

**CONTACT DETAILS - PRESBYTERY**

**Priest/Pastor: Fr Jim Teeling (Currently on Sabbatical)**

**Parish Administrator : Fr Paul Jenkins**

**Address:** Church of the Sacred Heart, 63 West Street, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1AN

**Telephone:** 01795 472619 - Parish email: [sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Website:** [www.rcsittingbourne.org.uk](http://www.rcsittingbourne.org.uk)

**Sunday 12 May - Fourth Sunday Of Easter**

**World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood**

5.00pm(Sat) Mass - Intentions of Mr & Mrs Connolly

9.30am Mass - Trixie & Ernie RIP

**No Tea & Coffee during May**

11.00am Mass - People of the Parish

**Monday 13 May - Our Lady of Fatima**

10.00am Eucharistic Service in Convent

7.00pm Adoration

**Tuesday 14 May - Saint Matthias (Apostle)**

10.00am Mass in Convent - "In thanksgiving"

**Wednesday 15 May**

10.00am Mass in Church - Wellbeing John Ryan &  
Family

**Thursday 16 May**

10.00am Mass in Convent - Wellbeing of George  
Cullinane

7.00pm Adoration

**Friday 17 May**

10.00am Mass in Church - 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary K.S.C

7.00pm Adoration

**Saturday 18 May - Saint John I, Pope & Martyr**

10.00am Mass in Convent - Private Intentions

4.00pm Reconciliation

**Sunday 19 May - Fifth Sunday Of Easter**

5.00pm(Sat) Mass - Private Intentions OC

9.30am Mass - John Oliver RIP

**No Tea & Coffee during May**

11.00am Mass - People of the Parish

**Let Us Pray**

In consideration of the new General Data Protection Rules, names of our sick Parishioners will no longer be listed. Please continue to pray for those who are sick in the Parish.

We remember all who have recently died.

**COLLECTIONS**

**FIRST COLLECTION**

5 May 2019 £527.30 of which £247.00 was gift aided

**SECOND COLLECTION**

Last weekend - Building Fund £127.67

This weekend - Ecclesiastical Education

Next weekend - Building Fund

Standing Orders April - £858.00

Thank You and God Bless

This week's Ministers of Church Cleaning are:

Mrs Goatham & Mrs Mills

**CONTACT DETAILS - PARISH OFFICE**

**Parish Clerk:** MaryAnn Vowles

**Parish Secretary:** Sue McGoldrick/Kathy McClean

**Telephone:** 01795 555708 - **Email:** [sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sittingbourne@rcaos.org.uk)

**Office Hours:** Weekdays 9.30am - 2.30pm

**Parish Montage Contributions:** [parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk)

**Bishops' Conference Website:** [www.catholic-ew.org.uk](http://www.catholic-ew.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Officer:** [safeguardingshc@mail.com](mailto:safeguardingshc@mail.com) 07896 947477

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May - Parish Mass Book - Page 271**

**IMPORTANT PARISH NEWS: FR JIM'S RETURN FROM THE PHILIPPINES**

The Vicar General, Fr Matthew Dickens, has asked that the following information be shared with the Parishes of Sittingbourne and Hythe. Fr Jim Teeling will return from the Philippines at the end of June. Fr Jim Teeling will be leaving Sittingbourne at the end of July to take up a new appointment as Parish Priest of Hythe. Fr Paul Jenkins will be leaving Sittingbourne on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> June. The Archdiocese is in the process of appointing a new Parish Priest for Sittingbourne, which is yet to be finalised. It is anticipated that short-term cover will be arranged for the month of August and a new Parish Priest be appointed from September.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS**

We congratulate this week's First Holy Communicants: Please pray for them as they receive the Eucharist for the first time.

**Kieran, Harrison, James, Isabelle, Diana, Nikola and Callum**

**TEA & COFFEE**

During May whilst the FHC Masses take place there will be no Tea & Coffee after 9.30am Mass. We would be grateful if all 9.30am Mass attendees would vacate the car park as promptly as possible to make space for the families arriving for First Holy Communion. Your co-operation as always is very much appreciated.

**THE SACRED HEART PARISH SCRIPTURE GROUP.**

We are a lively group who meet each week on a Wednesday evening to read, pray and discuss the Gospel for the forthcoming Sunday. We start our evenings with prayers for the needs of the Parish, the wider church, our family and friends and those in need throughout the world. We meet at the Convent on Wednesday evenings at 8.00pm for one hour and we would be delighted if any more parishioners would like to join us. If you require more information, please leave your name and phone number with the parish office (01795 555708) and we will contact you.

**PARISH FAMILY DAY - AYLESFORD PRIORY - Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2019**

We would like to invite all Parishioners to a Parish family BBQ on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> June. The event will be held in the walled garden at Aylesford Priory (entrance via the Rosary Garden). Mass will be celebrated at 1pm (optional for those who chose to attend) and the BBQ and a fun packed afternoon will follow. BBQ food and soft drinks will be provided free of charge, please feel free to bring your own rug and "non soft drinks". Activities will be provided for the children. This will **not** be a fund raising event just an afternoon of hopefully sun and fun! More details to follow.....please keep the date free!!

**Gospel Insight: *Jesus said: "My sheep hear my voice; I know them, and they follow me."***

It's difficult for us in the modern world to understand the incredibly close connection between a shepherd and his sheep. Because we lack that experience, we might miss the power of what Jesus is telling us in today's gospel. In Jesus' time, and still in some parts of the world today, shepherds know the personality of each of their sheep. Isolated for days at a time with his herd, the shepherd would talk to the animals, sing to them and sleep among them. When he took them to a stream to water them, he also would come across other shepherds and their flocks, giving them a chance to socialize as the sheep mingled together at the water. There was no worry about which sheep belonged to which flock, and when it was time to leave, the shepherds would call to their own sheep, who untangled themselves from the mix and followed the caring and familiar voice of their own shepherd.

This is a wonderful and loving image of care and protection, but something about it makes me hesitate. Do I really *want* a shepherd? I am drawn to the image it presents, but I also shy away from the idea of not being independent. I want the kind of love, protection and care Jesus offers yet at the same time I want to say, "I can do it myself!" This stubbornness to do things my own way is what led Israel, God's chosen people, to forget who they truly were and why they had been chosen. As they became settled, comfortable and prosperous, they began to place their trust in things, a form of idolatry. In doing so they lost sight of the One who had offered them a special relationship. In today's first reading, we see that when the chosen people drifted away, the Gentiles were "delighted" to accept this relationship.

*Jesus, thank you for helping me to listen to your voice. When I am too busy and distracted, I can't hear you calling me to come home to the warmth of your love. Whether I pay attention or not, I know you are waiting there for me, always, with your open arms and your endlessly loving gaze. Help me to take time each day to sit in the quiet with you and to thank for this great gift of your love. Help me recognize your voice and to recognize that your guidance and comfort are all that I need.*