbara Bridle RIP (G Thompson)
Friday 5th October	Feria 9.30am Mary & Jimmie O'Connor 7.30 Eucharistic Adoration
6th October (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Seventh Sunday 6pm Frank Donelan RIP (Donelan Family)
Sunday 7th October	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Terence Quinlan RIP (E Quinlan)

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 CAFOD Family Fast Day. Talks will be given at the end of all Masses this weekend.

Fr David writes...

Another emotion that we, as human beings experience is that of feeling threatened by someone else's success. We are quite territorial in nature and some of us more than others. We tend to protect our roles in the groups that we make part of, civil, social and religious. Few of us go through life without ever joining some kind of group or club. Most of us feel proud to be part of a specific group. The group gives an added dimension to our identity and personality. The social aspect of the group provides us with friendship and companionship. The aims and mission of the group becomes part and parcel of who we are.

However the problems start when the group encloses in itself. On account of feeling threatened by new blood and new ideas, some groups tend to become exclusive. Some tend to do this diplomatically while others do it outrightly. They would make it very hard for new members to join. They do this by ignoring and rejecting new ideas from new members or by electing the same people in places of authority in order that nothing changes. In this way, new members would feel frustrated and not welcomed and most of the time they would decide to terminate their membership. Another way of rejection is to gang against a member of the group if they start feeling that she or he is becoming a threat to their status quo. This is the symptom of a sick and toxic group. In scapegoating the individual, the group feels that it is not them to blame but the other. Such a group has the ability to suffocate new members instead of welcoming and integrating them in the group. Unhealthy people do tend to get threatened by the gifts and successes of others.

In today's Gospel the disciples of Jesus refuse to recognise the authority of an exorcist who doesn't belong to their company. John appeals to Jesus: "Master, we saw a man who is not one of us casting out devils in your name; and because he was not one of us we tried to stop him". The exorcist has been successful in his ministry and that success clearly worries the disciples. The disciples are obviously threatened by the outsider's success. Maybe they are apprehensive about being displaced? Are they frightened that they would become obsolete? Are they seeing ministry as rivalry, a competition? Seeing this man's success in his ministry, the disciples seem to feel diminished, reduced, lessened as disciples. It's as if their own self esteem will be reinforced if the outsider is rejected. However Jesus refuses to play their game and collude with them. Instead he helps them to perceive a larger vision – that of God's goodness. This vision is larger than their little power games and insecure personalities. This vision transcends their own 'egos' and sets their eyes on what is essential. The essential is not about who is performing good deeds but who is being healed. It's not a question whether this particular person is part of our religious group or clique, but the important thing is whether he or she is making a difference.

There are people who refuse to read or listen to anyone if he or she is not Catholic for example. In doing so they are hindering the Spirit of God to work within them and others. God is constantly pushing our comfort zones and to envision larger. It's a great gift for me to listen and read books written by the Dalai Lama for example. I consider him to be a man of goodwill and immense spirituality. I feel that God is using him to speak to us in our world today. Gandhi is another person that I have the greatest respect for. I will never forget the Inter-religious meeting that the late and Saint John Paul II organised at the beginning of his pontificate in 1982 in Assisi. For me personally, it was pivotal for the discerning of my vocation. I remember saying to myself – if the Catholic Church is willing to encourage us to look beyond our 'group' to seek the truth, I would love to be part of it in the role of priest. This specific event inspired me. Both Pope Benedict and Pope Francis continued on this tradition and organised similar meetings subsequently, in Assisi.

If we are grounded in a healthy sense of self, if we work towards feeling less insecure within ourselves, we have no reason to feel threatened about other people's talents and gifts. The person who would feel threatened and territorial is the person who feels insecure within himself or herself and perceives life to be a competition – who is going to win. On the other hand if a person is reasonably secure he would welcome other people who bring new ideas and instead of trying to undermine them, he or she would be happy to encourage and empower them to thrive. As human beings, we do struggle when our egos get in the way. How beautiful and enriching life would be if we transformed the wasteful energies with the internal politics of our groups and communities in creative ministries and try to make a difference in the

life of others. May our energies in the groups we find ourselves in, be generous and may it cater for the common good and not only for our own egos. May God give us the humility and insight to listen to what God is trying to let us know through this week's readings. May God keep on blessing you and your families on your journeys.

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 9th October – 5pm to 7pm.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Riley Chapple and his parents David and Amy.

Invitation for new members to the 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

Your Parish Needs You!

We are seeking leaders and helpers for the children's liturgy, children to read at the monthly children's mass, adult readers, altar servers. eucharistic Ministers, catechists, musicians, cantors and singers to support the choirs.

Please contact the parish office parish.office@stjamespettswood.org or 01689 827100. Thank You

Liturgy Pillar

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

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.

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 7.00- 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

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.

"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.

Youth Pillar

On **Saturday 6th October 2018 at 3pm, St Joseph's Bromley**, are extremely lucky to have the team from Croydon Community Against Trafficking coming to visit to run a session for Bromley Deanery youth on key issues around modern slavery. This is an important issue for our community and one which we are keen to highlight and to raise awareness with our young people and parishioners. The team are extremely experienced in working with young people and ensuring that the issues discussed are appropriate for the age group we anticipate attending (12yrs and above) and are dealt with sensitively. All parishioners and members of the community are welcome to attend what promises to be an engaging and informative session, with opportunities to get involved and make a difference.

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 6-7th 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.

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

Summer Garden Party

A belated thank you to everyone who helped or attended the Summer Garden Party and Fun Run. We raised a magnificent £2171.91.

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 Years 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.

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.](#)

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

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*

6th October 2018

Cleaning the Church	P Driscoll, J Rogerson, M Mitrovic (Tuesday Team – 10th October)
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**3rd October
Wednesday Coffee**

B D'Arcy, S Barradell

7th October 2018

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
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Welcomers	T Connolly	M Howell L Thomas	G Whitley M Ingledeu
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Readers	D Woolston I Stewart	C D'Souza C Hairs	R Rowan Z Bajorek
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Ministers of Holy Communion	H Rothern M Cahill C Cahill J Callinan P Driscoll	B D'Arcy T Forde M Howell S Cotta K Chan	N Longhurst R Mwansa K Evans A Evans S Ingle
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Bar			P Troy M Wright
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Coffee		S Barradell L Lynch	M Harrington S Paris
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Altar Servers	P Marshall	Z Cotta A Lynch	D Fernandes
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Tellers	F Simon, J Cosgrave
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