

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 £1,551. Second Collection - Catholic Education Services £551.36. Mass attendance 737.

15th September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Fourth Sunday 6pm Patrick Meehan RIP (Meehan Family)
Sunday 16th September	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Michael Feeney RIP (Feeney Family)
Monday 17th September	Feria 9.30am Dermot Sadlier RIP (Wharton Family)
Tuesday 18th September	Feria 9.30am Thanksgiving Karen Antao (A Antao & Family)
Wednesday 19th September	Feria 9.30am Relatives & friends of James Porter 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 20th September	Saint Andrew Kim Tae-gon 9.30am Mary Casartelli
Friday 21st September	Saint Matthew 9.30am International Day of Peace (Justice & Peace Group)
22nd September (Saturday Vigil)	Twenty-Fifth Sunday 6pm Quadsia Khan & Family (A&P Cane) 9.15am People of the Parish 11am John Jagger RIP (S Jagger & Family)
Sunday 23rd September	

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 Home Mission. The Home Mission provides the Bishops with resources to support the spread of the Gospel in our own country.

Next weeks second collection is for the parish maintenance fund.

Fr David writes...

We love to protect those we love. We hate seeing them upset or in pain. Some of us are natural "saviours". When a family member or a friend comes to us with a problem – we immediately start finding ourselves reassuring them that all will be ok and that we will be there for them. And that is true – the knowledge that we will be there for them is very reassuring to anyone who is going through a hard time. To know that they are not alone in this. However as we all know in life, there are moments that we feel totally helpless in front of the pain of our loved ones. That is very hard. We find ourselves promising them that we would not only be there for them but to save them from all the pain. That is impossible to do. We are not God. When a loved one has been diagnosed with a terrible illness, when having huge difficulties in their relationship, when a loved one is going through a mental health illness and we feel ill equipped to even start understanding or to reach them, in these circumstances and many more, we feel completely helpless and deskilled. Sometimes to fight against our helplessness, we take a militant attitude. "I will do anything to save you". And that is a natural attitude and it is true we need to do everything in our power to support.

However there is a time that we need to humbly acknowledge that there is nothing more left to do in order to alleviate the pain and the fate of those we love. The only thing that we can do is to be there for them. They have to go through it themselves– no one can save them. Although in acknowledging that is a sour pill to swallow, there is also a sense of liberation in the acceptance of the reality. The pain of our loved ones affects us, especially those who are close family. It affects the whole family system. Life is not the same. Anxiety and worry take over. We feel a lump in our stomach every time we remember. We start experiencing the reality that life is fragile, and we lose the sense of joy and we wonder whether life will ever resume its normality. Actually in these times Normality vanishes. One thing that these situations in my life teaches me is that one cannot possibly protect ourselves and those we love from everything. That to believe in a world without pain is an illusion. That there are times that, notwithstanding all the precautions that we take, and all the medical treatment that we pursue, there is a flow of life that needs to be honoured and accepted, hard as it might be.

In the gospel today, Jesus speaks about himself through the figure of the Son of Man, who must suffer and be rejected and be put to death. Not only must he suffer, but experience comfortless suffering in being rejected. That rejection robs the suffering one of his dignity. He has to face forsakenness. He will not die of natural causes but be put to death. And this experience of dereliction will be answered by God who will raise him up on the third day. In this way, whoever wants to understand Jesus must first look upon the figure of the suffering Son of Man. At this point, Peter, goes into the normal response of any good friend – he tries to protect Jesus. He strongly objects to what Jesus has said. Peter wants his Messiah strong and victorious and invulnerable. A few minutes before, he had asserted that Jesus was the Messiah – at this point in time, he is revealing that he was referring to a Messiah that was totally alien to who Jesus was. He truly did not know or understand the core of Jesus. Jesus rejects the idea of a future free from suffering. He rejects Peter's longing for invulnerable leadership; he rejects the God of Peter's dreams. A God who is a stranger to suffering and rejection is the invention of Satan. "Get behind me Satan".

