

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 £1,395. Mass attendance 673.	
14th July (Saturday Vigil)	Fifteenth Sunday 6pm Michael Ingrams RIP (Howell Family)
Sunday 15th July	9.15am David Osemudianen 11am Golden Wedding Anniversary of Roger & Ellen Wright (Wright Family)
Monday 16th July	Our Lady of Mount Carmel 9.30am Colin Willard RIP (T Willard)
Tuesday 17th July	Feria 9.30am Sheila Simon RIP
Wednesday 18th July	Feria 9.30am Sheila Simon RIP (Simon Family) 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 19th July	Feria 9.30am The Family Matejk (H Denham)
Friday 20th July Whole School Mass Year 6 Leavers' Mass	Feria 9.30am Thanks to St Jude
21st July (Saturday Vigil)	Sixteenth Sunday 6pm David Bridle RIP (Bridle Family)
Sunday 22nd July	9.15am Nell Faria RIP (J Craen) 11am Moira Lyons RIP (G Whitley & 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.

Sunday Mornings in the Community Centre

Every Sunday coffee and tea is served after the 9.15am and 11am Masses. Please join us for a while and get to know each other over a cuppa!

Second Collection

Next week's second collection will be for the Maintenance Fund.

Fr David writes...

Fitting into a particular group does not necessarily mean conforming completely with what the other members of that group think or believe. Desperately desiring a sense of belonging at the expense of losing one's individuality and the ability to think for oneself is outright tragic. When we move to a new place we automatically start intuitively observing others. Each place has a distinctive culture of its own. Most of the time, there are unwritten norms about the values and the priorities which that particular sub culture adheres to. It's very natural to start yearning to connect with others which we consider as same-minded people – whatever that would be. Without us knowing, we start forming little groups of friendships. We start relying on the members of the group who become our base and security in the new environment. In a special way, having children becomes a bonus and an excellent reason why these friendships are formed. These friendships in themselves are a gift. They help us to feel accepted, welcomed and rooted within the particular place.

There is a BUT though. When the group becomes exclusive, it is easy to start rejecting others who in your eyes do not make the criteria of your group and look down on them. Any group has to leave the members to think for themselves. Otherwise there would be a danger of collusion when things get out of hand. People do end up being hurt in the process. Members of an exclusive group have the potential to ostracize members that according to them had not adhered completely to the norms of that particular group. In this case the particular group within the culture would become toxic. Groups by nature demand conformity to secure their status quo.

In today's first reading we are introduced to one of the great characters of the Old Testament, a layman called Amos, farmer turned prophet. Amos was sent around the middle of the eighth century, to the northern kingdom, Israel, which had reached the summit of its material power and prosperity. At the same time there was widespread corruption and immorality. There was an absence of justice and pity in the land. The judges were corrupt, the innocents were betrayed. In the midst of all this luxury and misery, religion flourished. Amos regarded the religious services as a counterfeit enterprise abhorrent to God and so he spoke the word of God to them. An outsider was disturbing their peace and opposing their status quo. The priest tells Amos to go home and leave the royal sanctuary in peace. Amos states that he did not become a prophet by self-appointment or by royal appointment. He was conscripted by God for the declared purpose of announcing God's message.

Some people have the insight to see through the members of a particular culture. Especially the new comers have the ability to see things from an objective and slightly distant stance. New comers in a culture have the ability to ask the right questions which sometimes disturb the members of the group. They find their questions and observations as inconvenient. The way they deal with them is either trying to ridicule them or ignoring them by undermining the messenger. "You do not know what you are talking about", "You are too new to understand". Once they experience the words of the prophet as disturbing and a threat, then people tend to reject and ridicule. They do not have the ability to allow the word to touch them. This is fuelled by fear. We do not want to go there. The Prophet always invites people to go deeper within themselves to change and be transformed. However, those who prefer to remain rooted in their status quo have no time for prophets. They are happier in their shallow understanding of things. They do not want to lose the power and the control.

