

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 £1,300. Mass attendance 665.

3rd November (Saturday Vigil)	Thirty-First Sunday 6pm People of the Parish
Sunday 4th November	9.15am Marie Therese Jalady RIP (G Head) 11am Desmond Kelly RIP (M Kelly) 3.00pm Memorial Mass
Monday 5th November	Feria 9.30am Mary O'Sullivan (L O'Sullivan)
Tuesday 6th November	Feria 9.30am All those in the parish who are sick (CWL)
Wednesday 7th November (Please note change of time) Mass at St James' School. Year 4 Mass. All Welcome.	The Dedication of the Cathedral Church of Saint George 9.00am Mary Simon RIP (Simon Family) 10.45 Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 8th November	Feria 9.30am Alfredo Cotta RIP (Cotta Family)
Friday 9th November	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica 9.30am Eliane Jalady (G Head)
10th November (Saturday Vigil)	Thirty-Second Sunday 6pm Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)
Sunday 11th November	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Michael Ingrams RIP (Benson 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.

Fr David writes...

Every human organisation whether religious or civil, has a story to narrate. Institutions are usually founded by people who have had a vision through which they could make a difference in the world. The birth of an institution starts with a thought or a desire implanted in a specific human heart. In order to support the idea to grow and flourish, the vision needs to be articulated and eventually written down. This gives the institution some guarantee of longevity. From time to time, every organisation needs to come to terms with the original vision and try to interpret it according to the needs of the current milieu. If one does not go through this exercise, there is a danger that one can easily miss out on the essence of the original vision and instead the members of that particular organisation would lose the essence of why they actually exist. In this way, the aims of the organisation would become irrelevant. That is why most organisations and groups nowadays take some time out to go through a certain length of time in order that their members could reflect and articulate the vision and the mission of their organisation. This would give the group a focus on why they do what they do.

The vision statement needs to be brief and direct which encapsulates the *raison d'être* of the group. The mission Statement on the other hand is the strategy planned to arrive to that vision. Every member of that organisation needs to keep in mind both the vision and the mission in order for that group to thrive and flourish. Every religious congregation like the Jesuits, Benedictines, Franciscans and Carmelites have their own Rule of Life which states the reasons why they are living the kind of lifestyle they are living and also how to live it out in the best possible way. I remember myself as a novice of my religious congregation being instructed about the rule of life. The Rule of life gave us our distinct identity and charism within the church.

In today's gospel, something similar is happening. One of the scribes, one of those learned in the law and all things Jewish, came to Jesus with a deceptively simple question: "what is the first of all the commandments?". In other words he is asking Jesus what the Vision statement of the Jewish Religion is. What is the *raison d'être* of being a Jew. Whatever Jesus offers can undoubtedly be criticised. Jesus' answer cleverly combines two commandments to be the greatest. Though the two commandments are in the Torah, the scholar knew of no other prophet or teacher prior to Jesus who ever combined these two commandments in this way. Thus modern scholars believe this unique combination stems from the teaching of the historical Jesus. It was he who combined the commandment of love to God with the commandment to love one's neighbour. In this, the law is summed up and is more meaningful than burnt offerings and sacrifices, that is, many of the precepts and commandments of the law. In this way, there is nothing that the scribe could criticise. He actually affirms and admiringly repeats Jesus' response for which he is told, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God'.

Jesus so embodies the Law that no one has the courage to ask him any more questions. Jesus gathers up the traditional wisdom of Israel in one statement. The first part of the statement quotes the creed of Judaism, to love the One God who is Lord with your whole person and everything in your power. This creed was written on a parchment scroll called the Mezuzah, which was fixed in a case to the doorpost of every Jewish house and to the door of every room inside. No pious Jew would disagree with this part of Jesus' summary. But alongside this, Jesus places another scriptural passage: to love your neighbour as yourself. For Jesus, it is the combination of these two laws that make for the essence of the law. And it is that combination which has given Christianity its basic commandment for life. This is the Vision statement for every Christian.