God will permit himself, in his Son Jesus, to be wounded and rejected and slain. Jesus is determined to suffer for the sorrows of others; to understand that, is to understand the uniqueness of his being. Human logic cannot but be upset in front of such a prospect. After having rebuked Peter, Jesus calls the crowd. Mark the evangelist, sees in this crowd the multitude of Christians of his community personified. He wants to put them in front of the strict conditions set by Jesus to anyone who wishes to follow him. They are the demands that cannot be mitigated or made more acceptable. The radical nature of his choice, that does not allow discounts, hesitation or second thoughts, is invoked with three imperatives "Deny yourselves, take up your cross, follow me". By nature human beings think for themselves, want to be the centre of interest, seek in everything their own advantage and ignore others. Being disciples mean reaching out, being sensitive to the needs of others. In taking up the cross we learn to accept the reality of suffering as part of life hoping that instead of making us bitter, it would transform itself into compassion

towards others. Following Jesus encompasses a celebration of the gift of the whole of the reality of life!
Have a safe week everyone!

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be Tuesday 18th September – 5pm to 7pm.

Holy Baptism

This weekend we welcome Maiya Devereux and her parents William and Monica, Tom Turner and his parents Brian and Sarah, Perla Thompson and her parents Barry and Ilavia.

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 7th September and concludes with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastoral Pillar

Memory Café

If you're away on holiday or simply having a day out would you mind taking a moment or two to send a postcard from wherever you are to our memory café here at St James!

It's amazing how photos trigger memories of holidays and trips for our guests! If we can get more from the UK and abroad, that would be amazing.

Our address is: St James the Great Memory Café, St James The Great Church, C/O Parish Office, 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY. Thank You.

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.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank needs

The organisers have asked us to say a big thank you to everyone who helped support the Foodbank during the summer holidays, when a lot more food left their warehouse for the distribution centres in the form of school meals packs. It was a very busy time for them and stock dwindled, but they didn't have to buy anything in. They are now very short of: **tinned cold meat, custard, rice pudding, cooking sauces and long life fruit juice.** Also needed are **all types of men's toiletries, ladies' deodorants, washing powder, washing up liquid and nappies size 4 upwards.** Thank you for your continued support.

CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day 2018

Family Fast Day is on Friday 5 October and the Justice and Peace group would like to invite you to a briefing by CAFOD on Sunday 16 September at 2.30pm to 4.30pm in the community centre. Coming to our briefing is a wonderful opportunity to meet other CAFOD supporters and to learn more about CAFOD's work. The briefing this harvest will give you an insight into the focus community in Uganda. We will discover how CAFOD 's partners are saving lives by providing access to clean drinking water,

thanks to the generous support that parishes like ours give each Family Fast Day. To book a place or to find out more information, please contact Nick Babb nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org

Social Pillar

Parent and Toddler Group

Could we please remind parents that the St James parent and toddler group has reopened on Friday afternoons from 1.30pm to 3.00pm, £2.50 per family.

Monday Club

Monday Club are looking for new members and new ideas to create a vibrant club for Monday afternoons. They meet from 1.30 – 4.30pm.

Film Club

Our next screening will be on Saturday 20 October at 7.30pm. We will be showing "Woman in Gold" which is based on a true story. It stars Helen Mirren as Maria Altmann, a Jewish refugee living in Los Angeles, who together with her lawyer fought the government of Austria for almost a decade to reclaim Gustav Klimt's painting of her aunt, Portrait of Adele Bloch-Bauer, which was stolen from her relatives by the Nazis in Vienna just prior to World War 2. She took her legal battle all the way to the USA Supreme Court, which ruled on the case in 2004.

Running time 1 hour 49 minutes. [A sign-up sheet is in the Porch.](#)

Reminder: Film Club dates for the remainder of the year are Saturday 17 November & Saturday 15 December.

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League meeting.

The CWL meeting will be held at the earlier time of 7pm on 24th September. This is because we are very lucky to have Sr Clare coming to give a talk at 8pm.

The CWL will be holding a Military Whist Drive on Saturday 6th October at 7.30 for 8pm start. This is a fun evening suitable for all ages from 10 years old upwards. It costs £8 which will include light refreshments.

Youth Pillar

Save the Date: 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** at St James the Great Church, Petts Wood. 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.

