

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 £1,426. Second Collection £1,488. Mass attendance 802.

23rd March (Saturday Vigil)	Third Sunday of Lent 6pm Mick Brace RIP (G Tomkins)
Sunday 24th March	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Carmel Turton RIP (Romilly Turton) 4pm Stations Of The Cross
Monday 25th March	The Annunciation Of The Lord 9.30am Joan Headington (CWL)
Tuesday 26th March	Feria 9.30am Mrs Anne Byrne RIP (The Mulroy Family)
Wednesday 27th March	Feria 9.30am Brian McKie RIP (S&A Barradell) 10.45am Eucharistic Adoration
Thursday 28th March	Feria 9.30am Ann McDonald RIP (Eileen Dawson)
Friday 29th March	Feria 9.30am Victor Clark (June Clark)
30th March (Saturday Vigil)	Fourth Sunday of Lent 6pm Van Chan RIP (The Sands Family)
Sunday 31st March	9.15am People of the Parish 11am Francesca M Sio RIP (J&L Sio) 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.

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...

I felt moved as we watched the beautiful but disturbing movie *Pope Francis: A Man of his Word* on Tuesday as part of the Lenten Programme in our parish. I felt disturbed because through the movie, I got the full impact of the massive issues of our times. From climate change, natural disasters, illness, people in desperate situations, human trafficking, refugees, migrants crossing the Mediterranean, and much more. In front of these issues, one can easily feel discouraged and overwhelmed by the extremities of the current situation – both nationally and globally. In the midst of such tragedies, one can easily ask the question of “Where is God in all of this suffering?” or “Has God left us to our own devices?” and “Does God even care?”. These are real and valid questions coming from the depths of our being. Does God really hear the cries of his people? Pope Francis is shown as a shepherd who wants to immerse himself and encounter the human person in his despair. In the movie, we see him washing and kissing numerous prisoners incarcerated in different countries. We see him wanting to be one of the first to welcome and visit migrants who had been desperate enough to cross the Mediterranean. We see him visiting and talking to people who are living in Barrios in Brazil or listening to unemployed young people in Italy. We look upon a man in his eighties still full of energy and yearning to bring hope where there is despair. He is a man who is exploring issues like climate change and its effects on the poorest of the poor in his exhortation *Laudato Si’*. Although the movie drained me emotionally, watching this man reaching out with so much compassion and at the same time with a sense of humour, gave me hope. Hope that comes from the reality that God still hears our cries and that he is using people like Pope Francis, to let us know that God cares and that God has not abandoned us.

The first reading takes us to one of the seminal moments in the whole of Israel’s biblical tradition. It describes the call of Moses, the one who is to lead the Israelites out of their slavery in Egypt, and receive from God and promulgate the law that is to define and regulate their existence as God’s own people. It is very important for our faith to believe that God actually cares enough to notice what happens to us, and that his reaction to events is not: “I do not want to know”. In today’s first reading we have the ancient revelation of who God is. The story tells of God revealing himself to Moses and even though Moses must hide his face from God, he hopes that the Lord will not close his eyes to the affliction of his people. The first part of the revelation puts that fear to rest for it shows God to be a God who notices. “I have seen the miserable state of my people in Egypt... I am well aware of their suffering.” God does see what is happening therefore there is reason to hope. This revelation is central to the whole tradition of the Old Testament. God is not the unmoved mover. Our Lord is moved to act on what he sees. He cares deeply about what happens to his people and in this instance his care takes the shape of historical liberation. He is a God who is openly against oppression. So Moses is chosen as a leader to give voice to God’s care for his oppressed people; to give voice to God’s opposition against the manufactured suffering of his people; to take the lead in organising the liberation of his own people. Moses is the care of God in motion. Through Moses we know that God sees and is moved to act on it. But the question is whether God will stay awake to human suffering. Will God keep on caring for people or will the day come when God will run out of mercy? The answer to that question is given in the revelation to Moses. The answer is in the name of God. “I am who I am”. The very name of God affirms his fidelity and staying power. Our God’s name is an assurance of his presence: “I will be there”.

