

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

Parish Website: www.rcsittingbourne.org.uk

Parish Office: 01795 555708

Sunday 31 March -

Fourth Sunday Of Lent

Laetare Sunday

5.00pm(Sat) Mass - Mrs Patricia Mearon

9.30am Mass - People of the Parish

School Mass

10.30am Tea & Coffee in the O'Sullivan Centre

(Ministers:Mr & Mrs Keene)

11.00am Mass - Francis Gerard RIP

Monday 1 April

10.00am Eucharistic Service in Convent

7.00pm Adoration

Tuesday 2 April

10.00am Eucharistic Service in Convent

Wednesday 3 April

10.00am Mass in Church - Robert & Alice Oliver RIP

Thursday 4 April

10.00am Mass in Convent - Rick Gibson RIP

7.00pm Adoration

Friday 5 April

10.00am Eucharistic Service in Church

7.00-7.30pm Adoration

7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 6 April

10.00am Mass in Convent - Special Intention of
Robert Thomson

4.00pm Reconciliation

Sunday 7 April

Fifth Sunday Of Lent

5.00pm(Sat) Mass - Yvonne & Donald Hume

9.30am Mass - People of the Parish

10.30am Tea & Coffee in the O'Sullivan Centre

(Ministers:Mrs Best & Mrs Stitchbury)

11.00am Mass - Jacqueline Wilson RIP

Let Us Pray

In consideration of the new General Data, names of our sick Parishioners will no longer be listed. Please continue to pray for those who are sick in the Parish and a Mass will be offered at one of the Sunday Masses once a month.

We remember all who have recently died especially Jesse Rieck.

COLLECTIONS

FIRST COLLECTION

24 March 2019 £470.35 of which £215.50 was gift aided

SECOND COLLECTION

Last weekend - Building Fund - £116.87

Thank You and God Bless

This week's Ministers of Church Cleaning are:

Mrs Best & Elaine Alabaster



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RECONCILIATION SATURDAY 6th April 2019

Canon Frank will be here to take confessions from 4-5pm next Saturday and Fr Paul will reciprocate by taking confessions at Sheppey from 12-1pm the same day.

CALLING ALL CATHOLIC MOTHERS AND LADIES OF THE PARISH!!

As it is Mothering Sunday we felt it was the ideal opportunity to remind you about the Union of Catholic Mothers, a long established social group for our Parish ladies! The UCM would like to boost their numbers and would love to welcome new members. The next meeting is Tuesday 9th April at 7pm in the O'Sullivan Centre. Meetings generally consist of a prayer, a raffle to raise money for various charities, a bring & buy sale and of course the chance for a chat whilst enjoying refreshments. The group is open to women of all ages no matter if you are 21 or 101!

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASSES IN MAY 2019

This year all First Holy Communion Masses will take place during the 11am Mass each Sunday only. This is to enable time for photographs etc following the Mass and enables a group of children to receive the Sacrament together. These Masses will therefore be busy. We are therefore giving everyone advance notice so that you may plan to attend Sat 5pm or Sunday 9.30am during the 4 weeks of May if you wish.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For those of you who are Gift Aiders, your new box of envelopes is available to collect from the Parish Office after Mass or from the Office during office hours next week. Anyone who is not currently a registered Gift Aider and wishes to register please contact the Parish Office for the relevant form. The Parish get an extra 25p from the Government for each £1 you donate!!

PARISH MONTAGE

We would like to thank Barry Wiles for all his hard work in producing the Parish Montage at intervals throughout the year. If anyone has photos or content suggestions for Barry for future editions then please contact him via parishmontage@hotmail.co.uk. The Parish Montage's are now being uploaded to the website to be viewed online.



GOSPEL INSIGHT: THE ELDER BROTHER

Without doubt, the most captivating parable is the one about “the prodigal son” sometimes called the parable of ‘the lost son’. Most preachers tend to focus on the younger son: his return home and the unbelievable welcome he received from his father. But the parable also speaks about an older son, a reliable child who stayed at home with his father.

When the older son is informed that his father has organized a lavish party to welcome the lost son, he gets very upset, understandably. His brother’s return doesn’t make him happy, but furious. “He was angry then and refused to go in” to the party. He had done his duty and never left home, but now he feels like a stranger in his own house. The father goes out to invite him in with the same tenderness with which he has welcomed his younger brother. The father doesn’t shout or order. With humble love “he tries to persuade him” to come into the welcome home party. It’s then that the elder son explodes, making his resentment known. It’s at this point we discover that although the older brother has spent his whole life fulfilling his father’s orders, he hasn’t learned to love as his father loves. All he knows is how to demand his rights.

The tragedy of the older son is although he never left home, his heart has always been far away. He knows how to fulfil commandments, but he doesn’t know how to love. He doesn’t understand his father’s love for the lost son and by implication he doesn’t understand how much the Father loves him. He doesn’t welcome or forgive his brother; he doesn’t want to know anything about him. Jesus ends his parable without satisfying our curiosity: does the elder brother enter the party, or does he stay outside?

The angry protest of the elder brother invites us to examine our attitudes to the lost. To consider our attitudes towards believers and non-believers, practicing Christians and those who have fallen away, about marriages blessed by the Church and couples living together. While we keep classifying God’s children, God keeps waiting for us all, since God isn’t the property of good people or of practicing Christians. God is Father of all.

EASTER MASS TIMES

Palm Sunday

Mass in Church - 5pm (Sat), 9.30am and 11am

Holy Week

Monday 15th April - 10am Mass in Church

Tuesday 16th April - 10am Mass in Church

Wednesday 17th April - 10am Eucharistic Service in Church

Maundy Thursday 18th April - 7pm Mass in Church

Good Friday

The Lord's Passion - 3pm

Stations of the Cross - 7pm

Easter Saturday

Polish Easter Baskets (Swiecona) - 10am

Easter Vigil - 7.30pm

Easter Sunday

Mass in Church 9.30am and 11 am