Volunteers needed! We are extremely grateful to all the parishioners, from a wide range of industries and professions, who kindly volunteered their time in April to advise and share their considerable experience with our young people. Looking ahead, we would love to hear from interested parishioners with key experience and core skills to share who would like to be involved in our second Careers Fair; please email: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org to find out more and to register your interest.

Thank you.

Evangelisation Pillar

Diocesan Day for Catechists – Saturday 22nd September.

On behalf of the Archbishop, we would like to invite all catechists and children's liturgists to attend the annual diocesan day for Catechists at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. If you are interested in attending please contact the parish office.

Catechists of Baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation, Journey in Faith and Children's Liturgy.
Fr David would like to invite you for a meeting on Thursday 4th October at 8pm in the community centre.

St Francis Of Assisi Feast Day

Blessing of the pets on Sunday 7th October at 2pm in the parish gardens.

RCIA – Journey in Faith begins again with a Welcome session on Sunday 21st October 2018 from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

It is for Adults 18 plus who may be:

Searching for meaning in their lives and want to explore spirituality.
Wanting to know more about the person of Jesus and Christianity.
Feeling the need to belong to a Community of Faith.
Exploring the possibility of becoming a Catholic.

Journey in Faith is also for those who are already Catholics but feel the need to deepen their faith. And for those who are already Christian but wish to become full members of the Catholic Church. Please let the Parish Office know if you would like to join the journey with us or just come along. Application forms are located at the back of the church, please take one and return to the parish office.

Parish Meeting on Adoremus

Wednesday 26th September 8pm at Community Centre

Ken Chan and Michelle Wilson attended Adoremus – National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool between 7th and 9th September 2018 as delegates for St. James. They will report back to the parish on the above event, and their experience of it on Wednesday 26th September 8pm in the Community Centre. Please come along to listen to their report, and to have your say on WHAT you like to do to follow up.

“Broken” BBC TV Series – watch and discuss the series together in the Community Hall

You have heard Fr David preach on it... It has won multiple awards including BAFTA and Sandford St. Martin ... This 6 episode TV series (rated 15 because of mature themes) raised serious issues about living the Eucharist in daily life. As part of the focus on Adoremus, we will be showing one episode in each of the following Sunday evenings in the Community Hall. (**Sundays 30th September, 7th October, 14th October (then 2 weeks gap), 4th November, 11th November, and 18th November**). Door opens at 7pm for 7:10pm prompt start. After watching the episode, there will be time for sharing and discussion with the evening finishing around 9pm. Please come and join us.

Youth Alpha and Alpha for adults: Alpha is a chance to explore the meaning of life and the basics of the Christian faith in an informal, welcoming environment. Holy Innocents' Orpington is running a youth Alpha course (for 13 to 19 year olds) on Sundays (7.30-9.15 pm) starting Sunday 30 September and an adult Alpha course on Fridays (12.30-2.30 pm repeated 7.30-9.30 pm) starting Friday 28 September. Everyone, of whatever faith background, is welcome. For more details, contact Stephen Walsh (07778 612050) or visit holynnocentsorpington.org.

Petts Wood Churches Together

Autumn Fair, Nearly New Sale & Car Wash at

Southborough Lane Baptist Church, Southborough Lane, Bromley. Saturday 22nd September at 10am to 3pm. Craft, Christmas cards, hand knitted soft toys, nearly new toys and games, nearly new clothes. All Welcome

Polite Reminders

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

Parking – Please be aware of our neighbours in the surrounding roads, please do not block driveways or double park your car.

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*

22nd September 2018

Cleaning the Church	Eucharistic Ministers
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**19th September
Wednesday Coffee**

S Barradell, B D'Arcy

23rd September 2018

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	A Neal	D & C Hairs	S & J Ingle
Readers	K Salter K Lams	Children's Mass	Z Bajorek R Del Guercio
Ministers of Holy Communion	C Cosgrave P Cosgrave P Driscoll T Babb B Babb	D Hairs B Cotta W David B D'Arcy T Forde	K Evans A Evans P May S Ingle R Del Guercio
Bar			P Cosgrave R Monaghan
Coffee		G & D Brookes	T Troy J Cosgrave
Altar Servers	N Cracknell R&F Norman-Brown P Marshall		J Monaghan Zoe Emily
Tellers	L Delamain, M Edwards		

