

# ***ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH***

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

**Newsletter – 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 – Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**

Readings: 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a – 7: Ephesians: 5: 8 - 14

Responsorial Psalm: *The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.*

Gospel acclamation: *I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.*

Gospel: John 9: 1– 41

## **Bible verse to remember:**

“Turn, O LORD, save my life;  
deliver me for the sake of your steadfast love.” [psalm 6:4]

## **St John Fisher on Psalm 6**

“...The psalm is divided into three parts: in the first, the mercy of God is asked; in the second, reasons are made why the goodness of God should be moved to mercy; and in the third, great gladness is shown for the undoubted obtaining for of forgiveness...Saint Ambrose asks this question: What pain is more grievous than the inward wound of a man’s conscience? It troubles, it vexes, it pricks, it tears, and it also crucifies the mind; it turns the memory upside down, it confounds the reason, it makes crooked the will, and it agitates the soul. Therefore, our prophet adds in his prayer: Lord, make me whole, for all the parts of my body are without rest, and my soul is much troubled. Where does this great trouble come from but from sin alone, which turns away the face of God from sinners?...” – *St John Fisher.*

**Happy Mother’s Day** to all our mothers and to our Blessed Mother, Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus.

**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 two Wednesday evenings started on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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.



## **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 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 Choir Members.

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

1<sup>st</sup> Sundays -Bring & share  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays – Tradecraft  
3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays – Parish Walk

**Bishop Paul Mason will be visiting our parish** on Good Friday to celebrate the liturgy of the day, at 3pm.

‘**May the Holy Spirit lead us** on a true journey of conversion, so that we can rediscover the gift of God’s word, be purified of the sin that blinds us, and serve Christ, [Who is] present in our brothers and sisters in need.’ – **Pope Francis**

HOLY MASSES THIS WEEK.

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March</b>	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish. Ethel Rose Gregory R.I.P. Margaret Devitt R.I.P.	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT LAETARE SUNDAY
Monday	10am	Amalia Rodrigues wellbeing	
Tuesday	10am	Brigid & Michael Fergusson R.I.P.	
Wednesday	10am	Gordon McCann R.I.P.	
Thursday		No Mass	
Friday	10am	Donald J. McKay Wellbeing	
Saturday	10am	Theresa Wellbeing	
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	9am 11am 6pm	Peter Murray Wellbeing Ger Walsh R.I.P. Cynthia May Adams R.I.P.	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March

Collection: Loose - £268.33; Envelopes - £317.50 = £585.88.

Attendance: 9am – 80; 11am - 115; 6pm - 57 = 252

100 Club: £20 – M. Naughton N° 120; £10 – Jane Cameron N° 47

**This Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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.

**The Bring & Share Lunch** next Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> April will have a French theme. The raffle on this day will be for C.A.F.O.D.

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

**A Twin Double Room has become available** for the holiday, to Devon & Cornwall on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Please contact Derek Tupper if you are interested. Details are in the porch area.

**Consider this:** Believe in miracles. They do happen every day. Never give up hope. Never stop believing!

You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breath, trust, let go and just see what happens.

**Could we ask that parishioners spare a bucket of top soil** to complete the garden at the front of the church, where the large fir tree was removed last year. Please place it on the garden, and the garden group will complete the gardening.

**"Lent stimulates** us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." – *Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI*

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