

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 £1,499. Mass attendance 691.

<p>30th March (Saturday Vigil)</p> <p>Sunday 31st March</p>	<p>Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>6pm Van Chan RIP (The Sands Family)</p> <p>9.15am People of the Parish</p> <p>11am Francesca M Sio RIP (J&L Sio)</p> <p>4pm Stations of the Cross</p>
<p>Monday 1st April</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9.30am Francesca M Sio RIP (J&L Sio)</p>
<p>Tuesday 2nd April</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9.30am Thanks to St Jude</p> <p>8pm Lenten Reconciliation Service</p>
<p>Wednesday 3rd April</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9.30am In loving memory of Trevor Lyons RIP (Trevor's Family)</p> <p>10.45am Eucharist Adoration</p>
<p>Thursday 4th April</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9.30am Welfare of Guy, Rachel, Sophia & Jackson Harris (A Kenny)</p>
<p>Friday 5th April</p>	<p>Feria</p> <p>9.30am Thanks to the Holy Spirit</p> <p>7.30pm Eucharist Adoration</p>
<p>6th April (Saturday Vigil)</p> <p>Sunday 7th April</p>	<p>Fifth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>6pm Tomkins Family (Monaghan Family)</p> <p>9.15am Deceased members of the Crowley Family (Harrington Family)</p> <p>11am People of the Parish</p> <p>4pm Stations of the Cross</p>

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.

Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers in our parish, we hope you have a wonderful day. Let us also remember all the Mothers that are no longer with us. We keep you all in our prayers.

Fr David writes...

Our deepest yearning as children is to be loved unconditionally. We yearn to hear our father and mother whisper in our ears "I love you as you are". However, because we make part of a human broken world, we rarely experience ourselves loved unconditionally. So parents might find it difficult to accept their son or daughter who chooses to live differently than they had aspired for them for example. Sometimes parents feel let down. Sometimes although we are brought up in the same family as siblings, we usually have totally different personalities. Some children by nature are more independent. Some have free spirits. We can observe this even when they are infants. They have a knack of being different and adventurous. Others are more cautious and they value more the security and the familiar. No one is better than the other. It's just who we are. Most of the time, the adventurous one feels the need to find himself/herself away from the family system. They tend even geographically to move away from home. They unconsciously want to experience life away from home. Whilst there are others who's ideal is to remain at home sometimes even literally. This could be because of necessity – taking care of a parent for example or else because they do not feel secure within themselves for one reason or another to cut the umbilical cord, psychologically that is. As we have said, these differences in personalities can be found in the same family.

The evangelist Luke is a master storyteller. He crafts a brief but memorable narrative in today's gospel. The characters are stock. We probably know people like the sons in the story. Do we know people like the father though? Would we react like the father? Although we might or might not have lost wayward children, how do we feel when our children choose a lifestyle which we disagree with? In Jesus' time, children would have inherited only when the father died. The child who asks of his father for his inheritance before his death, was considered offensive. And he would have been punished by being disowned by the family. The younger son in the story asks for his inheritance and leaves home. The father seems to have no qualms in giving him his share. The younger son is the son who dreams of a better life away from home. He is the son who yearns for freedom – away from the believed restrictions of home. He is brave and secure enough within himself to embark on a journey away from home. However, being young he was not wise enough and squandered all his money. He experienced rock bottom. He yearned to eat the pods which the pigs were eating but no one gave him anything. Pigs in the Jewish community were considered unclean and the least of all animals. Luke wants to tell us here that the younger son became total destitute. Once he experienced rock bottom, he remembered that at his father's house, the servants had more than enough food for them to eat and he was starving. So he decided to go back and ask his father to take him in as one of the servants.

In our gospel Jesus gives us a parable that illustrates the abundant mercy of God. A son who had offended in such a way his father, would never dream of going back. For the family, this kind of son is dead. And if he happens to decide to return, the family would probably kill him. It was a matter of honour. The father respects his son's freedom. Moreover, he never stops watching for this son to return home. And when he does catch sight of his wayward son, the father does not wait for the son to complete his journey or to speak the words of contrition he had so carefully practiced. The father immediately plans a feast to celebrate his son's return. It's as if Jesus wants to tell us that we only need to turn towards God for our merciful Father to run out to meet us and welcome us back home. God truly loves us unconditionally. The older son though is different kettle of fish. He is the son who never left home but is full of resentment and is envious of his brother because he had done what he wanted. So the elder son did not stay home because he wanted to, but for whatever reason he could not make himself leave and so is envious of his brother who was not scared to set off.