Jesus' summary of the law is not an academic exercise. It is a personal challenge to love God wholeheartedly and have tender regard for our neighbour in actively promoting his or her good, just as we should want to do in our own case. Each one of us has been called to follow Jesus as his disciple. Today's gospel once more challenges us to evaluate our understanding of being a Christian. What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus in today's world? How am I called to love God with all my heart, with all my soul and with all my being? How am I called to love others as myself? Maybe by being welcoming to others who are also different from me. Not to be revengeful. To be forgiving. To help as much as I can reach out to those who are in need. According to you, what makes you distinct as being Christian in today's culture? It is definitely not an easy task. These and much more are the questions which today's gospel is inviting us to consider. May we recommit ourselves in our faith and may we ask always for God to help us experience him ever deeper in our lives.

Volunteers Are Needed to Help Prepare Christmas Lunch with Fr David on Tuesday 25th December!

Would you like to help organise, prepare, cook and share, Christmas lunch for Fr David and his parish guests in the Community Centre this year? And maybe plan a Christmas game (charades, bingo?) and a film to watch after lunch too – not forgetting to allow time for the Queen's speech! If you have ideas and would like to help, please email the Parish Office: parish.office@stjamespettswood.org.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – Please note the next drop in will be on Tuesday 6th November – 5pm to 7pm.

St James' School Open Day

St James' School will be holding an open morning for prospective parents of children due to start school in September 2019 (children born between 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015) on **Wednesday 21st November 2018 at 9.15am**.

Booking is not necessary. The Head Teacher will give a short speech, there will be a tour of the school and Supplementary Information Forms (SIFs) will be handed out. The whole event will last approximately one hour. This is essentially an information morning for parents - children may attend if necessary, but be mindful that our children will be working in school. Please don't worry if you cannot attend the open morning - our **Supplementary Information Form for the September 2019 intake will be available to download from the school's website from the 21st November**. Any questions regarding school admissions please contact the school office on 020 8467 8167 and NOT the Parish Office.

Evangelisation Pillar

First Holy Communion 2019

If you would like your child to take part in our parish programme for First Holy Communion, please send an email to the Parish Office with all relevant details, child's name, date of birth, school, names of parents, address and contact details. Candidates must be in Year 3 or above. All preparation classes are held on Saturdays from 4.30 to 5.45 and will run from January to June. Dates for First Holy Communion are 8th and 15th June 2018.

Confirmation 2019

Calling all year Nine and above students who wish to be confirmed next year. **There is a “Come and See” meeting on this Monday 5th November at 7.30pm in the Church.** This meeting is for candidates and their parents. At the end of the meeting, packs will be distributed ready for enrolment onto the programme which starts with a kick off day on Saturday 10th November, 11.30am to 6pm followed by Mass. If you intend to come to the meeting on the 5th November, please let the parish office know by phone or email: parish.office@stjamespettswood.org For your information the first two Confirmation preparation sessions are Monday 3rd December and Monday 17th December, all sessions run from 7.00- 8.30. Complete list of dates will be available in the booklet you receive at the ‘Come and See’ meeting. We look forward to meeting you all. The Catechists

“Broken” BBC TV Series – here in the Community Centre

Our next episodes are **on Sundays 4th November, 11th November, and 18th November**. The door opens at 7pm for 7:10pm prompt start, followed by a discussion and finishing around 9pm. Please come and join us.

SS Joseph & Swithun Parish – Bromley Advent Reflection on Laudato Si': Care for Our Common Home

Come and join the Advent events and reflect on how we can find new ways forward together to care for our common home and our finite resources in our homes, our parish, our world. These two Advent sessions will prepare us to be in tune with our World away from the commercial rush of Christmas.

