

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 £1,600. Second Collection – Maintenance Fund £978. Mass attendance 853.

19th January (Saturday Vigil)	Second Sunday 6pm Noah Mark Rothern RIP (Rothern Family)
Sunday 20th January	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Joan Hansford RIP (A Hansford) Eamon & Marie O'Keeffe & Family (O'Keeffe Family)
Monday 21st January	Saint Agnes 9.30am Tom & Betty Cotter
Tuesday 22nd January	Feria 9.30am Teresa Adams RIP (P&T Troy)
Wednesday 23rd January	Feria 9.30am Luise Furnell 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 24th January	Saint Francis de Sales 9.30am Jimmie & Mary O'Connor
Friday 25th January	The Conversion of Saint Paul the Apostle 9.30am Mary Casartelli
26th January (Saturday Vigil)	Third Sunday 6pm Victor Clark RIP (June Clark)
Sunday 27th January	9.15am People of the Parish 11am James Mulroy RIP (L O'Sullivan)

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.

Fr Barry

Let's keep Fr Barry in our thoughts and prayers. He has been feeling unwell however has turned a corner and recovering at home.

Fr David writes...

One of the most moving experiences we had on pilgrimage in the Holy Land last November was the renewing of the wedding vows in Cana. To make it more special was the fact that there were couples amongst us who had been married for forty, fifty and plus years in 2018. What an achievement for anyone! Marriage is not for the faint hearted nowadays. There are so many factors that can hinder the flourishing and sustenance of marriage. In every lifestyle we choose, we start off genuinely believing that it will guarantee us happiness, otherwise we would not go through it in the first place. At the beginning, everything normally feels just right. I call it the honeymoon period. We are infatuated by the other person. Lots of time we do not really see each other initially. We perceive what we project upon one another. As time goes on, our eyes are opened, and we start realising that the other is not as perfect as we had previously thought. At this stage we need to consciously re-commit ourselves to each other. The relationship goes through different stages as the couple keep on developing emotionally, spiritually, physically and psychologically. With the addition of children, the relationship takes another dimension. The focus does not remain on the couple themselves as they have to adjust to the new reality and the child becomes the priority. Some couples find this stage both satisfying and yet also unsettling. Sometimes it is the male partner who feels left out. Work need to be done by both partners to feel included in the new reality. Especially in mid-life, we do go through a period of dissatisfaction. What used to give us meaning and happiness seems to be less attractive. We start looking back at what we had achieved or not, and we start becoming much more aware of our mortality and the urgency to live our dreams. It is commonplace that at this stage the well runs dry.

I remember in my late thirties and early forties, becoming very dissatisfied with my life. I became very unsettled. It was a scary time as everything was up for grabs. I was even considering seriously leaving the priesthood. Nothing was satisfying me, and I started asking myself whether a complete change in my life, would be the solution for my peace of mind and happiness. It was at this time that I had decided after a long time of soul searching to leave the Religious Community that I was part of, and explore the possibility of diocesan priesthood in Southwark. I definitely wasn't certain that that might work either. However I wanted to give it a try. I cannot even say that the transition gave me instant peace of heart. It took me years – in my forties ministering wholeheartedly but at the same time questioning my calling. I persevered in my years of spiritual famine until at one point, something in me fell into place. I think that it is only human that we have our moments of doubt and frustrations in every lifestyle we choose in life. In every human being's life, we experience a time devoid of joy and happiness.

In today's gospel we hear from John of Jesus' invitation with some of his disciples and his mother to a wedding in Cana. I truly imagine Jesus as a human-being enjoying himself at the wedding. As a human-being, he would celebrate life to the full. At the festival of a Jewish wedding in Cana, Jesus reveals his glory through his first great sign. During the wedding feast the wine runs out and Mary expects Jesus to do something about it. Jesus' negative answer to Mary underlines the point that he cannot be bound by family relationships but only by his Father's will. Mary's final words, "Do whatever he tells you", recognise the supreme authority of Jesus and what he must do himself. There are six jars used to provide water for the Jewish ritual of cleaning. Jesus tells the servants to fill them to the brim and after they do this, they discover that the water has been changed into wine. All 120 gallons of it. When the steward tastes it, he compliments the bridegroom for keeping the best wine until last. The narrative of the wedding in Cana is divided into two parts. The couple experience that the wine had run dry. The story seems to indicate that there was no longer wine in their marriage. Something must have happened to them. Wine for the Jewish mentality is a metaphor for life and passion. Jesus is invited into their lifeless situation, and then has the authority to change what was ordinary into something extraordinary.

