

# ***ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH***

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

## **Newsletter – 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – First Sunday of Lent (A)**

Readings: Genesis 2: 7 – 9; 3: 1 - 7 Romans: 5: 12 – 19

Responsorial Psalm: *Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Gospel acclamation: *Man does not live on bread alone  
but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*

Gospel: Matthew 4: 1– 11

### **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**

Never take someone for granted. Hold every person close to your heart because you might wake up one day and realise you've lost a diamond while you were too busy collecting stones.

### **In Our Parish, we have...**

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays -Bring & share

2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays – Traidcraft

3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Parish Walk

**If you are sick at home** and would like Holy Communion brought to you, please inform the clergy 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 hospital and wish to speak to a priest, please ask the staff to contact the Catholic Chaplain.

### **Confession**

Every Saturday 10.30am

Good Friday from 10-45am

**Cafod Lenten Fast Day** is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

Please collect your envelopes at mass today and bring them back next Sunday where they will be collected.

### **Bible verse to remember:**

Have mercy on us O Lord, for we have sinned. [cf. Psalm 50:1]

### **St John Fisher on Psalm 50:**

Here our prophet [King David] does three things: first, he introduces and brings in his petition, which every penitent person can make apt and convenient to himself; secondly, he shows many reasons why his petition should be granted; and lastly, he promises a very true and certain hope to himself of having his request answered.

If sinners would truly and rightfully ponder and think of what condition and state they are in, I think they would think themselves in a very great peril and jeopardy. And they remember it not well, truly they are in even more peril and greater jeopardy..." – *St John Fisher*

**Donate Blood:** the NHS is holding a blood donation session on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2017. More details on the notice board.

**Bring the Old Palms:** In order to make ash for the Ash Wednesday next year, please bring the old palms and place them in the box kept in the porch.

### **Lenten Retreats – Reminder to please sign up.**

11<sup>th</sup> March Saturday -Walking the Way of the Cross 10am-4pm

8<sup>th</sup> April Saturday - **Divine Mercy** -11am-4pm (Mass at 12 noon)

**Lent Course: Return of the Prodigal Son:** we are running the Lent Course "Return of the Prodigal Son" based on the book by Henri Nouwen. It will take place on the next five Wednesday evenings starting on the 8th at 7pm in the Church Hall. All are welcome to this opportunity to reflect on our lives in the light of the Gospel parable as we approach Easter. Hope to see you there.

**Stations of the Cross** are every Friday, at 7pm, during the season of Lent. Next Friday they will be led by the Reader's Group.

**Ecumenical Station of the Cross:** with other Christian Denominations, we are going to pray the Stations of the Cross on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 Wednesday at 7pm in our and afterwards we will join for Compline at St Peter's church.

HOLY MASSES UHIS WEEK.

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9am 11am 6pm	Mary Jenkinson - R.I.P. People of the Parish. Margaret Devitt – R.I.P	FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
Monday	10am	Yainkain Koroma R.I.P.	
Tuesday	10am	Kadiata & Jasper Suluku R.I.P.	
Wednesday	10am	Thanksgiving	
Thursday		No Mass.	
Friday	10am	Holy Mass - No Mass Intention received	CAFOD Lenten Fast Day
Saturday	10am	Margaret Devitt – R.I.P. Holy Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Reconciliation	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9am 11am 6pm	Mary Jenkinson - R.I.P. Elsy Chacko - R.I.P. People of the Parish	SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February

Collection: Loose - £244.01; Envelopes - £241.00 = £485.01. Poor Parishes Fund: £ 199.88.

Attendance: 9am – 90; 11am – 81; 6pm - 47 = 218

100 Club: £30 – Catherine Hyde N<sup>o</sup> 2; £20 – M. Davis N<sup>o</sup> 141; £10 – Bridget McDonnell N<sup>o</sup> 82

**Please pray** for the repose of the Souls of Mrs. Mary Patricia Jenkinson whose funeral service will be held here on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at 10am, and Mr, Jeremiah Joseph Hoyne whose funeral will take place here on 20th March at 1.30pm. Our sympathy to all family and friends.

**This Sunday we are holding a LOAF** themed “**Bring & Share Lunch**”, L for Local, O for organic, A for Animal Friendly and F for Fair-trade. We are in the middle of Fair-trade fortnight so it is aptly timed. The Raffle is to raise funds to support the pupils of St Francis School, Shisong, Cameroon. All are welcome.

**Weekly Reflections** with *Laudato Si*, on care for our common home, will continue on Saturdays throughout Lent. Please meet in the reception at the Friars, Aylesford at 4.45pm for 5pm start. It should take no longer than an hour so that we can participate in Evening Prayer at 6pm in the Choir Chapel. Reflections can be downloaded from [www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Course-Events](http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/Course-Events)

- *Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ’s victory over death.*
- *Fasting is not only about abstaining from food. It also means sharing food with those who are hungry.*
- *When the journey is uncertain and you fall, God, rich in mercy, will extend his hand to pick you up – Pope **Francis**.*

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