

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 £1,465. Mass attendance 738.

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 Mary & John Hallahan (N Fealy)
Monday 26th November	Feria 9.30am Deceased Members of the CWL (CWL)
Tuesday 27th November	Feria 9.30am Fr Anton Cowan RIP (M Ingledew)
Wednesday 28th November	Feria 9.30am Michael Cassidy RIP (M Kelly) 10.45am Eucharist Adoration
Thursday 29th November	Feria 9.30am William & Una Barry 50th wedding Anniversary (Padfield Family)
Friday 30th November	Saint Andrew 9.30am Mr Paul Chittilappily RIP
1st December (Saturday Vigil)	First Sunday Of Advent 6pm Caroline Cleary (LS & F Wynne) 9.15am Mary McEnergy RIP (G Carter)
Sunday 2nd December	11am Mary Monaghan RIP (Monaghan 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...

Like any other institution, the Catholic Church is going through a time of crisis. We cannot deny this fact. But when we refer to the Church – who or what are we referring to? According to the second Vatican Council, it is first and foremost – people – pilgrim people – people on a journey towards holiness. It is also an institution, with its rules and regulations and hierarchical structure. However primarily it is a community. The Church is us. Another second major ecclesiological principle, in *Lumen Gentium*, adopted by the Second Vatican Council is embodied in its teaching that the Church is the whole People of God. In other words, the Church is not only the hierarchy, the clergy and the members of religious communities. It is the whole community of the baptised. And that community is marked by a rich diversity of gender, class, education, social status, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity and culture. It includes saints and sinners alike. If you ask anyone about the Church, at the moment, they would probably only be seeing abuse not holiness. This saddens us immensely. At the same time, we are living in a time where the pursuit of holiness has never been more longed for. That is the reason Pope Francis had issued his latest Apostolic Exhortation which he called *Gaudete et Exultate*, in which he tried to show us what it means to be holy and how to be holy in the contemporary world. A world which is secular and pluralistic. I am not necessarily against these aspects of contemporary society. I feel that in the world today, the Church is less powerful and so less arrogant. The Church is one voice within a world of myriad voices. The sexual abuse scandals have humiliated the Church and so there is no place for a triumphant one. The Church today, as our beloved Pope is trying to encourage us, needs to go back to the essence and simplicity of the gospel message. The world needs people who embodies the message of peace and love which Jesus in his own very unassuming way lived and died for. He embodied humility. Serving without being governed by the fat relentless ego. And he keeps on inviting us to do likewise in a world where the “I” – “Me” fuels all our actions and choices.

Today the Catholic Church celebrates the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Commonly called as Christ the King. The holy day has an important lesson for Christian believers. Regrettably however, whatever message that might be, it's easily lost among us Christians because of the language used. For us believers today, such a use of regal paraphernalia comes across as peculiar and unhelpful to our real lives and the actual challenges to our faith. As it remains in our liturgical Calendar, the feast might need a renewal. Perhaps some history can guide us to reflect. The feast of Christ the King is a relatively recent feast. It was instituted by Pope Blessed Pius XI at the end of the Jubilee year of 1925. This was a well-timed and much needed jubilee for the Church, because it came after the destruction of the First World War and the tidal wave of secularism that followed the devastation. The jubilee was a praiseworthy attempt by the Catholic Church to address post-war secularism and answer some of humanity's questions about human nature, evil, God's providence and the future of the human family. Regrettably, the Catholic Church was choked by dated pageantry, unhelpful theological language and a condescending approach by Church's leadership.

The Catholic Church found itself also in the midst of the Roman question, the international query about what to do with the pope after the loss of the Papal States. After having his own country, which covered most of central of Italy, taken from him by the revolutionaries who united the Italian peninsula and created the modern state of Italy. There was serious discussion on what the temporal power of the pope should be and what role he should have in temporal European Politics. It was a humbling question for a papacy that had enjoyed universal homage. Now would powers beyond its control decide the papacy's fate and determine its role in the public forum. A reaction to both secularism and the humiliation of the Roman Question were certainly present in the declaration of the feast day of Christ the King. The Papal States, the pope's temporal and spiritual powers, and the Kingdom of God were all blurred. From this conclusion, the solemnity was instituted and used as an assertion of the pope's temporal authority by celebrating the Lord Jesus' divine authority. By choosing such an engagement with Western Culture at the time, the Church's spiritual authority was severely diminished, and it was seen as one more earthly authority, one more temporal power fighting to win control, influence and treasury. Unfortunately Western culture was not interested in such a Church and it just moved on and started putting a lot of space between itself and the Roman Church.

