

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 £1,598. Mass attendance 887.

17th November (Saturday Vigil)	Thirty-Third Sunday 6pm Joseph & Mary Lowg & Family (K Self)
Sunday 18th November	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Pauline Barker RIP (A&P Lane)
Monday 19th November	Feria 9.30am Michael Kelly RIP (M Kelly)
Tuesday 20th November	Feria 9.30am Walter Akester RIP & Karol Garcia RIP (Garcia & Akester Family)
Wednesday 21st November	The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary 9.30am Basil Taylor RIP (Cardoza Family) 10.45 Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 22nd November	Saint Cecilia 9.30am Anne Hanrahan RIP (Wharton Family)
Friday 23rd November	Feria 9.30am Pat & Amanda Mulroy (G Mulroy)
24th November (Saturday Vigil)	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe 6pm Maureen Clark RIP (J Clark)
Sunday 25th November	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Chris Gilroy RIP (C&D Hairs)

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 the Maintenance Fund. Next week's second collection is for the Catholic Youth Work.

Fr David writes...

Victor Frankl was an Austrian neurologist and psychiatrist as well as a Holocaust survivor. Frankl also was the founder of *logotherapy* which is a form of existential analysis. His best-selling book, ***Man's Search for Meaning*** chronicles his experiences as a concentration camp inmate, which led him to discover the importance of finding meaning in all forms of existence, even the most brutal ones, and thus a reason to continue living. Frankl became one of the key figures in existential therapy and a prominent source of inspiration for humanistic psychologists. Frankl believed that people are primarily driven by a "striving to find meaning in one's life", and that it is this sense of meaning that enables people to overcome painful experiences. After enduring the suffering in the concentration camps, Frankl concluded that even in the most absurd, painful and dehumanised situation, life has potential meaning and that, therefore, even suffering is meaningful. He said, "What is to give light must endure burning". He thus concluded that the lack of meaning is the paramount existential stress. To him, existential neurosis is synonymous with a crisis of meaninglessness. People without a meaning in life are exposed to aggression, depression and addiction.

In our hectic lives, we sometimes do not even have time to think. We function on automatic gears. There are so many different expectations and demands on us – we are scared that if we stop and think, we will be overwhelmed. So we keep on going. Existential crisis happens when unfortunately we have to stop because of the experience of illness or death of someone close or loss of a job or a marital breakdown. Once we find ourselves thrown into a crisis, then we wake up! Unfortunately there is a temptation to become resentful if we fail to find any kind of reason in the experience. If we stop on "Why me?" and do not move on to "what is this experience trying to teach me?", we end up stuck into a vicious circle downhill. On the other hand, once we find ourselves trying to figure out the learning element of the experience, then the experience has the potential to nourish us.

Jesus before he died, gathered his disciples and delivered his final teaching on the future age, instructing them how to live in the midst of political and cosmic upheavals. Part of Jesus' final testament is what we hear in today's Gospel. It is helpful to remember that St Mark here is writing at a time when there is widespread oppression and persecution of the Christian community in Rome. No doubt, Jesus' followers are wondering if the end is near, uncertain in their suffering how things are going to run out. Nobody knows the details of the last pages of history, but there is a genre of writing that imagines the last time. It is called "apocalyptic". To give his readers hope, Mark gives them Jesus' vision of the future. The vision of the future is not very appealing at first glance. The bad news is delivered first of all. After a catalogue of disasters there is the good news. Jesus looks beyond the time of stress to the final time, when the Son of Man will gather the scattered people of God to himself. Jesus sees beyond the suffering and persecution to a future of peace with God. After the cosmic fireworks, Jesus imagines a peace beyond suffering.

This vision of peace is important for Mark's persecuted community. If their hope is not to be exhausted by force of circumstances, they need help to imagine a far side of pain and suffering. Mark gives them hope and meaning in sharing Jesus' vision. For that is the purpose of all apocalyptic writing – to fund the hope of those who suffer in the present. In the meantime we need to depend on the promise of Jesus: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away". The only sure thing we can hold on to is the word of Jesus.

We are living in an age of uncertainty. Beyond living in an age of demi gods, the world of arms and weapons, environmental damage and terrorism of all kinds, there is a place of peace. In our deepest moments of despair, we need to remember that we are not alone. These are the moments that spirituality gives us some kind of comfort and meaning. Research nowadays has shown that people who have some kind of spirituality have more personal resources to go through tough times in their lives than those who live their lives claiming that they have none. Spirituality provides meaning to our daily experiences of life. Gives us strength to go through turbulent times. As we are approaching the end of the liturgical year, the church is offering us this passage which is inviting us to mediate on our mortality. Not to frighten us but to wake us up. Let's build our lives on what gives us meaning. Meaning that endures. Can I ask you please to keep the Pilgrims to the Holy Land in your thoughts and prayers these coming weeks. Thank you.

The Parish Pastoral Council

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place **on Monday 19th November at 7.30pm** 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.

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 20th 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 our 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

"Broken" BBC TV Series – here in the Community Centre

Our final episode is on **Sunday 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 and the young at heart 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

Christmas Fair

Donations of bottles and new toys gratefully received. The collection box is at the back of church.

Have you signed up to help yet?

New Year's Eve Party - Save this date

31st December

Welcome the New Year in as a parish community.