If living our Christian life makes us resentful, envious and ungrateful, we need to check our motivations for

remaining. The younger son went back home because he had now **chosen** to return home. The one who remained at home took his life for granted and lost the sense of gratitude for what he was granted as gift. The father had to go out of his house to meet his elder son because the elder son was enraged by his father's mercy and love towards his younger brother. The father reassured him of his love for him and must have felt sad to know that his elder son was not celebrating the return of the younger brother. As we continue our Lenten journey, this beautiful parable today helps us to reflect on the three characters in the story. Who do we identify with in the story? The father, the younger son or the elder son? Are we people who are inclusive especially within our community of faith? Or are we people who are exclusive? Do we very easily judge others and feel resentful and jealous of other's way of life? God loves us unconditionally and is full of mercy. We only need to decide to return to him and we would be embraced warmly wholeheartedly.

GIFT AID

A very big thanks to all who have gift-aided their offertory and 2nd collection donations as well as their donations to the Maintenance/Refurbishment Fund during the 2018/19 tax year.

Your boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes (with your name on) for the coming 2019/20 tax year are now ready for you to collect from the tables along the back of church.

If you cannot find your box, please speak to Geoff Ford (the Gift Aid Administrator) – email him at gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org or phone 01689 872125 or he can usually be found in the "counting room" at church after 11am Mass on Sundays.

Please note, the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax you pay or will pay during a tax year must be at least equal* to the total amount of tax that all Charities (i.e. not just St Jmes) will reclaim on your gift-aided donations to them for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

*You must have paid at least 25 pence in Income/Capital Gains Tax for every £1 of gift-aided donation you make to all charities (i.e. £25 tax for every £100 given). If you pay less Income/Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference to HMRC.

Please also speak to Geoff if:

1. You are unsure that you will have paid adequate tax,
2. You wish to know the total recorded amount of your offerings,
3. You move or marry and change your name. (It is important that our records of your name and address is recognisable to the tax man)
4. You wish to transfer your gift aid donations into your spouse's name (perhaps because you have stopped working and no longer pay tax),
5. You would like to Gift Aid your contributions to St James' but have not yet completed a Declaration Form.

As every charity will tell you, by gift-aiding your donations your contributions are substantially increased at absolutely no cost whatsoever to you. If you are not already in our Gift Aid scheme, all you have to do is sign a Declaration Form enabling the Church to recover the tax you will have already paid before making your donation.

Standing Orders

If you make your weekly offering to St James' by standing order, please still take your box of envelopes. Your box will include special envelopes for Diocesan second collections and for Easter/Christmas offerings which are not included in standing orders.

If you wish to make a standing order with St James' please email or speak to Geoff before arranging it with your bank.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 2nd April between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

New Piano

You will notice that we have a new piano, heartfelt gratitude to the parishioner who has donated this. We are also in urgent need for a new pianist. If you can help us, we would be very appreciative. Please contact the parish office for more information.

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.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Max Hamme and his parents Gregor and DongDong. Also Sophia Lochman and her parents Petr and Dana.

Lenten Programme

Readers, Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers

These vital ministries are especially important during this season. If you are able to minister during the Holy Week Masses and special services, please sign your names on the sheets in the porch.

Stations of the Cross

Every Sunday in Lent at 4pm.

Tuesday 2nd April

Lenten Reconciliation service at 8pm

Tuesday 9th April

Reflection on Henri Nouwen: the Mystic by Michael Ford at 8pm in the Community Centre.

Tuesday 16th April

Film- Mary Magdalene at 8pm in the Community Centre.

Friday 19th April

Walk of Witness – Starts from St Francis, Willett Way at 9am.

Saturday 20th April

Swieconka – Polish Service. Blessing of the Easter Baskets at 11.30am

Finance Pillar

200 Club

Subscriptions for parishioners paying by cheque are now due and shall be grateful if you will ensure that cheques are received by Wednesday 3rd April as the first draw will take place on the 14th April. I shall be grateful if you will send a cheque for £60 payable to St James’ 200 Club for the attention of Ken Evans at the Parish Office – 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood. BR5 1AY.

If, however you wish to pay by standing order at £5 per month (payable on the 1st of the month) please [email Ken](#). We still have some vacancies so if you wish to join please contact Ken. I do hope you will

continue to support this excellent fund-raising initiative and thank you again for your generous support.

