

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 £1,470. Mass attendance 759.	
30th June (Saturday Vigil)	Thirteenth Sunday 6pm Ken Leftwich RIP (O'Mahony Family)
Sunday 1st July	9.15am People Of The Parish 11am Anna Vassallo RIP (V Terry)
Monday 2nd July	Feria 9.30am Peter Keen & Family RIP (Jo Keen)
Tuesday 3rd July	Saint Thomas 9.30am Gerald Byrne RIP (G Mulroy)
Wednesday 4th July	Feria 9.30am Mrs Marjorie Farrell RIP (Bunnage Family) 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 5th July	Feria 9.30am Kenneth & Margaret Jackson RIP (Jackson Family)
Friday 6th July	Feria 9.30am Frances Durbin (B Ford) 7.30pm Eucharistic Adoration
7th July (Saturday Vigil)	Fourteenth Sunday 6pm Martin & Bridie Mulroy RIP (G Mulroy) 9.15am People Of The Parish
Sunday 8th July	11am May Monaghan RIP (Monaghan 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

This week's second collection is for the Maintenance Fund

Fr David Writes Living with a secret can be a very lonely task. Notwithstanding that today's culture is more open and accepting, some people still choose not to disclose something important of themselves. One of the main reasons which hinders us to disclose, would be shame. Another reason would be in protecting their loved ones. Some people live, and die burdened by a secret. We can be functioning very well in life and yet we do suffer in private. Although it is very important to respect the choices that people do, it is no secret to acknowledge that disclosure within a safe environment brings healing and peace. It is so liberating to be able to disclose one's true self to someone whom you know you can trust and is non-judgemental. One can breathe again. One can smile at the world again. Shame can paralyse us. Shame makes us feel damaged and not worth loving. Some people have this sense of themselves as they think that it is better to wear masks in life because they think, if people would really know who they truly are, they would reject us. This way of thinking encloses us within ourselves and most of the time, hinder us to search out for help. Today's gospel proposes two miracles, one inserted inside the other. First, we are introduced to Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, who comes to Jesus to ask him to go and lay hands on his daughter who is about to die. Then he narrated the healing of a woman who suffered from bleeding for twelve years, before continuing with the story of illness, death and resurrection of Jairus's daughter. The disease of the woman is described very graphically. She has been living with her secret for twelve years. No doctor is able to cure her. Her illness is a very private matter. The community she lives in regards her illness as religious impurity. Blood is the symbol of life, but when it leaves the body, it recalls death, provokes disgust and fear. The law states that one who has bleeding is not allowed at parties and meetings of the community and is shunned by all, as if she is a leper. For those who have even casual contact with her is forced to undergo complicated ceremonies before resuming normal life. Like all sick, marginalised despised people, this unclean woman must have felt herself very much ashamed and scared. She should have never been in a crowd according to her community. If she was found out about her secret they would have been enraged. The day, she decided to approach Jesus in a crowd, she was risking big time. She had an irresistible impulse to get closer to Jesus, to touch him. "If I just touch his cloak, she thinks, I shall get well". Two obstacles stand in between this encounter: the fear of violating the strict provisions of the law and the barrier formed by the huge crowd that flock around Jesus. Hence, she decided to act in secret. She approaches Jesus from behind, touches his cloak and as if stuck by a sudden force of life, she feels healed. Jesus takes a unique approach. He does not avoid in any way those who are considered unclean. For him, the important thing is that she is a human being. He allows himself to be approached, touched and does not run to undergo the ritual purifications prescribed in the book of Leviticus. Jesus is conscious of being in possession of a life force that cannot be affected by any form of death. He wants that all would know this truth about him. That is why he brings the woman out of her invisibility and makes her visible to her community. He does not do this to humiliate her, but rather to bring her to life – to her community. For Jesus, there is no physical or moral disease, that justifies the refusal or that constitutes a hindrance to approach God. In the face of God, we are all impure, made pure by the encounter with Christ. Only the hypocrites consider themselves holy and raise barriers so as not to be united with sinners. They do not need to touch Jesus, they delude themselves in believing that they are already in perfect health. The attitude of Christ towards the woman is an invitation to us to never feel discomfort in order to reach out and encounter those who may be considered impure. Jesus did not allow himself to think about what other people say if they saw him speaking or touching a "sinner". We are, on the other hand, sometimes enslaved by worrying what other people might be saying about us. The only thing that mattered to him was to give life to another brother and sister of his. Jesus's power to give life does not stop even in front of our greatest enemy – death. By awakening the child from the sleep of death, he shows that faith in him can also attain this victory over death. To us, who are tempted to lose hope, something can still change. Jesus says – "Do not be afraid – just believe". The gospel today brings us once again hope. Challenges us and disturbs us on many levels. Questions also our own faith. Are we ready to risk in order to find life? Risk coming out of our confined existence to breathe more freely and be healed? Let us pray especially today for those among us, who feel encumbered by a secret – may they find the strength to reach out to someone they can trust.

