

ST JOHN FISHER CHURCH

Maidstone Road, Rochester, ME1 3EN

Newsletter – 3rd September 2017 – TWENTY SECOND SUNDAY A

Readings: Jeremiah 20: 7 - 9; Romans 12: 1 - 2; Gospel: Matthew 16: 21 - 27.

Responsorial Psalm: *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.*

Gospel acclamation: *Alleluia, Alleluia. May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us. Alleluia.*

Next Week's Readings: Ezekiel 33: 7 - 9; Romans 1: 8 – 10; Matthew 18: 15 - 20.

Every child comes with the message that God is not yet discouraged with man

Holy Communion Preparation Applications are available in the porch.

Sacrament of Confession: Every Saturday after 10 am Mass

Medway Food Bank: It's never too late!! Please make a contribution to the Food Bank to help the needy families in our locality during these long summer holidays. Every donation is appreciated.

Bible Verse to remember: Matthew 16:26

What, then, will a man gain if he wins the whole world and ruins his life? Or what has a man to offer in exchange for his life?

The Season of Creation [from Pope Francis and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew]: The story of creation presents us with a panoramic view of the world. Scripture reveals that, “in the beginning”, God intended humanity to cooperate in the preservation and protection of the natural environment. At first, as we read in Genesis, “no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up – for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground” (2:5). The earth was entrusted to us as a sublime gift and legacy, for which all of us share responsibility until, “in the end”, all things in heaven and on earth will be restored in Christ (cf. Eph. 1:10). Our human dignity and welfare are deeply connected to our care for the whole of creation.

However, “in the meantime”, the history of the world presents a very different context. It reveals a morally decaying scenario where our attitude and behaviour towards creation obscures our calling as

God's co-operators... We no longer respect nature as a shared gift; instead, we regard it as a private possession. We no longer associate with nature in order to sustain it; instead, we lord over it to support our own constructs.

We urgently appeal to those in positions of social and economic, as well as political and cultural, responsibility to hear the cry of the earth and to attend to the needs of the marginalized, but above all to respond to the plea of millions and support the consensus of the world for the healing of our wounded creation. We are convinced that there can be no sincere and enduring resolution to the challenge of the ecological crisis and climate change unless the response is concerted and collective, unless the responsibility is shared and accountable, unless we give priority to solidarity and service.

From the Vatican and from the Phanar, 1 September 2017

Would all the holders of the Red A.P.F Missio Boxes, please return them to the church, so that John Lyons can send the money collected to the missions, over the next month. All Red Box holders kindly find a Mission Today magazine for you in the porch.

The coach for the Pilgrimage to Walsingham next Saturday, 9th September, will be at the church at 7.15am and will leave at 7.20am. It should be back at the church about 8.30pm.

This week, there will be thousands of happy smiling faces turned towards school. They belong to the parents!

HOLY MASS INTENTIONS.

Sunday 3rd September	9am 11am 6pm	People of the Parish. Brenda McDonagh – R.I.P. Repose of the souls of the Corrigan family	<i>22nd Sunday A</i>
Monday	10am	Stan Brown - R.I.P.	
Tuesday	10am	Bob Cooke - R.I.P.	
Wednesday	10am	Miyoko & Chris Van Beck– thanksgiving for all friends in the parish	
Thursday		No Mass	
Friday	10am	Don Harris R.I.P. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.	<i>The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Saturday	10am	Liturgy of the Word	
Sunday 10th September	9am 11am 6pm	Shirley Jago - R.I.P. People of the Parish Mary Grace Amado & Marjorie Amado – Thanksgiving	<i>23rd Sunday A</i>

Sunday 27th August

Collections: Loose – £240.93; Envelopes –£303.30= £544.23.

Attendance: 9am - 60, 11am - 98; 6pm – 55 = 213

100 club; £30 – J Meehan, N^o 37; £20 – C McCann, N^o 83; £10 – P Wiley, N^o 48.

Winnings to be collected from the Sacristy after the following Sunday's Masses.

Next Sunday, 10th September, is Education Sunday and there will be a second collection for the Catholic Education Service (CES).

GOOD AS NEW & JUMBLE SALES will commence on Saturdays 16th & 23rd September from 11am. Setting up and sorting out will be from 4pm on Friday 15th. Many thanks again for all the good, saleable items donated by our parishioners. All monies raised are for the building fund. Tea, coffee and cake will be made available too. Many thanks in anticipation.

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.

OUR 'BRING & SHARE LUNCH today, Sunday 3rd September, is being held in aid of Macmillan Cancer care, and there will be a raffle. All donations welcome.

A Second Collection this Sunday, for the building fund. Envelopes for this can be found at the rear of the church. Many thanks for all your generosity. Hopefully our church will be more beautiful soon when the Sanctuary is finished.

Clergy:

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The heart of prayer is prayer from the heart.