- Wednesday 28th November 7.30pm-9.30pm Church Hall – Simple Supper and Global Healing Film.
- Wednesday 5th December 7.30pm – 9.30pm Church Hall – Sharing Session and Reflection on Global Healing Film.

Social Pillar

Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair is rapidly approaching and there are many ways for you to get involved.

You can:

- Take home some raffle tickets (these are on sale at the back of the church from this weekend onwards)
- Look at the sign-up list (also at the back of the church) and see where you can help.
- Bring some cakes to sell on the day.
- Bring some food to sell. The more varied the dishes the more exciting the culinary experience!
- Help on a stall.
- Create (with friends) a stall to show off your country's crafts, decorations, biscuits!!
- Donate a bottle for the bottle tombola.
- Donate a brand new, possibly an unwanted gift, for the children's raffle.
- Children wear a Christmas jumper.
- Finally, come along and enjoy the fair on Sunday 9th Dec after both masses.

Please contact me if you need any further advice/ help.

Mary O'Mahony

mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org

Film Club

Our next Film Night will be at **7.30pm on Saturday 17 November** in the Community Centre. We will be showing Mike Leigh's Academy & BAFTA award winning Film "Topsy Turvy". This is described as a "witty & entertaining dramatisation of the famous partnership between lyricist William Gilbert & composer Arthur Sullivan. With a wealth of authentic Victorian detail, this account of the lives of the musical duo concentrates on the good-natured antagonism between the two creative geniuses, focusing on the turning point on their road to fame & riches - the production of 'The Mikado'. "A sign-up sheet is in the porch. We look forward to seeing you!

Liturgy Pillar

Christmas Choir

- **Our Advent service will be held on Sunday 16th December at 4pm and on Christmas Eve, we will start with carols at 11.30pm followed by Midnight Mass.**

We are inviting singers to join our Christmas choir which sings in four-part harmony. **Rehearsals** have started - and will be held every Thursday from 7.30 - 9pm i.e., November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and December 6, 13, (with possibly another rehearsal just before Christmas if needed). This is a lovely way to participate in our parish' festivities so if you enjoy singing, please come along.

Music Workshop

We invite all music lovers to our next music workshop which is being held in the Community Centre on **26th January 2019 from 10.00pm – 2.00pm** led by Meg Shepherd. Please put this in your diaries now!

Annual Day of Recollection

Bishop Pat Lynch invites all Ministers of the Eucharist and Ministers of the Word to the Annual Day of Recollection on Saturday 17th November at Bishop Thomas Grant School, Bell Trees Grove, SW16 2HY. Registration will be from 10.30am. The day will conclude with Mass at 3.00pm celebrated by Bishop Pat. During the day Fr Saju will talk on the theme of Journey in St. Luke's Gospel. Please contact the parish office to book your place.

Children's Liturgy

Please note Children's Liturgy will NOT be on when there is a Church Parade Mass. There will be no Liturgy on 11th November and 9 December as we do not have enough leaders. If you would like to lead or help please contact Hannah via e-mail childrens.liturgy@stjamespettswood.org

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 Friday 2nd November**, concluding with Benediction. Everyone is welcome for all or part of this time of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Pastoral Pillar

November: Remembering in A Special Way Our Deceased Loved Ones

If you would like your deceased loved ones to be remembered during November, please place their names in the box provided and we will keep them on the altar for the whole of the month.

A Memorial Mass here at St James' at 3pm this Sunday 4th November.

This is a special Mass for those who have lost a family member, or loved one, during this past year. We will read out the names of parishioners whose funerals took place here, together with the names of those whose funeral took place elsewhere. During this service, we will light candles for those we are remembering, and Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Community Centre. Members of our Pastoral Care Team will be to here to help and chat if needed. All parishioners are very welcome to attend.

A Memorial Mass for Deceased Clergy will take place on Tuesday 13th November at 11.30am at St Edmund's in Beckenham. All are welcome.