The second part of our lives can be much more fruitful and passionate than the first. At this stage, we have life experience under our belt. We have that we would have accumulated some wisdom on the way. We are also more in touch with our truth as human-beings. We know what makes us tick. Thus we can choose what gives us true joy. It is a time of going inwards. It is not the external possessions that start to give us meaning but it is our inner world. Carl Jung used to say that we spend the first part of our lives trying to build our identity in the outer world – trying to establish ourselves by having families, professions that gives us a place in the community. However we spend the second part of life, trying to deconstruct all that and finding meaning and happiness in the spiritual realm. The realisation of our own

mortality gives us the impetus to search for that which satisfies the hunger of the soul. In whatever stage of life we are in, let us invite Jesus into our homes, relationships and lifestyles to change our ordinary lives and transform them into fountains of life.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 22nd January 2019 between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

A BIG THANK YOU from the Twinkle Toes Team

Zoe, Stuart & Sofia successfully completed the GOSH Winter Walk last weekend and with your amazing support have already raised over £1,600 !!! They would like to say (along with the GOSH team) a MASSIVE thank you to you all for your support and very VERY generous donations, all going towards a great cause close to many people's hearts.

The Just Giving page will still be available for a few months, so there's still time to donate if you wish and Sofia will be collecting the paper donations over forthcoming weeks, thanks again.

Second Collection –Next week's second collection is the 4-in1 collection for – Racial Justice/Communications/ Day for Life/ Apostleship of the sea.

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.

Church Cleaners Required

As a New Year's resolution have you considered volunteering as a church cleaner? We are short of cleaners at present. Cleaners are rostered every few weeks: the more cleaners we have the fewer times you are needed. Please email the parish office if you can help.

200 Club winners!

£100	Barry Simmons	No 148
£50	Romilly Turton	No163
£25	Chris Cahill	No 25
£25	Deidre Marshall	No 47

Congratulations to our winners. There are still places available for any new parishioners or late comers. Please contact [Ken Evans](#) for details.

Evangelisation Pillar

Readers Meeting – Please note change of date

On **Tuesday 5th February** at 8pm in the church there will be a meeting for all existing Readers and anyone interested in becoming a Reader.

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 fourth preparation session is on Monday 21st January from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

First Holy Communion 2019

The third preparation session is on Saturday 26th January 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.

First Friday of the Month. A time of silent meditation in an evocative atmosphere created by soft background music and candles. From 7.30pm till 9.00pm. **The next will be on Friday 1st February.**
All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

Week of Accompanied Pray

Sunday 10th March to Saturday 16th March 2019

Do you find yourself wanting a deeper personal relationship with God? Do you sometimes find it difficult to pray? Would you like to discover more about different ways of praying?

Please consider participating in this opportunity to grow in your prayer life during Lent 2019. All that is needed is to commit to spend a period of time each day in prayer during the Week of Accompanied Prayer and to meet your Prayer Companion daily at a time convenient for you. Your Prayer Companion will support and encourage you in complete confidence as you reflect together.

If you attended our Week of Accompanied Prayer in 2013 or 2016 you are most welcome to repeat the experience.

The Week of Accompanied Prayer 2019 flyer provides additional information.

There is a Taster Session on Sunday 3rd February, 3 - 4 pm at Christ Church URC, 25 Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH when there will be an opportunity to pick up an invitation leaflet (application form on the back page of printed Briefly) for the Week of Prayer.

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.

Vocations Weekend for young women

Theme: Follow your Heart - Discernment and Vocation

Dates: 15 - 17 Feb 2019

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne FCJ at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website

www.fcjsisters.org

Social Pillar

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.

Invitation to all Ladies in our Parish of St James'

The Petts Wood Catholic Women's League would be delighted if you came along to our New Year Party on Monday 28th January at 8pm in St James' Community Centre.

Please do come along and meet not only members from the CWL from St James', but also from other Bromley parishes and members from other churches in Petts Wood who are in the Churches Together group.

It is a relaxed friendly evening with delicious food, a chance to make new friends and to learn the names of the people who you see in St James' and around Petts Wood. There will be a fun quiz and entertainment.

We look forward to meeting you on 28th January at 8pm. If you would like to know more or tell us you are coming please phone - 0208 467 3697. Otherwise please just turn up on the evening.

Film Club

Thank you to everyone who came to our Film Night last Saturday. Your generous donations raised a very impressive £115 which will enable us to purchase a good-sized microwave for the kitchen in the Community Centre.

Our next film will be shown on Saturday, 9 February in the Community Centre. This will be the highly acclaimed *Shadowlands*, a 1993 British biographical drama. It focuses on the relationship between C.S. Lewis & American poet, Joy Davidman, her death from cancer, & how this challenged Lewis's Christian faith. It stars Anthony Hopkins & Debra Winger & won a BAFTA Award for Best British Film & another for Best Actor in a Leading Role.

The film runs for 2 hours, 11 minutes & will start promptly at 7.30pm. The bar will be open beforehand & as always a warm welcome awaits. We do hope you can make it!

Liturgy Pillar

Children's Liturgy

Please note that when there is a Church Parade Mass (10th February, 10th March and 14th April) there will not be Children's Liturgy.

