

**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 £1,267. Mass attendance 700.

<b>11th May</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>6pm Franki Durbin RIP</b> (Ford family on behalf of the Ryan Family)
<b>Sunday 12th May</b>	<b>9.15am People of the Parish</b> <b>11am Claire Draper RIP</b> (Simon Family)
<b>Monday 13th May</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Betty &amp; Tom Cotter</b>
<b>Tuesday 14th May</b>	<b>Saint Matthias</b> <b>9.15am Canon J McNamara</b> (H Marvell) <b>Francesca M Sio RIP</b> (J&L Sio) <b>7pm Confirmation Mass</b>
<b>Wednesday 15th May</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Martin O'Connor RIP</b> <b>10.45am Eucharist Adoration</b>
<b>Thursday 16th May</b>	<b>Saint Simon Stock</b> <b>9.30am Luise</b>
<b>Friday 17th May</b>	<b>Feria</b> <b>9.30am Fr David Camilleri</b>
<b>18th May</b> <b>(Saturday Vigil)</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b> <b>6pm Teresa &amp; Hugh Ford</b>
<b>Sunday 19th May</b>	<b>9.15am People of the Parish</b> <b>11am Anna Vassallo RIP</b> (V Terry)

**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 Ecclesiastical Education.  
Next week's second collection is for the parish 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...**

The image of the Good Shepherd is the most common and loved of the symbolic representations of Christ found in early Christian art in the Catacombs in Rome, before Christian imagery could be made explicit. The form of the image showing a young man carrying a lamb around his neck was directly borrowed from the much older pagan image. It is impossible to say whether the image was originally created with the intention of having a Christian significance. The image continued to be used in the centuries after Christianity was legalised by Constantine in 313 AD. However in the 5<sup>th</sup> century, the figure more often took on the appearance of the conventional depiction of Christ as we see on the apse mosaic in the church of Saints Cosmo and Damiano in Rome or at Ravenna. Images of the Good Shepherd often include a lamb on his shoulders as in the Lukan version of the lost Shepherd. So we have the picture of the Loved and the Lover. The beating of their hearts is synchronized; the lamb is excited and happy for being found and the shepherd is as happy and content for finding the lost one. The image fills us with love and courage, knowing that we are never alone, even if we are going down in the deep valley of death. One feels accompanied, besides feeling a sense of security and a sense of intimacy.

According to John's gospel, Christ is always in search of the lost lamb. Christ is portrayed as the lover who is so much in love with his sheep, that he knows them by name. He is also ready to lay down his life for them. He is not frightened to face and fight the enemy. He is not afraid of the wild savage animal. He runs and chases the lion which stole His lamb, to reclaim it safe and sound. His love for us is unchanged, for we are all in his fold. But how can we distinguish Christ's voice from the thousands of voices we are being bombarded with nowadays, especially from the media, newspapers, magazines, social media, TV etc? We need to attune ourselves to His Voice. As we do with a loved one, we need to be in touch with Him. We usually call them, and our mind and heart are with our loved ones even if we are far away from each other. We need to experience the same quality of intensity in our relationship with Christ. Like any other relationship, we need to consciously work at it. Pope Francis seems to find this image of the Good Shepherd instructive as well. He speaks of the role of bishops and priests to be shepherds. Pope Francis says that the shepherd must have the "smell of the sheep". Such an image is certainly vivid, graphic and leaves little to the imagination. It conjures up one who is uncomfortably close to the sheep. But that is essentially the model of the Good Shepherd and one to be emulated by those who serve. Not only do we follow the Good Shepherd upon hearing his voice, but we learn that the Good Shepherd gives eternal life. Our task therefore is to be attentive to his voice. Because he is always present to us.

This week we have heard of the death of a contemporary spiritual giant Jean Vanier at the age of ninety. Canadian Jean Vanier is the founder of the L'Arche communities. Those who lived and worked with him spoke of his almost palpable holiness. Many have considered him to be a living saint. He was unmoved by such accolades. Profoundly humble, what he longed for was to help people to know and live with Jesus, whom he spoke of as one might of a close friend and to do so through encounters with the poorest and weakest in society, in particular those with mental and physical disabilities. In the early 1960s, as a young Catholic professor, Vanier encountered disabled people living in what he called a "whole world of pain and brokenness." For the next half century he devoted himself to creating spaces where they could live as full people on their own terms. Thus the first Arche community was founded in Trosly-Breuil, France and subsequently many more all over the world were formed. Rather than turning away from them, he embraced their reality. He did not value them for their beauty, riches or success but for their simple humanity. He did not merely preach compassion, but lived it every day. He lived with them. Jean Vanier epitomises what Jesus and Pope Francis are speaking of when they use the term the "Good Shepherd". Vanier was passionately ecumenical. "My feet are rooted in my faith", he said, "but my arms are wide open". From the start, L'Arche welcomed people of all faiths and none. Vanier used to say that people with mental disabilities are a force for ecumenism and inter faith dialogue. They have an instinct for communion, but they do not and cannot split hairs over questions of dogma and belief. His wise counsel went hand in hand with an extraordinary gift of attentiveness and listening. And always his fundamental desire was the same – to help people believe that no matter what they had done, they were loved by Jesus more than they dare to believe". Life in L'Arche had taught him, Jean said, "that

everybody is beautiful. Everybody". He was truly a shepherd who smelt of his sheep. Today I wish to thank God for the life of Modern prophets and Good Shepherds like Jean Vanier who make such a difference in the lives of so many people because they walk the walk with those who suffer. We need to celebrate the good that people do. Otherwise we will only hear the damage and destruction of the few. The latter seem to sell papers more. Thank you God for the gift of Jean Vanier. May he now Rest in Peace.

