

**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 £1,417. Second Collection £936. Mass attendance 742.

<b>16th March</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> <b>6pm Lara Novaes Cremonesi RIP</b> (D Suzzara)
<b>Sunday 17th March</b>	<b>9.15am Clare Hanelman</b> <b>11am People Of The Parish</b> <b>6pm Stations Of The Cross</b>
<b>Monday 18th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Robert Feeney RIP</b> (Feeney Family)
<b>Tuesday 19th March</b>	<b>Saint Joseph</b> <b>9.30am Teresa West</b>
<b>Wednesday 20th March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Mr &amp; Mrs H.E Winn RIP</b> (Simon Family) <b>10.45am Eucharist Adoration</b>
<b>Thursday 21st March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Thomas O'Donoghue</b> (P&A Billing)
<b>Friday 22nd March</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Teresa Linardi RIP</b> (D Suzzara Delf)
<b>23rd March</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b> <b>Sunday 24th March</b>	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> <b>6pm Mick Brace RIP</b> (G Tomkins) <b>9.15am People Of The Parish</b> <b>11am Carmel Turton RIP</b> (Romilly Turton) <b>6pm Stations Of The Cross</b>

**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 CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day.

### **GIFT AID envelopes 2019/2020**

Boxes of Gift Aid envelopes for the coming new tax year will be available next week at the back of church.

PLEASE take yours.

**Fr David writes** This week, as a family we celebrated the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of my father's death. Sometimes I feel that his death seemed to have happened last week and other times he seems to have been dead for a long time. Anniversaries are really intriguing as you know. My psyche seem to remember all the emotions that I had gone through on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 1997. It's like something in me is switched on around the anniversary and the memories flash back in time. My father's death came out of the blue in my life and nothing prepared me for it. And so the shock kept me numb and in shock for a long time. For months I lived in a haze and everything went into mono colour and on automatic gear. Nothing seemed to stir up any emotion. I experienced life as being flat for the first time. I did think that I had lost the ability to laugh – really laugh and to celebrate. As anyone who has lost someone very close to them, you would identify something of what I am trying to articulate here. After more than nine months after his death, a Christian Brother friend of mine invited me to go and spend some days away with his community on the Great Ocean Road – a beautiful stretch of golden sand beaches along the coast in Victoria. I reluctantly accepted to join them. On the first morning, I decided that before having breakfast I would go for a walk on my own on the beach below the house where we were staying. There was no one on the beach. The sun was shining already, the sea was lapping against the golden sand and there was also a soft warm breeze that seemed to embrace me. Without any construction on my part at all, my heart felt a sudden lift. I felt that I was enveloped in light. In an instant, I felt that I had become part and parcel with nature and that everything made sense at last. I felt that the dark veil which had overshadowed me for so long had vanished. At that moment I knew who I was profoundly and I felt one with life in general. I cannot describe it in words. It was a moment I will never forget. It was a moment in time which I tried to re-create so many times but in vain. Since that day in 1997, I did have experiences of utter joy in my life but never at that depth and quality. It was sheer grace. I was embraced by God's grace to reassure me that I had not been forgotten. I wanted to capture that particular moment by painting it. I wanted it to linger on forever. However I have learnt since then that one cannot capture and maintain such a moment for long. As human beings we cannot cope with so much intense beauty at once. As the term itself implies, peak experiences do not come often and they do not last. However they can become a touchstone, a marker to which we may return mentally and spiritually at various points in our lives. The birth of a child, falling in love, a special day or an encounter in nature as I did have may all be classified as peak experiences we want to preserve, remember and cherish. Perhaps like Peter we want to "build a tent" or otherwise make a memorial to the event and the person with whom we have shared it. But like the events in today's gospel, as soon as the event happens, it seems to end. "After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone". The encounter was over in a second and those who had witnessed it were humbled into silence. The encounter of the transfiguration informs our own peak experiences. They are really a taste of the life that is to come, an eternal peak experience that will satisfy all our longings. For the second Sunday of Lent the church gives us the reading of the transfiguration of Jesus, a story found in the Synoptics (Mark, Matthew and Luke) but not in the Gospel of John. Luke takes the story from Mark. The presence of Elijah and Moses indicates Jesus as the fulfilment of the prophets (Elijah) and the Law (Moses). Only the three disciples are there to witness this extraordinary event. The narrative of the transfiguration is full of symbolism. The Cloud for example which is an Old Testament symbol of God's presence wandering in the desert with his people. The cloud represents God's glory. Moreover a voice from the cloud speaks echoing the message heard at Jesus's baptism. "This is my chosen Son, listen to him". More symbolism is present in the face of Jesus changing in appearance and his clothing becoming dazzlingly white. Luke wants us to know that Jesus shares the