Through this beautiful narrative in the Old Testament today, we have an insight into the ministry of God. The one who pays attention, who is moved to save his people and who stays constant in his love for us. St Teresa of Ávila tells us that “Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world. Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good. Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world. Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes, you are his body. Christ has not body now on earth but yours”. God hears the cry of the people and uses people like Pope Francis and us to make a difference in the world today. We need to awaken ourselves to the reality that although sometimes we feel overwhelmed by the cries our times, we ourselves are called to bring hope where there is despair and light where there is darkness. Especially at this time of Lent, where can we bring hope and light in our world? Let us reflect!

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](mailto:gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org) 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 26th March between 5pm-7pm. No appointment needed.

### **The Parish Pastoral Council**

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council will take place on Thursday 28th March at 8pm in the Community Centre. You may raise any relevant issue using the PPC mailbox which is [ppc@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:ppc@stjamespettswood.org) or place a note in the suggestion box in the church porch.

### **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.

## 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 2nd April

Lenten Reconciliation service at 8pm

Tuesday 9th April

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

Tuesday 16th April

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

Friday 19th April

Walk of Witness – Starts from St Francis, Willett Way at 9am.

Saturday 20th April

Swieconka – Polish Service. Blessing of the Easter Baskets at 11.30am

## Finance Pillar

200 Club

Firstly, thank you so much for joining the 200 Club which has proved to be a great success in the past year with over £7000 being raised for Church funds.

The new year starts on 1st April with the draw taking place on the 2nd Sunday of each month. As many of you paid by cheque last year and assuming you wish to continue paying this way, I shall be grateful if you will send a cheque for £60 payable to St James' 200 Club for the attention of Ken Evans at the Parish Office – 281A Crescent Drive, Petts Wood. BR5 1AY.

If, however you wish to pay by standing order at £5 per month (payable on the 1st of the month) please [contact Ken](#). We still have some vacancies so if you wish to join please contact Ken. I do hope you will continue to support this excellent fund-raising initiative and thank you again for your generous support.

## Evangelisation Pillar

Week of Accompanied Prayer - Fuller Thanks

Support to our recent Week of Accompanied Prayer (WAP) went far beyond the participants themselves and the Prayer Companions, from St James' and the other Petts Wood churches. On behalf of the participants and organisers, we thank:

- all the parish organisations and individuals who kindly adjusted their normal routines during the Week to allow WAP activities to take place;
- the parishioner who gave of his time and expertise to design and implement the graphics for WAP brochures and notices;
- the musicians who supported WAP services;
- the parish office for extensive assistance with organisation and publicity;
- the parishioners who gave of their time and friendship to assist with Welcoming participants during the Week;

- and those who kindly provided cakes for the Welcoming area;
- those who prepared and served meals for the Prayer Companions;
- those who opened their homes for Companions who stayed with us during the Week;
- those who lent items needed for the Week; and
- of course most importantly, to all who offered their prayer.

We believe we were all blessed by the Week.

#### First Holy Communion 2019

The ninth preparation session is on Saturday 30th March from 4.30pm to 5.45pm. This is a parent session with Fr David and all children.

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 5th April. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

### Social Pillar

#### Film Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Film Night on Saturday, 9 March. The last film was very well received & your generosity raised £100 in donations towards the cost of re-covering the main Church Bible, which is in urgent need of repair.

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. This film runs for 1 hour 51 minutes & will start promptly at 7.30pm. The bar will be open beforehand & a warm welcome awaits!

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.

#### Confirmandi event

Our 2019 Confirmandi have a fundraising event on Saturday 30th March from 7pm to 10pm.

All monies raised will be going directly to St Catherine's in the Philippines. Look out for the posters, come along and enjoy yourselves. If you cannot come but would like to support our young people, there will be a box at the back of the church for raffle donations. Adults £5 – tickets can be purchased on the night.