**"Drop-In" Evening Surgeries** – The next drop in surgery with Fr David will be on **Tuesday 21st May between 5pm-7pm**. No appointment needed.

**Congratulations to the following Altar servers who were invested into the Guild of St Stephen's at Aylesford: Jude, Nathan, Roisin and Zacari**

### **Confirmation 2018**

This week the following young people will be Confirmed on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm by Bishop Pat. Please keep them and their families in your prayers

David  
Cameron  
Siary  
Emily  
Freddy  
Joseph  
Anthony  
George  
Isabella  
James  
Jack  
Eve  
Isabel  
Kian  
Amy  
Emma  
Valentino  
Megan  
Ifeatu  
Oscar  
Gianfranco  
Michael  
Josephine  
Elliot  
Oliver  
Olivia  
Toby

Parishioners are warmly invited to attend and celebrate with them. The collection at the Confirmation Mass will be given to our parish project of St Catherine's in the Philippines.

### **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](mailto:cheryl.dsouza@stjamespettswood.org). Necessary training will be provided.

## Youth Pillar

### Youth Group

The next youth group will be on Saturday 18th May, 12pm to 2.30pm

## 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 on Friday 7th June. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.**

### 'Ignite 19' - Launching Our Parish Mission

You may have seen in the Easter edition of Briefly that a special Parish Mission is being planned to take place here between 2nd-10th November. This is the first Parish Mission here at St James' and, in discussions which included a number of parishioners, Fr David has invited the Sion Community, who specialise in parish missions to help us with this.

Fr David has established a Parish Coordinating Team to work with Sion to jointly develop the Mission; and the Team is very keen to invite all parish groups, and parishioners who are not in any group, to support the Mission and participate as fully as possible.

**Karen Shurety from Sion will be speaking at Masses here on the weekend of 11th and 12th May to help us launch the Mission, and there will also be a light buffet lunch in the Community Centre on Sunday 12th May, between 12.30-1.30pm, so that we can meet Karen and find out more.**

Donations of sandwiches, cakes or fruit for the buffet would be welcome. So if you would like to provide something, please bring your donation to the Community Centre on Sunday 12th May **from 11am onwards**. We really hope that you will be able to join us at the buffet and you will be very welcome too!

Pam Lundy on behalf of the Parish Coordinating Team

### Week of Accompanied Prayer - Follow-Up

All participants are reminded to come to the Follow-Up session on Saturday 18th May at St James' Community Centre, 10 am start, finishing before 12 noon - coffee from 9.30 am.

We plan to explore ways to further develop the fruits of the Week. We hope as many of you as possible will be able to come to join some of the Prayer Companions as we look at the various possibilities that are available for us, or which we ourselves may wish to develop. There are many opportunities for us, both as individuals and within Petts Wood Churches Together.

Please bring with you any ideas or information you may already have, to share.

All participants of the Week are warmly invited to come.

## Justice & Peace

### Bromley Borough Foodbank

The message this week is that Foodbank is very short of cooking rice and toilet rolls. They also need long life milk, long life fruit juice, cold meats (ham, spam, corned beef), cooking sauces, jam/marmalade/honey, coffee, men's shampoo and shower gel. The list of requirements is also displayed on the collection basket in the church entrance. Thank you as always for your generosity, not forgetting those who helped raise £100 from the last film night.

## CAFOD Volunteer Day: Celebrating our Common Home

Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2019, 9.30 – 14.30

Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB

This volunteer meeting will include an opportunity to hear a first-hand account of our work overseas and an introduction to our new Climate Campaign "Our Common Home". There will also be an opportunity to participate in a number of interesting workshops. We will finish the meeting with a Laudato Si-inspired Creation Mass.

For more information and to book a place, please contact Sarah Cadwallader on 020 8466 9901 or email [southwark@cafod.org.uk](mailto:southwark@cafod.org.uk)

## Social Pillar

### Dad and Me

The next Dad and Me will be on Saturday 18th May, 10am to 11.30am

### Film Night

Our next Film Night will be at 7.30pm on Saturday, 11th May, **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.** The bar will be open beforehand as usual, and a warm welcome awaits.

### 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 or Deirdre 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 meet on Friday afternoons between 1.30pm-3.00pm. £2.50 per family.

## 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 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.

### St James' Preschool

The St James' Pre-school have places available from September 2019. Please contact them for more information

**A door key was found in the car park after the 9.15am Mass on Sunday 5th May. Please contact the parish office if you think it maybe your key.**

## 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](mailto:father.david@stjamespettswood.org), or phone the parish office on 01689 827100.

## Rotas for weekend of 18th May: *Thank you for helping*

<b>Weekend 18th May</b>			
<b>Cleaning the Church</b>	P Driscoll. J Rogerson, M Mitrovic (Tuesday team – 28th May)		
<b>Wednesday Coffee 22nd May</b>			
M Mulvey, M Howell			
<b>19th May 2019</b>			
<b>Mass</b>	<b>Saturday 6pm (Vigil)</b>	<b>Sunday 9.15am</b>	<b>Sunday 11am</b>
<b>Welcomers</b>	T Connolly K Kirby	A & L Delamain	S & J Ingle
<b>Readers</b>	L Rusmini A Prifti	R Lim K Antao	D Ducat M Ingledeu
<b>Ministers of Holy Communion</b>	R Wright H Rothon M Cahill C Cahill C Wakefield	W David T Forde M Howell S Cotta A Ward	K Chan T Troy A Bunnage P Murray V Terry
<b>Bar</b>			P Cosgrave R Monaghan
<b>Coffee</b>		L Lynch S Barradell	T Troy J Cosgrave
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Paulina	Daniella Lydia	Valentino
<b>Tellers</b>	L Lynch, M Ardron		