glory of the Lord and fulfils the prophets and the law. He is on par with Elijah and Moses. He is called God's son to whom we should listen. The transfiguration enables Jesus to make the most difficult journey in his life – to take the road that leads him to Calvary. And that is the reason that we do experience peak experiences in our lives too. They become resources that we would go back to and remember especially in moments of crisis and suffering. These peak experiences help us to savour the beauty of life because we know we cannot capture them forever. However they are real experiences and their memories many times help us to go through the painful ones. Peak experiences speak to us about our longings for connection and encounter beyond the ordinary. Let us this Sunday, remember our peak moments and give thanks to God for them. May God keep you blessed as we continue this Lenten Journey this year together.

**“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries** – The next drop in surgery with Fr. David will be on **Tuesday 19th March between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

### **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 Santino Pacitto and his parents Roberto and Liza.

## **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 19th March**

Film – Pope Francis: A man of his word at 8pm in the Community Centre

### **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 Faith – Starts from St Francis, Willett Way at 9am.

## **Finance Pillar**

### **200 Club**

Firstly, thank you so much for joining the 200 Club which has proved to be a great success in the past year with over £7000 being raised for Church funds.

The new year starts on 1st April with the draw taking place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. As many of you paid by cheque last year and assuming you wish to continue paying this way, 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 [contact 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

### Week of Accompanied Prayer – WAP

Thank you to all who have supported in so many ways our week of accompanied Prayer, just completed. We hope it has been a blessing to all of you, to the parish as a whole and to all of Petts Wood Churches Together.

### First Holy Communion 2019

The eighth preparation session is on Saturday 23rd March from 4.30pm to 5.45pm. This is a parent session with Fr David and all children.

### Confirmation 2019

The eighth preparation session is on Monday 25th March from 7pm to 8.30pm

**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.**

### 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.

## Social Pillar

### Confirmandi event

Our 2019 Confirmandi have a fundraising event on Saturday 30th March from 7pm to 10pm. All monies raised will be going directly to St Catherines in the Philippines. Look out for the posters, come along and enjoy yourselves. If you cannot come but would like to support our young people, there will be a box at the back of the church for raffle donations. Adults £5 – tickets can be purchased on the night.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Our next parish event is imminent-the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt. This will take place on Easter Sunday, 21st April, after the 9.15 mass.

If you would like to be involved in this there is a meeting in the community centre at 8.00 on Tuesday 26th March. If you cannot attend this meeting but want to be involved or have ideas to contribute please contact me on [mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org)

**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.

### 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 Liturgy

Please note that when there is a Church Parade Mass (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 and 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.

### **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**

#### **Bereavement Retreat, Aylesford 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:

[mfbereavement@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mfbereavement@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](mailto: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.

### **200 Club Winners**

Congratulations to this month's winners -

£100 Mrs S Poulton Number 123

£50 Mrs L Matthews Number 58

£25 Mrs A Dingli Number 126

£25 Ms M Ingledew Number 119

### **Justice & Peace**

#### **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**

Hi,  
I'm Bethany Towell. Many of you will know me from 3<sup>rd</sup> Petts Wood Scouts and Explorers. I am participating in a **World Challenge Humanitarian & Conservation Aid Expedition to Costa Rica** this July. In order to participate I have to raise approximately £5,000 to cover travel, kit, vaccinations, insurance etc. I have already raised £4,100 but I still have a way to go!

Help me reach my target by joining me in a **Family Beetle Drive** evening at St James' Church Hall on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April** after 6pm Mass. This should be a fun evening for all the family. Save the date and more details will be advertised in the Briefly very soon.

Many thanks for your support.

Bethany Towell

### All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra perform

Stabat Mater - Schubert

Mass in G - Schubert

Saturday 23 March 2019 at 7.30pm

The Parish Church of All Saints, Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD

Bookings & enquiries 01689 823857

[www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk](http://www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk)

### 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](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org), or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

### Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

#### Weekend 23rd March

##### Cleaning the Church

O Clutton. M Mathews, R Blanco, R Mwansa, D Delf

#### Wednesday Coffee 20th March

M Mulvey  
S Barradell

#### 24th March 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Walters	A&L Delamain	S Barradell S Kavanagh
Readers	J Wedderspoon J Johnson	Children's Mass	N D'Silva R Morrison

<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	J Callinan R Wright C Cosgrave P Cosgrave P Driscoll	T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward T Blythe	K Chan K Evans A Evans P May S Ingle
<b>Bar</b>			B Meehan O Clutton
<b>Coffee</b>		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	M Harrington K Walsh
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Mario		Zoe Emily
<b>Tellers</b>	L Delamain M Edwards		