**St. Andrew’s Catholic Church, Tenterden**

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 21st/22nd March 2020**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**

**First Reading: Samuel 16:1. 6-7.10-13**

**Psalm 22**

**Second Reading: The letter of St Paul to the Ephesians 5:8-14**

**Gospel: John 9:1-41**

**Father John writes:**

You will notice that our Church entrance is covered in notices, such as:-

**“FOLLOWING THE NATIONAL GUIDANCE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH in England and Wales, there will be no public celebrations of Mass in this Church until further notice. The Church will be open, whenever possible, for private prayer. Also, where possible, the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed for Adoration. At all times ‘social distancing’ must be observed while in the Church, and on entering and leaving it.” (For more information please see the Archdiocese of Southwark website)**

Our Archbishop writes ‘I appreciate that these measures will have a significant impact upon our ministry and the life of our parishes. None of us would choose to be in this situation, but it is essential that we follow these procedures.’

As your priest I am instructed to celebrate daily Mass without the faithful (– that means you!).

It is all about ensuring that we continue to be part of the ‘praying church’. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states *‘as often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which ‘Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed’ is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out.’*

All your prayers are essential to our Church fulfilling its role.

Visit our church to pray as often as you can.

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:** Marjorie Frain, Patrick O’Keeffe, Marie-Josée Masters

**Those ill or infirm:** Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth, Patricia Hook, Elena Peck (senior), Marjorie Dumbleton, Josie Payne and Joe Venables

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Gertrude Julia Barclay (Foundress of St Andrew’s), George Hyland, Peter Webbe-Wood, Elizabeth Trevor, Ann Clark and Sheila Newington.

**This week’s events**

Due to the current guidelines regarding the gathering of people, **Masses and other services** are suspended until further notice, which will affect the celebration of Easter. There will be details of other options soon.

**Please note** Fr John’s mobile phone number, which is added to the details at the top of the newsletter.

The **Funeral and Burial of Marjorie Frain** will be held at All Saints, Woodchurch, on **Wednesday 25th March at 1pm**. It is **limited attendance** only at the **graveside only service**.

The **Funeral of Patrick O’Keeffe** will be held at Charing Crematorium on **Thursday, 26th March at 11.30am**. **Limited attendance only.**

The Requiem Mass for **Marie-Jo Masters** is postponed until further notice. Her private cremation will take place at Charing Crematorium on **Thursday 26th March at 16:00**.

The **Parish Council meeting**, due to be held on 31st March, **is postponed** for at least two months, due to the current situation.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Church services have been suspended in many places across the world. Social life has changed dramatically, and countless people have been quarantined or are self-isolating. At times like this, there is a great longing for community. New Pilgrim Path has introduced a new page of links to religious services available live on the internet. By visiting these links, one can be part of an online worship community. Visit: [www.newpilgrimpath.ie](about:blank)

**This week’s services - All daily Masses will be said by Fr John, entirely on his own.**

**The church will be open for private prayer and for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration, whenever possible**