

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

Newsletter – 19th March 2017 – Third Sunday of Lent (A)

Readings: Genesis 17: 3 – 7: Romans: 5: 1 – 5, 5 - 8

Responsorial Psalm: *O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.*

Gospel acclamation: *Lord, you are really the saviour of the world;*

give me living water, so that I may never get thirsty.

Gospel: John 4: 5–42

Bible verse to remember:

“My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear... LORD, do not forsake me; do not be far from me, my God. Come quickly to help me, my Lord and my Saviour” [psalm 37:4, 21-22]

St John Fisher on Psalm 37

“Many times sin is compared to a serpent. A serpent has a head, a body and a tail, and so does sin. For when a man feels the first instigation or stirring to sin, undoubtedly the serpent’s head is there. When he consents afterward to that same instigation, he allows the serpent’s body to enter. And at last, when he completes the sin indeed, then the venomous tail of the serpent is entered. Unless you resist and withstand the head, that is to say, the first suggestion, it shall be very hard for you to exclude sin, for whenever the serpent can get his head inside, he quickly brings after it the rest of his body. And so likewise the sin: if the straight passage is opened for the first hint or stirring, he quickly draws after him his whole body and never ceases till he comes to the highest part of the soul. Sin advances himself and lifted up far above the mind, which ought to be the head of the soul. And this, in truth, is a great misery, of which this holy prophet David makes his complaint, saying, *all parts of my body are without rest because my sins are exalted far above my head...*” – ***St John Fisher.***

Lenten Retreat – Reminder to please sign up.

Please do not forget to sign up for the **Divine Mercy Retreat** that will be held on the 8th April Saturday - 11am-4pm (Mass at 3pm).

Lent Course: Return of the Prodigal Son

Son we are running the Lent Course "Return of the Prodigal Son" based on

Ecumenical Station of the Cross. With other Christian Denominations, we are going to pray the Stations of the Cross on 12th April 2017 Wednesday at 7pm in our church and afterwards we will join for Compline at St Peter’s Church.

Holy Mass Intentions

envelopes are available after Mass on the desk in the Church Porch. Please request a date from our Welcoming Ministers or just find a date from the calendar kept there.

Confession

Every Saturday 10.30am
Good Friday from 10-45am
Reconciliation Mass and Confessions – 10 April – 7pm

Stations of the Cross every Friday, at 7pm, during the season of Lent. Next Friday they will be led by the Altar Servers & Youth Group.

In Our Parish, we have...

1st Sundays -Bring & share
2nd Sundays – Tradecraft
3rd Sundays – Parish Walk

the book by Henri Nouwen. It will take place on the next five Wednesday evenings started 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.



Please find all Lenten Events in our parish is a separate sheet.

HOLY MASSES THIS WEEK.

Sunday 19th March	9am 11am 6pm	Mary Jenkinson - R.I.P. People of the Parish. John Naughton R.I.P.	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Monday	10am 1.30pm	For those who are looking for jobs Funeral Mass: Jeremiah Hoyne	ST JOSEPH'S FEAST
Tuesday	10am	Funeral Mass: Mary Jenkinson	
Wednesday	10am	Donald Walker R.I.P.	
Thursday		No Mass	
Friday	10am	Amanda Johnson Birthday	
Saturday	10am	Mary Reddick Birthday	The Annunciation of the Lord
Sunday 26th March	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish Ethel Rose Gregory R.I.P. Margaret Devitt R.I.P.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 12th March

Collection: Loose - £282.44; Envelopes - £378 = £660.44.

C.A.F.O.D. £429.29

Attendance: 9am – 93; 11am - 107; 6pm - 60 = 260

100 Club: £20 – Felim McCarthy N^o 74; £10 – Pat Wiley N^o 48

Please pray for the repose of the Souls of *Mr. Jeremiah Joseph Hoyne* whose funeral Mass will take place here tomorrow, Monday 20th March at 1.30pm and *Mrs. Mary Patricia Jenkinson* whose funeral Mass will be held here on Tuesday 21st March at 10am. Please also pray for *Peter Sargison* who passed away on Thursday 16th March. His funeral is yet to be arranged. Also pray for Mary Ann McAloon [sister of John Meehan] who passed away on Monday and buried on Wednesday in Ireland. May they rest in the peace of Christ. Our sympathy to all family and friends.

On Tuesday 28th March, from **12.30pm to 4.30pm**, we shall be Spring Cleaning our beautiful church, after the recent repairs to the roof and ceiling, in preparation for Easter. Fr Antony would be pleased if you are able to come along and help out. Remember, many hands make light work. **Great Joy:** *Scarlet Summer Louise* is going to be baptised at 12 noon today and *Patrick Stokes* at 1pm in our St John Fisher church. Please pray for these children and their family members.

Parish Walk and Bring & Share: A 90 minute walk is planned to Aylesford today, 19th March, leaving after 11am Mass. The walk is mostly on good paths. Lifts are available. Next week's Bring & Share will have a French theme. The raffle on this day will be for C.A.F.O.D.

World Water Day is celebrated on this Wednesday. We are encouraged by Pope Francis in his encyclical on 'Care for our Common Home', to be responsible stewards of the earth's resources. Let us therefore think of ways to protect God's precious gift of water and bring 'Laudato Si' message to life.

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