

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 £1,585. Mass attendance 673.

6th April (Saturday Vigil)	Fifth Sunday of Lent 6pm Tomkins Family (Monaghan Family)
Sunday 7th April	9.15am Deceased members of the Crowley Family (Harrington Family) 11am People of the Parish 4pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 8th April	Feria 9.30am David Marshall (Howell Family)
Tuesday 9th April	Feria 9.30am Lindley Horner (Horner Family)
Wednesday 10th April	Feria 9.30am Private Intention 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 11th April	Feria 9.30am Anthony Olivelle RIP (M Olivelle)
Friday 12th April	Feria 9.30am Lilian Colonnese RIP (The Ruggiero Family)
13th April (Saturday Vigil)	Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord 6pm Maureen Clark RIP (June Clark)
Sunday 14th April	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Terence Quinlan RIP (E Quinlan) 4pm Stations of the Cross

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.

Second Collection- This week's second collection is for the Maintenance Fund

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...

When we speak of scapegoating, we refer to the process where we blame a person or a group for our own problems and unhappiness. Instead of taking a hard look at ourselves to examine where the roots of our unhappiness are coming from, as human beings, we find it easier to blame another person or a group. It's never easy to sit with our own internal chaos. It is easier to blame others for what is happening both within ourselves and also in society in general. This dysfunctional way of processing our own emotions has been alive and active all through history. Some women were labelled as witches in the Middle Ages, as they were blamed for the misfortunes and dysfunctionality of their communities. The Jews became scapegoats for Nazi Germany in the Second World War. Most of the time, those who are scapegoated are minority groups within society or individuals who are different and vulnerable. The objects of blame do not have power and they usually end up with the projected shame of their community. The term "scapegoat" actually has its origins in the Old Testament, more specifically in Chapter 16 of the Book of Leviticus, according to which God instructed Moses and Aaron to sacrifice two goats every year. The first goat was to be killed and its blood sprinkled upon the Ark of the Covenant. The High priest was then to lay his hands on the head of the second goat and confess the sins of the people. Unlike the first goat, this lucky second goat was not to be killed but released into the wilderness together with its burden of sin, which is why it came to be known as a scapegoat. The altar that stands in the sanctuary of every church is a symbolic remnant and reminder of this sacrificial practice, with the ultimate object of sacrifice being of course, Jesus himself.

In the Gospel story today, the woman is caught in adultery. She is not innocent. However it takes two to tango as they say. It takes two to commit adultery, but the man seems to have escaped. He is nowhere to be found in the story, leaving the woman in the hands of the scribes and Pharisees. These men know the Law of Moses which stated "if a man is caught sleeping with another man's wife, both must die, the man who has slept with her and the woman herself. You must banish this evil from Israel." (Deuteronomy 22:22). The scribes and the Pharisees are zealous about the execution of the Law, which means the execution of the woman. They are in the moral majority. They have the law on their side. Thus armed they come to tackle Jesus. They are blaming her for the evil in their community. She becomes the scapegoat. She is vulnerable, without power, full of shame as she was caught red handed in the act. She had no leg to stand on. She was definitely guilty. The Scribes and the Pharisees wanted to make an example of her and also test Jesus to see whether they could catch him out. They wanted to know what kind of Rabbi Jesus was. Was he a lightweight Rabbi? Jesus' reaction to all the fuss is to start writing on the ground. But his questioners persist, and Jesus responds not by taking the issue with the law but by taking issue with the lawyers. Jesus does not say whether the woman is innocent or argue that adultery should be taken off the books. He looks at the executioners and turns the questioning on them. If any are innocent, they can throw stones.

With those who make use of scapegoating, the way of challenging them is to invite them to look at the roots of what they are frightened to look at in themselves. Basically inviting them to be honest with themselves. This is challenging for most of us. It is easier to give easy answers – something which is also happening in today's world – blaming a particular race, or the migrants and refugees, or that particular religion, instead of looking long and hard at ourselves. It is much easier to scapegoat others for our own sins, then look at oneself. As the scribes and Pharisees were reflecting on their lives and their lack of inconsistencies between what they say and what they do, Jesus goes back to his writing. At least the women's accusers are honest people, for they readily recognise that they are not innocent accusers. So they went away, one after the other beginning with the eldest. He had the most time and opportunity to sin. The best way to stop people scapegoating others is to put up a mirror to their face and hopefully they would be honest enough to accept the truth within themselves.