Does that mean that there is no sense in Christ the King feast today? The Church always seeks *aggiornamento* – which means to convert and renew itself to the Church's deepest teachings and the common good of believers and the human family. The pre-eminent Catholic response has always been renovation by internal refinement. The Church can acclaim Christ the King. It can show the world a king

who does not lust for power but who is self-described as “*meek and humble of heart*”. The Church can glorify a leader who does not want a crown of domination, but who lovingly accepts a crown of thorns in service to others. Church leadership can praise a sceptre that imparts kindness and compassion rather than vengeance and annihilation. The more the Church exercises its spiritual authority and extols the higher impulses of humanity, the more it has a voice and is a true teacher and witness to humanity. Pope Francis’s ecclesiology is awakening us to this kind of being and service as Church in today’s world. Happy Feast!

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 4th December – 5pm to 7pm.

Evangelisation Pillar

RCIA

Journey in Faith continues on Sunday 2nd December from 2.00 to 5.00pm in the Community Centre.

SS Joseph & Swithun’s 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.

Advent – Prepare ye the way of the Lord

Advent Reflection – Led by Sr Clara, Thursday 6th December 8pm

Advent Reconciliation Service – Thursday 13th December 8pm

Advent Carol Service – Sunday 16th December 4pm

Advent Reflection Service - Led by Fr David Camilleri, Thursday 20th December 8pm

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.

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.
- If you have a particular connection with a business in Petts Wood: your barber, pedicurist, favourite coffee shop, could you take a poster advertising the Christmas Fair and ask them to display it in their business.
- Don't forget to return raffle tickets.
- 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 that 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, 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 7.30pm 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

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.

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

Gifts on Christmas Day

At all Christmas Masses you are invited to bring a gift of a brand-new toy to put around the Christmas tree. This year we are supporting Great Ormond Street Hospital, who are looking forward to receiving toys/gifts for boys and girls aged 0 - 16. They have asked that we do not donate stuffed animals/teddies but are in special need of sensory toys for children aged 0-1 years old and toys for children ages 14-16 years. We know you will be generous as always.

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

Next meeting

There will be no meeting at St James' on Wednesday 28th November because members are participating in the Global Healing event at St Joseph's (see details above). The Group will meet in the Community Hall at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5th December instead. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

Greeting cards to Victims of Injustice

The response to our appeal for Mass goes to send messages of solidarity to Victims of Injustice was tremendous. More than 80 cards were written, and generous donations enabled us to cover postage, stationery and printing costs. The envelopes have been addressed and sent off. Thank you for your support. It was great to have such enthusiasm from young parishioners who understand what injustice means.

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.

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

Scout Waiting List

The Beaver and Cubs waiting list is now closed until further notice. Please Do Not apply at this time.

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.

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 01/02 December 2018

Cleaning the Church P Driscoll, J Rogerson, M Mitrovic (Tuesday team – 4th December)

Wednesday Coffee S Barradell, M Howell, B D'Arcy

Mass	Saturday 6pm (Vigil)	Sunday 9.15am	Sunday 11am
Welcomes	M Sands	M Howell L Thomas	S & J Ingle
Readers	D Woolston I Stewart	A Coughlan P Lowe	D Ducat M Ingledew
Ministers of Holy Communion	P Crosland C Cosgrave P Cosgrave P Driscoll R Wright	D Hairs T Forde M Howell S Cotta T Blythe	R Del Guercio Z Bajorek T Troy A Bunnage P Murray
Bar			B Meehan O Clutton
Coffee		D Delf F Curran E Aletta	M Harrington K Walsh
Altar Servers	Jude N Cracknell R&F Norman- Brown P Marshall	L Delamain Z Cotta	Paulina F Ikenye D Fernandes V Marcolina

Tellers L Delamain, M Edwards