

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

Newsletter – 19th February 2017 – Seventh Sunday (A)

Readings: Leviticus 19: 1 – 2, 17 - 18; 1 Corinthians 3: 16 – 23

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is compassion and love.*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, alleluia! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. Alleluia!*

Gospel: Matthew 5: 38– 48

Many thanks to Pamela Colwell for her £1000 donation towards our Building Fund.

Holy Mass Intentions

envelopes are available after Mass on the desk in the Church Porch. Please request a date from our Welcoming Ministers.

Thought for the day: One day we will all depart on a journey, free of cost. The flight will always be on time. Our good deeds will be the luggage. Humanity will be our passport. Love will be our visa. So make sure you do your best to travel first class!

In Our Parish, we have...

1st Sundays -Bring & share

2nd Sundays – Tradecraft

3rd Sundays – Parish Walk

Stations of the Cross

during Lent: praying the Stations of the Cross will be done each Friday evening by different groups like Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and so on. If you would like to include your team, Kindly talk to Fr Antony.

Bible verse to remember: “You have learnt how it was said: You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy. But I say this to you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” [Matthew 5:44]

History of St John Fisher of Rochester – 17

Henry VIII wrote his book *Assertio Septem Sacramentorum* in reply to Luther's tract *De Captivitate Babylonica* in which Luther maintained that there were only three sacraments; Baptism, Penance and “of Bread”. This he regarded as a provisional opinion as he thought, in fact, that there was only one sacrament and three “sacramental signs”.

The King's reply was not a deep theological treatise but the kind of exposition that an intelligent and well instructed layman might write. It may have been praise of the King's book that led to attempts in later years by Henry and Thomas Cromwell to call in all copies, the King having changed his views on the authority of the Pope since the day he defended him against Luther. Meanwhile John Fisher was at work on his own refutation of Luther.

Lenten Retreat: Following the positive feedback on our Advent Retreat Day, we are planning three more for 2017. The first will be on Saturday 11th March at St John Fisher and will be a Lenten themed Retreat Day. *Footsteps – Walking the Way of the Cross.*

It is an opportunity to take time out for silent reflection and prayer in a quiet and relaxed environment. A chance to prepare prayerfully for Easter by walking alongside our Lord on his journey of the cross.

If you would like to join us on this Parish Retreat/Quiet Day, please would you sign up on the poster on the notice board. For more information please contact either Fr Antony or Steph Painter on 01634 829386.

If you are sick at home and would like Holy Communion brought to you, please give your name, address and telephone number to Fr. Antony, Deacon Felim, Deacon Malcolm, and a Eucharistic Minister will get in touch with you. Also, if you are aware of a parishioner who is housebound or ill please let us

know. If you are in the hospital and wish to speak to a priest, please ask the staff to contact the Catholic Chaplain.

HOLY MASSES THIS WEEK.

Sunday 19th February	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish Billy Jones (baby)- R.I.P. Eileen Enright – R.I.P.	SEVENTH SUNDAY (A)
Monday	10am	Tony Baker - Confirmation -Thanks	
Tuesday	10am	Holy Mass	St Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the church
Wednesday	10am	Nora Mullin - Birthday	St Peter, The Apostle.
Thursday		No Mass.	St Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr
Friday	10am	Mai Sherdian – R.I.P.	
Saturday	10am	Holy Mass - No Mass Intention received Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation	Our Lady
Sunday 26th February	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish The Chandler Family - Thanksgiving to St Jude for prayers answered	EIGHTH SUNDAY (A) DAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

Sunday 12th February

Collection: Loose - £226.11; Envelopes - £349.97= £575.08.

Racial Justice Sunday: £139.64

Attendance: 9am – 85; 11am – 71 ; 6pm - 54 = 210

100 Club: £20 – Peter Jago N° 12; £10 – B McEwan N° 138

Youth Group in Our Parish: Our young people gather in our parish Hall on this Sunday evening 5 o'clock. If you wish to join this group please come along.

Baptism: Please arrange date for preparation for Baptism with Father Antony and book date of Baptism after the Baptism preparation. When you come for preparation kindly bring proof that Parents and Godparents are Catholics.

CAFOD Update: CAFOD Lenten Fast Day is on Friday 10th March. Our collection will be used to help fund a project in Zambia. Visit the CAFOD website to find out more about the project and to get fundraising ideas to give a boost to our usual Fast Day collection.

Why to love your enemies? *You could change that person's life.* Your enemy is a human being, and it's very possible that your hatred of that person is a source of grief, tension, or hatred in them. Now, that might feel good to you in a vindictive way, but if you look at it objectively, removing your feelings from the situation ... hurting another person is always a bad thing. Making them happier is a good thing. And interestingly, making someone happier, no matter who that is, can make us happier.

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