

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 £1,482. Second Collection £574. Mass attendance 805.

2nd February (Saturday Vigil)	Fourth Sunday 6pm Maureen Clark RIP (June Clark)
Sunday 3rd February	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Noah Mark Rothon RIP (Rothon Family)
Monday 4th February	Feria 9.30am John & Dolores Bray
Tuesday 5th February	Saint Agatha 9.30am The Berger Family Calum Jamieson (Jamieson Family)
Wednesday 6th February	Saint Paul Miki 9.30am Harry Matthews RIP (Matthews Family) 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 7th February Please note change of time and place. Previously announced as Wednesday.	Feria 9.00am Mass at St James' School – Year 5 Mass. All Welcome James Mulroy RIP (Mulroy Family)
Friday 8th February	Feria 9.30am Family of Robert Kirotych Kibor (J&P)
9th February (Saturday Vigil)	Fifth Sunday 6pm Neil Meehan RIP (Meehan Family)
Sunday 10th February	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)

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 David writes...

One of the ministries I was involved in, when I lived in Melbourne, was working with people who had been ministering outside Australia for some time. Together with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary sisters, we used to run what we called Re-Entry programmes for Missionaries. These consisted of eight days of intense debriefing of their experience in their missionary country and also trying to facilitate their re-entry into Australia. One of the main common concerns for them was of returning to a country, after sometimes 10 years, which they knew was not the same as the one they had left behind. Another common complaint was that their families and communities were treating them as if they had never left the country. These were people who would have gone through major challenges and changes in their lives in trying to adapt to a totally different culture. They would have grappled to learn a new language. Struggled with eating a different cuisine. Sometimes having to learn to live without necessities which we take for granted. They were Directors of schools or working in hospitals or community service within a different system and to top it all sometimes they would have gone through traumatic experiences themselves. Their families and community members who did not go through the same experience, would have had no clue about their struggles and for them, they were the same people whom they had known before.

On the other hand the people who were left behind in Australia, also had experienced changes in their lives. The main concern for them was that they felt like they were strangers to one another. One had boxed the other and crystallised the other in a time warp. To re-enter Australia healthily, they needed the time to share their stories and deal with unfinished business back in their respective Mission. The Re-entry process is not for the faint hearted. Once they had done the work of looking at themselves and how the experience had affected them, they would be able to start the process of acceptance of the new reality, to enter their own home again but now in a different way. Because their experience overseas had changed them. They then would have a different perspective of life. And the ones around them needed to see them outside the box that they automatically had put them in. The experience did not make them better than others or superior to them. It just made them different. And being different can be perceived as a threat to people who love the status quo and feel insecure. There is a possibility of interpreting difference as arrogance. "Who does he/she think they are now that they have been away?"

In today's gospel we see a similar dynamic happening. Jesus has come back home to the place where he had grown up. Everyone knew each other in Nazareth. They knew Jesus growing up and they knew that his parents were Mary and Joseph the carpenter. At this stage, Jesus had gone into the wilderness where he probably lived with his cousin John the Baptist, who was part of the Qumran Community. John the Baptist followed an ascetic programme similar to the Essenes in the same time period and geographical area near the Dead Sea. It is very probable that Jesus lived with them too. Jesus as we know had also gone through the temptations in the desert. All this tells us, that Jesus had a transformative experience before he returned home and preached in the synagogue that particular day. He was not the same Jesus they knew growing up amongst them. And yet they seem to have found it hard to accept this. His audience thought they knew him, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" But what he preached, the fulfilment of the Scriptures, was shocking to the point of their attempting to silence him for good. In the face of such objection, Jesus does not change his message. On the contrary, he says that "no prophet is accepted in his own native place."

By this, Jesus refers to himself as a prophet in the manner of Elisha and Elijah. The reference to Elijah going to the widow in Zarephath, and Elisha to Naaman the Syrian, prefigures Jesus' own ministry to those who are not Jewish. Luke here is foretelling the eventual Gentile Mission and demonstrating that it too, is rooted in Scripture. Just as Elijah and Elisha went beyond the bounds of the Israelites, Jesus will too. Luke's story of Jesus is rooted in the prophets, especially the ministry of Elijah and Elisha who raised the dead, fed the multitudes, and ministered to non-Israelites. Jesus behaves in a way wholly unexpected by those in his hometown who knew him best they thought. It was more comfortable for them to see him as he was – the son of the carpenter – than acknowledge that he is a prophet like the Old Testament prophets before him. Rather than silencing him for good, they might have reassessed their own preconceptions.

But as we know, as humans, such a task is difficult. It's much easier to believe what we already know to be true. On this fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we are invited to be open to the unexpected, for it simply might be the plan of God for us and we would reject it because it does not fit in our own preconceptions of another person or situation. Have we ever been in a similar situation, where we are shocked because a person acts out of character for us? Or were surprised by a situation because it was totally not as predicted? How do we feel when we are surprised by Grace?