The parish would appreciate an expression of interest by signing up on the sheet at the back of the church.

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.

Liturgy Pillar

Children's Mass

We are looking for someone to co-ordinate the children's readers rota for the children's mass once a month. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Altar Server rehearsal

There will be Altar Server rehearsals this Sunday, 18th November and Sunday 25th November from 3pm - 4 pm.

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!

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 9th 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

Children's Choir, Christmas Day 9:15 Mass.

Calling all kids year 2 and up to help sing for the Christmas 9:15 Mass.

We need your voices to get into the Christmas Spirit!

There will be several practice sessions where we will sing through the songs. We are singing songs which will be familiar to the Children.

To make this as convenient as possible, sessions are 10:20am - 10:50am (between the two Masses) in the side room of the Parish Hall. Parents could have a Coffee/Tea while we sing through the hymns.

Sessions:

10:20am - 10:50am Nov 25th, Dec 2nd, 9th and 16th

Please come to as many of the sessions as you can. Ideally at least 2.

If you are interested, please give your names to youthchoir.stjames@gmail.com so we have an idea of numbers.

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.

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 7.30am till 9.00pm. the next will be on Friday the 7th December.
All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

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.

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

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).

200 Club Winners!

£100	John Dillane	No 184
£50	Angela Bunnage	No 132
£25	Audrey Ward	No 17
£25	Mrs Grenville Robello	No 124

Congratulations to our winners.

We would like to thank Ken Evans for all his hard work organising the 200 Club. With all your help he has

raised an amazing £5000 towards Father David's much needed new bathroom. However there are still a few places available for any new parishioners or late comers. Please contact Ken Evans 01689 851793 for details.

Advent and Christmas

Christmas Crib – Poinsettias Needed

If you would like to donate some poinsettias for the crib this Christmas, they would be gratefully received. Please drop them off at the Church on the weekend of 15th and 16th December.

Religious advent calendars, Christmas cards and the like are now on sale in the repository and from the stall in the church porch after all Sunday Masses.

Decorating the Church for Christmas

We are meeting to decorate the church for Christmas on Saturday the 15th at 10.00am. Anyone who has an hour to spare to help us decorate the church is more than welcome.

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

Manna Centre

The parish has once again shown great generosity in collecting a mountain of items including men's clothing and shoes, blankets, and toilet rolls and kitchen rolls, last month in support for the tireless work of the Manna Centre. On behalf of Paddy Boyle from the Manna Society, the Justice and Peace Group would like to thank all parishioners who donated items.

Our next collection will be in March 2019 – so why not start putting aside items that can be donated and look out for a list of items in particular need a bit nearer to the time! Take a look at the Parish website for more information or send an email to Nick.babb@stjamespettswood.org

Greeting cards to Victims of Injustice

After all Masses this weekend there will be an opportunity for everyone to send a message of hope in a greeting card to a victim of injustice, from a selection made by the Justice & Peace Group. Here is a chance to show solidarity with someone to whom a simple greeting will be a great encouragement, a reminder that they are not forgotten. The cards will go all over the world, so a postage contribution of £1 would be appreciated.

Foodbank Christmas hampers

The organisers are now preparing for Christmas, and have sent a list of items they try to provide for those in need at this time. Ideally, they would like to receive these items by the first week in December, but earlier is fine. So if you can help by donating any of the following items, we should be very grateful: mince pies, various sized Christmas puddings, tinned salmon, pickles/chutneys, Christmas biscuits, Christmas cake/fruit cake, Christmas sweets/chocolates, biscuits for cheese, Christmas savoury assortments (crisps,

pretzels, nuts, etc.), large tinned hams, any other Christmas items. £5 supermarket vouchers are also very useful additions to a hamper.

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.

CWL Meeting

Monday 26th November at 7.30pm. Talk "In search of Paddington" at 8pm.

The monthly CWL meeting will be held on Monday, 26th November. The business part of the meeting will begin at 7.30, followed at 8.00 by a talk entitled "In Search of Paddington". Jan and Barbara will recount some experiences from their recent trip to Peru. Not just Machu Picchu, but also some aspects of culture and religion! For those parishioners who want to be bitten by the travel bug this is a must. Everyone is very welcome.

Memorial Rose Garden

We have five red rose bushes left 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.

All Saints Festival Choir & Orchestra perform

Mass in B \flat - Hummel

Requiem - Faure

Saturday 24 November 2018 at 7.30pm

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.
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Rotas for this week: *Thank you for helping*

Weekend 24th/25th November 2018

Cleaning the Church

A Haylock, A Crosland, G MacManus, K Evans

Wednesday Coffee

S Barradell, M Howell, B D'Arcy

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	K Moon	L&J Samuels	M Cooper K Edwards
Readers	L Rusmini A Prifti	Children's Mass	N D'Silva R Morrison
Ministers of Holy Communion	H Rothern M Cahill C Cahill C Wakefield J Callinan	A Ward T Blythe B D'Arcy B Cotta W David	P Murray N Longhurst T Willard P May S Ingle
Bar			P Cosgrave R Monaghan
Coffee		L Lynch S Barradell	T Troy J Cosgrave
Altar Servers	P Marshall R&F Norman-Brown Jude J MacFadyen	L Delamain A Lynch Z Cotta	D Fernandes Paulina V Marcolina

Tellers

L Lynch, M Ardron