"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Wednesday 4th July.

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 1st June 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.

Service of Remembrance for Bereaved Families & Friends.

Losing a baby or a child of any age is one of the most painful experiences anyone may ever have to face. This Sunday, 1 July you are warmly invited to a Service of Remembrance for Bereaved Families & Friends. It will take place at 3pm in St James' Community Centre. The service will be a time of music, prayer, poetry and reflection. We do hope you will be able to join us & to stay afterwards for refreshments. Please pass this on to anyone you know who might benefit from this service. All are most welcome.

Evangelisation Pillar

There will be a meeting for all catechists on **Wednesday 11th July 8pm** in the Community Hall. Please join us for a glass of wine / juice and nibbles to celebrate our achievements, and to share and support the catechist family.

St James Pre School

Noah's Arc

The preschool would like to invite parishioners to come and see the rehearsal of their fantastic play 'Noah's Arc' on Monday 9th July, after morning mass at 10.30am. If you would like to show your support to our younger parishioners, please contact the parish office on 01689 827100 to reserve a seat.

Preschool Places

If you are interested in a place at St James Pre School, please email stjamespreschool@live.co.uk. There are limited spaces available for Sep18.

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 tinned potatoes, tinned tomatoes, long life fruit juice and jam, plus squash, biscuits and cold meat, are still needed. Household goods such as washing powder and washing up liquid are also welcome.

Remember CAFOD in your Will?

Once you've taken care of your loved ones, could you include a gift in your will to your worldwide family? Pick up a leaflet at the back of church to find out about the free will-writing service for CAFOD supporters, email legacy@cafod.org.uk or call Hannah Caldwell on 020 7095 5367

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

Film Night

The next Film Club will be on Saturday, 14 July. We will be showing The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, a highly entertaining & touching British comedy/ drama. It was released in 2011 & has a great cast of actors, including Dames Judi Dench & Maggie Smith. As before please feel free to bring a cold snack with you if you wish. The film will start at 7.45pm & runs for just under 2 hours.

Sign up sheets are in the church porch. We do hope you will join us!

Garden Party and Fun Run

The time for our major summer event, the Garden Party and Fun Run, is rapidly approaching. There are plenty of ways to help and get involved.

On the day, Sunday 8th July, you can donate cakes and/ or food from your country.

You can help man a stall for an hour.

You can help to set up on either the Saturday or Sunday or, very importantly, be part of a group that clears up at the end of the event.

You can buy some raffle tickets, they are on sale at the end of every mass.

You can come and enjoy the event from 12.00 until 4.00.

You can run in the fun run. Starting point is beside St. James School at Jubilee Park. This is a fun event suitable for all to walk, jog, run. You can choose to do one or two laps. Fr. David is running again so you could sponsor him to show your support. At the back of the church there are sign up forms for this and all the other ways you can get involved. Marshals are needed for the fun run so this might be something you could help with.

Sign up sheets are at the back of the church.

Many thanks for your continuing support

Fun Run 8th July - Reminder to please return forms if possible this weekend

In order to speed up the registration process on run day, please try to return your fun run forms and entrance fees before 8th July. There will be people at the back of the church at all masses this weekend to receive forms and answer any questions.... or you can drop forms into the parish office.

Don't worry if you cannot return your forms by 8th July though, you can still turn up on the day and pay at the registration tables in the park.

Please aim to get to the park at 12 or shortly after. The fun run is scheduled to start at 12:30 but there will be registration and a warm up prior to this.

All the best

The Fun Run team

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!

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 7th July 2018	
Cleaning the Church	Eucharistic Ministers

Wednesday Coffee 4th July	B D'Arcy
----------------------------------	----------

8th July 2018			
Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Gallagher	L Samuels J Samuels	Uniformed Groups
Readers	L Rusmini A Prifti	B Cotta C D'Souza	Parade Mass
Ministers of Holy Communion	P Driscoll T Babb B Babb R Wright A Guyton	A Ward D Hairs B Cotta W David B D'Arcy	N Longhurst T Willard R Mwansa K Chan P May
Bar			Garden Party
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	Garden Party
Altar Servers	Paulina N Cracknell R&F Norman-Brown P Marshall	L Delamain J David P Marshall	A Lynch F Ikenye J Monaghan Emily
Tellers	K Evans N Longhurst		