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

Second Collection –Next week’s second collection is for the Maintenance Fund.

The Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place **on Thursday 7th February at 8pm** in the Community Centre. You may raise any relevant issue using the PPC mailbox which is ppc@stjamespettswood.org or place a note in the suggestion box in the church porch.

PPC Vacancies

There are two vacancies on the PPC to cover the position of Secretary and the Communication Pillar lead, any Parishioner interested should contact the Parish Office via email.

Wi-Fi in the Community Centre

Due to a fault on the broadband hub, a new one was installed by BT on 23 January. I have set the details to those we had before, i.e. network name StJames and the password TheGreat, but anyone using it from that date will have to reset the connection on their device. The sequence for your Wi-Fi set-up will be something like (a) forget this device, (b) select StJames network, (c) re-enter the password. Please contact me on 07817 996893 if you have a problem or are uncertain about the procedure. Roger Wright.

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.

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 fifth preparation session is on Monday 4th February from 7.00pm-8.30pm.

First Holy Communion 2019

The Fifth preparation session is on Saturday 2nd March 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 this Friday 1st March. 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.

Week of Accompanied Prayer

Sunday 10th March to Saturday 16th March 2019.

The taster Session for those who want to find out more, is this weekend, Sunday 3rd February, 3-4pm at Christ Church URC, 25 Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1HL.

After today's Taster Session, invitation leaflets (application form on the back page) will be available in the porch.

The Week of Accompanied Prayer is a special opportunity to grow in ways of praying and to find greater connection between prayer and daily life. Are you willing to find time to pray, Monday to Friday of the week, and meet your Prayer Companion at a time convenient for you?

The week will begin with an Opening Session at 2.30pm on Sunday 10th March at Christ Church URC, Tudor Way and end with a Celebratory Closing Session at 10am on Saturday 16 March at St James' Church followed by coffee and cakes.

To Secure a place please complete the application form (back page of the invitation leaflet) and either place it in the box provided in the entrance to your church or post it to your church office. Or the application form can be completed online at tinyurl.com/PettsWoodWAP.

If you have any questions about the week, feel free to contact [Chris or Doreen Hairs](#)

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.

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.

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.

Special Foodbank collection

At their session last week, our Guides and Brownies were incredibly generous in donating nearly 100 kilograms of food, toiletries, nappies and household cleaning products. These were delivered to the Foodbank warehouse where its volunteers were delighted to see such a large quantity arrive. Food banks have a standard formula for assessing the impact of donations, using weight as the starting point. So Guides and Brownies, your collection of 0.1 tonne should serve 143 meals, and satisfy the needs of 7 people for 1 week. Fantastic and thank you so much. The parish has now donated nearly 8 metric tonnes in the last 7 years.

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.

Youth Pillar

Flame 3 – 2nd March 2019: Don't miss out, book your tickets now!!

We're excited to announce that the biggest Catholic youth event in the UK is returning to London's Wembley Arena, as CYMFED organise Flame 2019. Many exciting speakers have already been announced and the day is expected to be a fantastic opportunity to celebrate our shared faith on a grand scale. The theme for this event is '#Significance' and you can find out all about the programme for this event by visiting CYMFED's website: <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame2019/>. CYM Bromley Deanery will be taking a group to Flame this year and we will be travelling by coach. We still have some tickets left at the discounted price of £20, so if you are aged 14 – 29yrs and would like an amazing day, bring some friends and come along – tickets are selling fast so don't miss out! To reserve your tickets and to find out more, email: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org or contact your parish office.

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.

Pilgrimages within the Diocese

Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Visiting Lourdes, Lisieux, Paris, Nevers, Rocamadour and Montligeon by luxury coach from 25th May to 2nd June for £789 including all excursions.

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From 3rd September to 11th September for £1,259 including all excursions.

Pilgrimage to Poland

From 10th October to 17th October including all excursions for £897.

For further information call Mrs Mozzi on 02084720843 or 07859027301

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 9th February

Cleaning the Church

A Haylock, A Crosland, G MacManus, K Evans

Wednesday Coffee 13th February

Sheila Barradell, Madeleine Howell

10th February 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	M Sands	D&C Hairs	Uniformed Groups
Readers	J Bajorek	C D'Souza	Uniformed Groups

	M O'Mahony	P Lowe	
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Gribben J Bajorek H Rothon M Cahill C Cahill	T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward T Blythe	K Chan V Terry N Longhurst T Willard R Mwansa
Bar			A Barradell M Horner
Coffee		L Lynch S Barradell	C D'Arcy T Lowe
Altar Servers			
Tellers	M Shea, T Wrafter, K Evans		