Music Workshop

We invite all music lovers to our next workshop which is being held in the Community Centre on 26th January, led by Meg Shepherd. Please put this date in your diaries.

Faith in Action 2019 – Coming Soon!

Are you a young person aged between 9-18yrs? Read on to find out how you can take up the 'Faith in Action' challenge for 2019 and also register now online!

'Faith in Action' is a national award scheme from CYMFED which challenges young people of faith to make a difference in the world through service and spiritual reflection. There are four levels of the award - Pin, Bronze, Silver, Gold and each one recognises and celebrates the good work and positive contribution made by young people in their parishes, schools and communities. In November 2018, we were delighted to celebrate the hard work and achievements of all young people who participated in Faith in Action last year and received awards from Archbishop Peter Smith at the Faith in Action ceremony.

All young people in Bromley Deanery aged 9-18 years are invited to take part in the Faith in Action Award Scheme, which will launch for its' third year on **Sunday 27th January from 2-4pm at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley**. So, if you are a young person who reads at Mass, sings or plays an instrument in the choir, altar serves, helps or volunteers in your school or community in any way, then come along to register! Alternatively, you may want to become involved but are not sure how to begin – come along to meet the team and learn more about the range of exciting opportunities open to you. Take a look at our 'Faith in Action Bromley Deanery' videos on YouTube, Facebook @bromleydeanery, see our website: <http://www.bromleydeanery.org/?p=526> or email susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org. You can also register now online, just visit the link: <https://goo.gl/forms/8r6R1Nba127YFODS2>

CYM Careers Fair – 9th February 2019

Following the success of our first CYM Careers Fair in April this year, we are planning to hold a second careers event on **Saturday 9th February 2019 from 11.30-2.30pm** here in the Community centre. Come and take part in 'mock interviews', receive one-to-one careers advice from industry professionals, find out about the range of opportunities relating to modern day apprenticeships, peer ministry and GAP

year opportunities and receive practical tips to help craft the perfect CV. **Register now for tickets:**
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cym-careers-fair-for-young-people-tickets-53537929388>

Justice & Peace

Foodbank requests

The Foodbank requirements have changed a bit and they would like us to use this list until further notice: vegetarian food tinned or dried (macaroni cheese, ratatouille, vegetable curry, etc.), tinned potatoes, cooking sauces, small bags of rice, custard, jam, rice pudding, sweets, children's toothbrushes, shaving foam/gel, nappies size 6, and washing-up liquid. Thank you. Justice & Peace Group.

Next meeting

The Justice and Peace Group will meet on Wednesday 23 January at 7.45pm in the Community Centre. All parishioners are assured of a warm welcome.

CAFOD Lent Family Fast

The Justice and Peace group would like to invite you to a workshop briefing for this year's Lent Family Fast Day. On Saturday 26 January CAFOD are giving us an opportunity to hear a first-hand account of their work in Bangladesh. This is the country that will be focused on during Lent. Family Fast day in Lent is on Friday 15th March. The workshop will be in the Community Centre from 10:30-13:30. For more details and to book your place please email either Nick Babb (nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org) or the CAFOD Southwark office (southwark@cafod.org.uk or 0208 466 9901). Please visit CAFOD's FFD website - <https://cafod.org.uk/Fast-Day>

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. This is a time for guests with dementia and their carers to come for refreshments and a chat in a comfortable and safe environment and if they wish, join in with activities such as quizzes, games and music. 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.

Finance Pillar

Fundraising by shopping online

Several parishioners over the last few years have helped the parish by raising donations through **easyfundraising.org.uk**. Recently we reached the milestone of £3,000, for which we thank everyone who has made purchases that way. Over 3,400 retailers including Amazon, eBay, M&S, John Lewis, Argos, Booking.com, tour operators, now make donations on every purchase (from 0.5% to 5% of cost). The top supporter parishioner has raised £388 (all transactions are completely anonymous), so why not embrace the idea and help St James'? To get started, follow the item on the left menu bar of the parish website. Once you've registered, you have the option to install an automatic donation reminder in your browser to make sure no purchase misses its reward.

Any questions, please contact roger.wright@stjamespettswood.org. Thank you.

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 26th January

Cleaning the Church

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

Wednesday Coffee 30th January

Sheila Barradell, Madeleine Howell

27th January 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	K Kirby	A Delamain L Delamain	S Barradell S Kavanagh
Readers	P Dabrowski J Wedderspoon	Children's Mass	R Rowan H Marvell
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Callinan R Wright C Cosgave P Cosgrave P Driscoll	T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward T Blythe	K Chan K Evans A Evans P May S Ingle
Bar			B Meehan O Clutton
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	M Harrington K Walsh
Altar Servers	Abigail Paulina Jude	Daniella Josh	Zacari

	Mario Peter		
Tellers	L Delamain, M Edwards		