#### Dad and Me

The next Dad and Me will be on Saturday 30th March, 10am to 11.30am

#### Easter Egg Hunt

Our next parish event is imminent – the ever popular Easter Egg Hunt. This will take place on Easter Sunday, 21st April, after the 9.15 mass.

If you would like to be involved in this there is a meeting in the community centre at 8.00 on Tuesday 26th March. If you cannot attend this meeting but want to be involved or have ideas to contribute please contact me on [mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org](mailto:mary.omahony@stjamespettswood.org)

The St James' Social Club is responsible for the running and licensing of the bar in the Community Centre. The AGM will be held on 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.

#### 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.

### Liturgy Pillar

#### Children's Liturgy

Please note that when there is a Church Parade Mass (14th April) there will not be Children's Liturgy.

#### Welcomers Meeting

On Monday 1st April at 7.30pm in the church there will be a meeting for all welcomers. and anyone interested in becoming a welcomer.

### Pastoral Pillar

#### Bereavement Retreat, Aylesford Priory, 22-24 March

A Time for Mourning: A Retreat / Workshop for those suffering from the pain of loss will be held from 22 - 24 March at Aylesford Priory. This workshop aims to offer a time for quiet, prayer, talking & acceptance. It will be led by Elizabeth Partridge & Fr Francis Kensley.

For more information contact Elizabeth Partridge on 01303 670880 or email:

[mflbereavement@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflbereavement@rcaos.org.uk)

Flyers/ Booking Forms are in the porch.

#### 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](mailto: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.

### Justice & Peace

#### Justice and Peace Group

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 27 March at 7.45pm in the Community Centre. All parishioners are assured of a warm welcome.

#### A message from Bromley Foodbank

Thank you to all donors for your continued support. Donations, throughout the borough, meant that the Foodbank was able to feed 463 people in crisis last month. They are currently running low on the following: UHT milk and fruit juice, cold meats, pulses, vegetarian options, jam, Marmite, peanut butter, chocolate spread, rice, female razors and cleaning products.

#### Petts Wood CWL

The Petts Wood Catholic Women's League (CWL) will be holding their annual review (formerly known as an AGM) on Monday 25th March in the Community Centre.

#### Message from Bethany

Hi,

The Family Beetle Drive is fast approaching!

Help me reach my fundraising target by joining me in a Family Beetle Drive evening at St James' Church Hall on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> April after 6pm Mass. This should be a fun evening for all the family.

Tickets will be on sale at the end of most Masses. If you miss me after Mass then phoned the Parish Office for my mobile number to get tickets. Tickets are priced at £5/adult, £3/child and £15/family.

The evening includes prizes, food, Parish Bar, raffle, interval game with cash prize and craft stalls. So be sure to bring your purses & wallets!!

I look forward to seeing you there.

Many thanks for your support.

Bethany Towell

Note from Zosia

I would like to say a massive thank you to all the parish for your sponsorship, prayers and messages of support for my Half Marathon on behalf of Young Dementia UK. I am pleased to report back that I completed it in 2 hours and 18 minutes, without stopping or walking once. For all those who signed the sponsorship form I will be around at the back of church after the Masses to collect the donations or if you see my parents, feel free to give it to them! Thanks once again

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.
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Rotas for next week: Thank you for helping

Weekend 30th March

Cleaning the Church

P Driscoll, J Rogerson, M Mitrovic (Tuesday team – 2nd April)

Wednesday Coffee 3rd April

M Howell, S Barradell

31st March 2019

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomers	K Drabowicz	L Thomas M Howell	G Whitley M Ingledew
Readers	C Kiely J Bajorek	S Cotta K Antao	R Rowan H Marvell

Ministers of Holy Communion	J Gribben T Babb B Babb J Bajorek P Cantopher	T Forde A Delamain D Hairs B Cotta W David	R Del Guercio Z Bajorek T Troy A Bunnage P Murray
Bar			P Troy M Wright
Coffee		G&D Brookes	S Ingle A Huntington M Mulvey
Altar Servers	Roisin Fintan Abigail Nathan Mario Peter		Emily Paulina Valentino
Tellers	F Simon, J Cosgrave		