In today's gospel, Jesus summons the twelve apostles and sends them out on a missionary tour. Like Amos, they had to carry the word of God as a challenge to others. They are not to rely on their own resources but on the power that has been given to them and the hospitality which was to be offered them. Jesus knew that there will be people who would be rejecting his disciples and their message. In the gospel today, Jesus has harsh words for those who would reject the disciples and the gospel message. If they are not accepted, they have no option but to move on. And when a town, culture or group rejects their message, the apostles were to shake off the dust from their feet – a symbolic gesture performed by strict Jews returning to Palestine after journeying abroad. This is the reality of the Christian today when we take a stand. This is not our word, but we are called to proclaim God's message which sometimes challenges and disturbs people. The people have the choice to accept the

message and the messenger or not. May we be open to receive the message which God wants us to listen to today.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Wednesday 8th August. Fr. David will be on home leave from the 16th July to 31st July.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Arthur Walsh and his parents David and Hayley, also Anna Renton and her parents Gordon and Katharine.

Liturgy Pillar

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 3rd August and concludes with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastoral Pillar

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.

THE BIG 200 CLUB DRAW - the winners were

£500 Nick Babb Ticket No. 117

£200 Christine Darcy No. 158

£200 Jackie Dabrowska No. 147

£100 Barbara Shea No. 100

Congratulations to all the winners.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank update

Please note that they don't need any more sanitary wear! They've received so much that it is being given to other charities (including one which sends it to Africa). They have completely run out of shampoo. The usual food items such as Long life fruit juice, squash, jam, custard, cold meat (corned beef, spam, tinned ham), tea.

Washing up Liquid, Washing Detergent

Men's and Women's deodorants, Men's Shower Gel. Many Thanks

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League

Advance notice - Our Annual Teddy Bears' Picnic will be held on Thursday afternoon, 19th July - hopefully outdoors in the Church garden. If anyone is looking for a home for soft toys please bring them along and put them in the box at the back of the church ready for our children's tombola.

Social Pillar

Thank you!

To everyone who was involved with the fun run and garden party it was an very successful and happy events and everyone seemed to have a good time.

The Fun Run

Congratulations to all who took part in the Fun Run this year! As usual a big thank you to all the volunteers who made sure it all went smoothly.

Sponsorship for Fr. David. Thanks to all who sponsored Fr. David. There will be someone from the fun run team at the back of church after the Masses for the next two weeks to collect Fr David's sponsorship, alternatively they can drop it into the parish office.

Film Night

For your diaries! There will be no Saturday Film Club in the holiday month of August but please note the following dates for the remainder of this year: 1 September, 20 October, 17 November, 15 December.

Coffee Rota

We are in urgent need for people to help on the coffee rota for after the 9.15am, 11am Sunday Masses, also the Wednesday morning 9.30am Mass. Please contact the parish office if you would like to be added to the rota. Thank You.

Youth Pillar

Youth Film Night – Save The Date

The youth film night for people aged 12+ will be held on Saturday 21st July at 7pm in the Community Centre. The film showing will be 'What We Did On Our Holiday'. Food will be provided. There will be a suggested donation of £2. We look forward to seeing you there!

Message From Flavio

I can now confirm that a total amount of **GBP 660.00** (GBP 465.00 in cash and GBP 195.00 on line) was raised from my cycle ride from Parishioners, colleagues at work, and friends. This amount will be shared (75%) £495.00 between the Hastings Lifeboat & St.Michael 's Hospice, and (25%) £165.00 to The Knights of St.Columba. Thank you to all the Parishioners for their most generous support.

Polite Reminders

The Parish disabled parking spaces are for Blue Badge holders only.

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*

Saturday 21st July 2018

Cleaning the Church A Haylock, A Crossland, G MacManus, K Evans

Wednesday Coffee M Howell, S Barradell
18th July

22nd July 2018

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Walters	F Mace M Howell	M Cooper K Edwards
Readers	J Bajorek P Dabrowski	C D'Souza H Denham	M Ingledeu N D'Silva
Ministers of Holy Communion	A Guyton J Bajorek H Rothon M Cahill C Cahill	M Smith A Ward M Howell S Cotta D Hairs	V Terry Z Bajorek P May S Ingle P Murray
Bar			Hall Closed
Coffee		Hall Closed	Hall Closed
Altar Servers			

Tellers P Cosgrave, P Dabrowski