The Annual Cemetery Mass will take place at St Mary's, Crown Lane, Chislehurst, at 12 Noon on 24th November 2018, followed by the Blessing of Graves

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

CYM Youth Choir - Faith in Action Award Ceremony 10th November

Calling all young people (and adults) who would be interested in forming a choir to perform at the Faith in Action Awards Ceremony this year (10th November 2018). We will be performing 'Any Dream Will Do' from the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat and rehearsals will be taking place on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 – 8.30pm in St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley. Although the choir will be formed initially to participate in the FIA Awards ceremony, we would love to see the deanery youth coming together to participate at many other events in the near future. Spread the word in your parishes and amongst your friends! For more details please email: susan.longhurst@bromleydeanery.org.

Christ the King Youth Day (24.11.18 at St Joseph's Church, Plaistow Lane, Bromley)

Are you in school years 7 and above? If so, you are warmly invited to **Christ the King Youth Day at St Joseph's Church, Bromley on Saturday 24th November 2018 from 2pm until 6pm.** Preparations are underway for a day packed with fun, music, art and reflection led by the **Catholic Youth Ministry Team** and will be followed by a Youth Mass at 6pm. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day. **If you would like to get involved with the musical activities, please make sure to bring your instruments with you on the day.** So tell your friends and invite them along to enjoy a fantastic, youth-led celebration for the Feast of Christ the King. We look forward to seeing you there! (Suggested voluntary contribution £2).

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.

Justice & Peace

Foodbank donations

Thanks to all those who continue to place items in the special basket at the back of church. We have not had specific requests from the Bromley Foodbank recently because they are going through a major stock-taking exercise following big harvest festival collections. So please feel free to donate all tinned and dried foods, UHT milk and fruit juices, household detergents, and toiletries. But definitely not baked beans, soup or pasta! Thank you again.

Global Healing

If you are on the CAFOD mailing list, you will probably receive information and a flyer about a film called "Global Healing". Anyone may watch this online, but parishioners can also borrow the J&P Group's DVD copy of the film free of charge. Better still, the Group will be organising an event next year featuring the film and offering the parish an opportunity to reflect on Our Common Home, as Pope Francis calls Earth in his encyclical Laudato Si'. As you can read elsewhere in Briefly, St Joseph's is holding two reflection evenings during Advent based on "Global Healing". Please contact roger.wright@stjamespettswood.org if you would like to borrow the film or get the online link.

Memorial Rose Garden

We have ten red rose bushes that have been planted in our memorial rose garden, if you would like to purchase one in memory of a loved one please complete the form at the back of the church, take the envelope supplied and post it through the parish office or pop it in the Mass Intention box. Roses cost £15. Thank you.

Catholic Legacy Week 1-7th November

Please consider supporting Catholic parishes and dioceses and refer to the website: <http://www.yourcatholiclegacy.org.uk> for more information. Thank you.

All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra perform

Saturday 24 November 2018 at 7.30pm

Mass in B ♭ - Hummel

Requiem - Faure

The Parish Church of All Saints, Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD
Bookings & enquiries 01689 823857 www.allsaintsfestivalchoir.co.uk

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*

Weekend 10th/11th November 2018

Cleaning the Church

Uniformed Groups/Catholic Women's League

Wednesday Coffee

S Barradell, M Howell

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomes	M Walters	A&L Delamain	Uniformed Groups
Readers	Confirmandi	B Cotta C D'Souza	Parade Mass
Ministers of Holy Communion	J Callinan P Crosland C Cosgrave P Cosgrave P Driscoll	M Howell S cotta A Ward T Blythe B Cotta	T Troy N Longhurst K Evans A Evans P May
Bar			A Barradell M Horner
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	S Ingle A Huntington
Altar Servers	N Cracknell P Marshall	L Delamain Jude	F Ikenye D Fernandes V Marcolina

Tellers

P Cosgrave, P Dabrowski