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

**Parish Priest:** The Rt. Rev. John Hine, (Emeritus Bishop)

**Address:** The Presbytery, 47 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent TN30 6LL.

**Telephone:** 01580 762785

**Parish E-mail** tenterden@rcaos.org.uk **Parish Website:** www.standrewstenterden.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Jolyon Vickers **Email:** j.vickers1@btinternet.com **Hire of Parish Hall:** Lesley McCarthy 07791 949652 **E-mail:** bookings.standrews@talktalk.net

**Newsletter Editor:** Patricia Sargent 01233 850963 **E-mail:** sargentpat51@gmail.com

**Newsletter for the week commencing 14th/15th December 2019**

**Third Sunday of Advent (A)**

**First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6.10**

**Psalm 145 Response:**  Come, Lord and save us

**Second Reading: The letter of St James 5: 7-10**

**Gospel: Matthew 11: 2-11**

**Father John writes:**

 **“Courage, do not be afraid. Look your God is coming …. He is coming to save you” - Isaiah, in our first Reading this Sunday, encourages us all. The first words of our Mass today are even more encouraging: “Rejoice in the Lord always: again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near” (Philippians 4.4-5). Important as the election results may be to us, they pale into insignificance compared with this Sunday’s words from our God “the Lord is near”**

 **Traditionally the best way to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Lord, is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. So next Friday (20th December) in St Andrews at 7.30pm we will have a Penitential Service, and Fr Michael Woodsgate will be with us.**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

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

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Mary-Anne Roberts, Margaret Maloney, Norah Pillano, Bishop William Brown, Anthony Michael Whatley, Alex Kanas, Norah Wrigley and Joan Gray

**This week’s events**

10.30 Mass - During Holy Communion the choir sing the traditional carol "Joys Seven" (Arr. Martin Shaw)

There is a **retiring collection at all Masses this weekend** for flowers to make our church look beautiful for Christmas.

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Arts and Faith is a beautiful Advent resource which looks at this season of hope and preparation through the lens of sacred visual arts. The series celebrates how faith is revealed and deepened through great masterpieces.  Access this and many other rich online Advent spiritual resources including online retreats and Advent music at: www.NewPilgrimPath.ie

**Tenterden Community Hub** is looking for new trustees and volunteers.  The charity works closely with Tenterden Social Hub and the local branch of Ashford Citizens Advice Bureau and supports and advises people with financial, social and family issues.
If you are a good listener, can talk easily to people and have a good understanding of home budgeting perhaps you might consider helping.  If so, please **contact Deacon Jolyon** for more details and how to get involved.

**The Tenterden Town Carol Service is on Wednesday 18th December at 7.30pm**. Come along and enjoy all the traditional carols and festive music to get you into the Christmas spirit! There will be mulled wine after the service.

**A huge thank you to all those who donated to the BIG WRAP** and to those who came along or donated to the **fund-raising concert** for Mental Health support in local schools.

**This week’s services**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 14th December | St John of the Cross | 6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday |
| Sunday | 15th December | Third Sunday of Advent | 8:30am Mass *people of the parish*10:30am Mass *Welfare of Maureen Davidson*12.30pm Mass - Latin extraordinary rite |
| Monday | 16th December | Feria | 10:00am Mass *Welfare of Ivy Masterson* |
| Tuesday | 17th December | Feria | 10:00am Mass *Kate McHugh RIP* |
| Wednesday | 18th December | Feria | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Thursday | 19december | Feria | 9:00am Mass |
| Friday | 20th December | Feria | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration7.30pm Penitential Service |
| Saturday | 21st December | Feria | 10:00 to 10:45 Reconciliation6:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 22nd December  | Fourth Sunday of Advent | 8:30am Mass10:30am Mass |

**Next week’s responsibilities (21st/22nd December)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00pm Saturday** | **8:30am Sunday** | **10:30am Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Maggie Urquhart | Tony Mallett | Frances Lawrence |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Louise CarterMichael Payne | Peter HookRani Thomas |
| **Flowers** | Frances Lawrence | **Cleaners** | Liz and David Green |

**Regular activities**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Event | Where | When |
| Mothers’ Prayers | The Parish Room | Tuesdays at 4.30pm |
| Choir practice | St Andrew’s Church | Wednesdays at 7.00pm |

**Forthcoming events**

Please remember that all the offerings at the Christmas Masses are your personal gift to the parish priest. If you are a Gift Aider do use your numbered envelope and, if donating by cheque, please make it payable to 'St. Andrew's Church’

The **Mass on Christmas Eve** will be at 10pm preceded by a **short music and choral service** starting at 9.45pm.