Evangelisation Pillar

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 5th April. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.**

Social Pillar

Film Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Film Night on Saturday, 9 March. The last film was very well received & your generosity raised £100 in donations towards the cost of re-covering the main Church Bible, which is in urgent need of repair.

Our next film on Saturday, 13 April, but please note that because of licensing conditions, we are no longer permitted to advertise the titles of films being shown. Please look for notices in church or the printed copy of *Briefly*. This film runs for 1 hour 51 minutes & will start promptly at 7.30pm. The bar will be open beforehand & a warm welcome awaits!

If anyone would be willing to volunteer to assist me in running the Film Nights, I would be very grateful to hear from them. It is not onerous work – just setting up the Community Centre beforehand, operating the audio/visual system (I'm happy to give training – I promise it's easy when you know how!), collecting up the donations to give to the Parish Office the following week, & assisting with the clearing up (everyone is always very helpful with this). Please email the parish office if I have tempted anyone! Many thanks.
Gaynor Whitley.

The St James' Social Club is responsible for the running and licensing of the bar in the Community Centre. The AGM will be held on Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12:30 pm after the 11:00 am Mass in the Community Centre. The items on the agenda will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 April 2018
2. Election of the Committee for 2019/2020
3. Financial Report
4. Any other business.

All are welcome to attend.

Altar Servers Rally 2019

The annual rally for Southwark Altar servers is on May Day Bank Holiday Monday, 6th May, 11.30am at the Friars, Aylesford Priory, Kent. All servers, families and friends are welcome.

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.

Liturgy Pillar

Children's Mass

We seek children to read at the monthly children's mass (9:15 am). If you are interested in proclaiming the Word of God and are either in Y4 to Y10, please contact Cheryl via email

cheryl.dsouza@stjamespettswood.org. Necessary training will be provided.

Children's Liturgy

There WILL be a Children's Liturgy session on 14th April (Palm Sunday). Both younger and older groups will be in the Hall together. They will listen to the story and act it out and do a craft activity.

Good Friday - 11 am Stations of the Cross in church for school aged children.

There WILL NOT be a Children's Liturgy session on **Easter Sunday**.

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.

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. 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 6th April 12pm to 2.30pm.

Justice & Peace

Human Trafficking

Anyone wishing to contribute to the diocesan fund to support the Church's work combating this awful trade in human beings, will find special envelopes on the Welcomers' table in the porch. Either give your envelope to Fr David or place it in the offertory basket at the earliest opportunity. Thank you.

A message from Bromley Foodbank

Thank you to all donors for your continued support. Donations, throughout the borough, meant that the Foodbank was able to feed 463 people in crisis last month. They are currently running low on the following: UHT milk and fruit juice, cold meats, pulses, vegetarian options, jam, Marmite, peanut butter, chocolate spread, rice, female razors and cleaning products.

Message from Bethany Towell

Hi,

The Family Beetle Drive is fast approaching!

Help me reach my fundraising target by joining me in a **Family Beetle Drive** evening at St James' Church Hall on **Saturday 6th April** after 6pm Mass. This should be a fun evening for all the family.

Tickets will be on sale at the end of most Masses. If you miss me after Mass then call 07930 555794 for tickets. Tickets are priced at £5/adult, £3/child and £15/family. Many thanks for your support.

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, pavements or double-park your car especially on the "one way" part of Lakeswood Road by the lower car park entrance.

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 6th April

Cleaning the Church

S Lams, L Monsah, D Generowicz, K Salter, I Parsell, J Green

Wednesday Coffee 10th April

M Mulvey, M Howell

7th April 2019

Mass

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9.15am

Sunday 11am

Welcomers

K Kirby

D & C Hairs

M Cooper
K Edwards

Readers

M O'Mahony
K Salter

C D'Souza
J Jose

R DelGuercio
Y Wright

Ministers of Holy Communion

P Crosland
J Bajorek
H Rothon
M Cahill
C Cahill

D Hairs
M Howell
S Cotta
A Ward
T Blythe

V Terry
N Longhurst
T Willard
R Del Guercio
P Murray

Bar

A Barradell
M Horner

Coffee

L Lynch
S Barradell

C D'Arcy
T Lowe

Altar Servers

Roisin
Fintan
Abigail
Francis
Jude
Nathan
Josh

Lydia

James

Tellers

M Shea, T Wrafter, K Evans