Jesus looking up saw the woman on her own and asks her whether anyone had condemned her. Once she answered "No one", Jesus says "Neither do I condemn you.... Go away and don't sin any more". Once more this Gospel is also about the mercy of Jesus. Mercy is not that we deserve it. It would not be mercy if we deserved it. Mercy is freely given. It is sheer gift. What a wonderful feeling to experience mercy. It is another form of unconditional love. Mercy reflects the utter graciousness of the one who has been wronged. Pope Francis has taken Mercy as the hallmark of his pontificate. It is the common thread of all his actions, exhortations and homilies. As we continue to journey towards Easter,

let us once again reflect on what aspect of our life are we invited to reflect upon and also who are the scapegoats do you think of our world today? God bless you all.

GIFT AID

A very big thanks to all who have gift-aided their offertory and 2nd collection donations as well as their donations to the Maintenance/Refurbishment Fund during the 2018/19 tax year.

Your boxes of new Gift Aid envelopes (with your name on) for the coming 2019/20 tax year are now ready for you to collect from the tables along the back of church.

If you cannot find your box, please speak to Geoff Ford (the Gift Aid Administrator) – email him at gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org or phone 01689 872125 or he can usually be found in the “counting room” at church after 11am Mass on Sundays.

Please note, the amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax you pay or will pay during a tax year must be at least equal* to the total amount of tax that all Charities (i.e. not just St James’) will reclaim on your gift-aided donations to them for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify.

*You must have paid at least 25 pence in Income/Capital Gains Tax for every £1 of gift-aided donation you make to all charities (i.e. £25 tax for every £100 given). If you pay less Income/Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all your donations in that tax year, it is your responsibility to pay any difference to HMRC.

Please also speak to Geoff if:

1. You are unsure that you will have paid adequate tax,
2. You wish to know the total recorded amount of your offerings,
3. You move or marry and change your name. (It is important that our records of your name and address is recognisable to the tax man)
4. You wish to transfer your gift aid donations into your spouse’s name (perhaps because you have stopped working and no longer pay tax),
5. You would like to Gift Aid your contributions to St James’ but have not yet completed a Declaration Form.

As every charity will tell you, by gift-aiding your donations your contributions are substantially increased at absolutely no cost whatsoever to you. If you are not already in our Gift Aid scheme, all you have to do is sign a Declaration Form enabling the Church to recover the tax you will have already paid before making your donation.

Standing Orders

If you make your weekly offering to St James’ by standing order, please still take your box of envelopes. Your box will include special envelopes for Diocesan second collections and for Easter/Christmas offerings which are not included in standing orders.

If you wish to make a standing order with St James’ please email or speak to Geoff before arranging it with your bank.

“Drop-In” Evening Surgeries – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 9th April between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

Altar Servers Easter Triduum Rehearsals

Just a reminder to the rehearsal days we have scheduled in for the next few weeks.

First one is on **Tuesday 9th April from 5.30-7pm**. This will cover *Palm Sunday and Holy Thursday*.

Then on Thursday 11th April from 5.30-7pm. This will cover Good Friday

Wednesday 17th April from 5pm -6.30pm. This will cover Easter Vigil.

Friday 19th April at 1pm, Good Friday training and
Saturday 20th April at 12.15pm for Easter Vigil training.
Please do try to attend.

Lenten Programme

Readers, Welcomers and Eucharistic Ministers

These vital ministries are especially important during this season. If you are able to minister during the Holy Week Masses and special services, please sign your names on the sheets in the porch.

Stations of the Cross

Every Sunday in Lent at 4pm.

Tuesday 9th April

Reflection on Henri Nouwen: the Mystic by Michael Ford at 8pm in the Community Centre.

Sunday 14th April - Palm Sunday

Stations of the Cross

Re-Enacted by the Confirmandi at 4pm.

Tuesday 16th April

Film- Mary Magdalene at 8pm in the Community Centre.

Easter Tridium

Thursday 18th April – Maundy Thursday

- Mass at 8pm followed by Silent Adoration until 10pm

Friday 19th April – Good Friday

- Stations of the Cross with Children at 11am
- Walk of Witness – Starts from St Francis, Willett Way at 9am.
- **Good Friday service at 3pm**
- **Prayers around the Cross** (Taize Prayer) at 7.30pm for 8pm start.

Saturday 20th April

- **Swieconka** – Polish Service. Blessing of the Easter Baskets at 11.30am
- **Easter Vigil Mass at 8pm**

Sunday 21st April – Easter Sunday

- **Easter Sunday Mass for Children** at 9.15am
- **Easter Sunday Mass** at 11am

Piano

We are in urgent need for a new pianist. If you can help us, we would be very appreciative. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Evangelisation Pillar

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 and on the first Friday of the month from 7.30pm till 9.00pm. **The next will be this Friday 3rd May. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.**

Justice & Peace

Human Trafficking

Anyone wishing to contribute to the diocesan fund to support the Church's work combating this awful trade in human beings, will find special envelopes on the Welcomers' table in the porch. Either give your envelope to Fr David or place it in the offertory basket at the earliest opportunity. Thank you.

A message from Bromley Foodbank

Thank you to all donors for your continued support, especially to the person who handed in Tesco vouchers to the value of £30. Last month donations, throughout the borough, meant that the Foodbank was able to feed 461 people in crisis. They are currently running low on the following: UHT milk and fruit juice, squash, cold meats (ham, spam, corned beef), tinned potatoes, and men's toiletries (shower gel, shampoo).

Social Pillar

Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Sunday, 21st April

We would like to invite the children of the Parish to an Easter egg hunt taking place **after the 9.15am Mass on Easter Sunday**. Children will be provided with a basket to collect the eggs and the cost will be £3 per child payable on the day. Let's hope the April showers stay away. If they do, the hunt will take place in the Parish garden. If not, it will be in the Community Centre.

Film Night

Our next film on Saturday, 13 April, but please note that because of licensing conditions, we are no longer permitted to advertise the titles of films being shown. Please look for notices in church or the printed copy of Briefly.

If anyone would be willing to volunteer to assist me in running the Film Nights, I would be very grateful to hear from them. It is not onerous work – just setting up the Community Centre beforehand, operating the audio/visual system (I'm happy to give training – I promise it's easy when you know how!), collecting up the donations to give to the Parish Office the following week, & assisting with the clearing up (everyone is always very helpful with this). Please email the parish office if I have tempted anyone! Many thanks. Gaynor Whitley.

The St James' Social Club is responsible for the running and licensing of the bar in the Community Centre. The AGM will be held this Sunday 7 April 2019 at 12:30 pm after the 11:00 am Mass in the Community Centre. The items on the agenda will be as follows:

1. Minutes of the last AGM held on 22 April 2018
2. Election of the Committee for 2019/2020
3. Financial Report
4. Any other business.

All are welcome to attend.

CWL Plant Sale

The CWL will be holding a plant sale after the Masses on the 1st and 2nd June.

The sale proceeds will be donated to the Anti Human Trafficking Project.

We would be grateful for donations of plants (indoor/outdoor/cuttings/seedlings etc.) for sale.

Please contact Christine Kiely or Deirdre Marshall, via the [Parish Office](#) if you are able to assist by donating plants or by helping on the day.

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.

There will be no meeting on the 12th April. The next meeting will be on 26th April.

Liturgy Pillar

Children's Mass

We seek children to read at the monthly children's mass (9:15 am). If you are interested in proclaiming the Word of God and are either in Y4 to Y10, please contact Cheryl via email cheryl.dsouza@stjamespettswood.org. Necessary training will be provided.

Children's Liturgy

There WILL be a Children's Liturgy session on 14th April (Palm Sunday). Both younger and older groups will be in the Hall together. They will listen to the story and act it out and do a craft activity.

Good Friday - 11 am Stations of the Cross in church for school aged children.

There WILL NOT be a Children's Liturgy session on **Easter Sunday**.

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. 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.

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, pavements or double-park your car especially on the "one way" part of Lakeswood Road by the lower car park entrance.

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 13th April

Cleaning the Church

Altar Servers, Readers

**Wednesday Coffee
17th April**

M Mulvey, S Barradell

14th April 2019

Mass

Saturday 6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 9.15am

Sunday 11am

Welcomers

K Moon

A & L Delamain

Uniformed Groups

Readers

K Lams
L Rusmini

H Denham
J Ryle

D Ducat
R Morrison

Passion Narrator

J Bajorek

A Coughlan

Z Bajorek

Passion Other

I Stewart

C Hairs

M Ingledew

**Ministers of Holy
Communion**

C Wakefield
J Callinan
P Driscoll
C Cosgrave
P Cosgrave

A Delamain
D Hairs
B Cotta
W David
T Forde

K Evans
A Evans
P May
S Ingle
R Mwansa

Bar

M Smith
N Longhurst

Coffee

D Delf
F Curran
E Aletta

T Troy
J Cosgrave

Altar Servers

Roisin
Fintan
Mario

Josh
Peter

Zoe
Emily
Jude
Paulina

Tellers

P Cosgrave, P Dabrowski