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

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

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**Newsletter for the week commencing 11th/12th May 2019**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 13:14, 43-52.** The Jews of Antioch of Pisidia respond well to the apostolic preaching but the situation changes after a while. The people turn hostile to the missionaries and drive them out, but the Gentiles accept the message of the Good News.

**Psalm: 100 Response:**  We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

**Second Reading: The Book of the Apocalypse 7:9, 14-17.** What John writes in this passage is really breath-taking. He sees a multitude of people standing before the Lamb who has suffered great pain while living but will suffer no more for the Lamb will shepherd them.

**Gospel: John 10:27-30.** Jesus the Good Shepherd will not let anyone to snatch his sheep. Jesus says that his Father who has entrusted the sheep, meaning disciples, to him is greater than all and so stealing them from his Father is an impossibility.

**10.30 MASS OFFERTORY**: The choir will sing the motet Ave Maria by Jacques Arcadelt (1507-68)

**Father John writes:**

You may have seen the television programme about a pilgrimage to Rome by a mixed group of individuals. The episodes followed the discussions they had on their way. The climax came when at Rome they had a meeting with Pope Francis. This week I was sent the text of some of their discussion with the Holy Father which you may find as interesting as I do - I have copied it here:

 During the audience, Amos told Pope Francis: "I lost my mother, three months ago I buried my twin sister, who were both very religious. So me coming on this pilgrimage, being non-religious, I was looking for answers and faith. But as a gay man, I don't feel accepted."

Pope Francis responded, through an interpreter: "Giving more importance to the adjective than the noun. That is not good. We are all human beings and have dignity. It does not matter who you are or how you live your life, you do not lose your dignity. There are people that prefer to select or discard people, because of the adjective. These people don't have a human heart."

He told the group: "I feel myself among brothers and sisters and I have not asked any of you what your faith or belief is because we have a basic faith in humanity. For those of you who are believers please pray for me. For those of you who do not believe, could you wish me a good journey, so I do not let anyone down. Thank you."

The meeting left Amos in tears. Speaking later to the Press Association he said: "It was life-changing. It's given me faith in human beings. It's opened my eyes about not judging religious people based on my own negative experiences. I was carrying around a lot of grief. In a weird way it did alleviate some of that sadness. When I left that meeting there was joy in my heart. I had lost a couple of people who were very close to me who were particularly religious. Lots of things come into your mind, like 'is there an afterlife? Will I see you again? In a weird way, he took that off my shoulders. I don't know if I will see these people again, but he has told me the door is open."

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased.**

**Those ill or infirm:** Alan Davis, Ellie Lawrence, Anne Bryant, Eric Booth and Patricia Hook

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:** Jim Newman, John Smith, Sarah Norris, Eleanore Lynes, Jane Goodman, Sophie Larson, Adrian Wyles, Doris Woodman, Henry Dowding and Percival Goulding.

**This week’s events**

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** Amid the joys of Easter, many still struggle with the idea that Jesus had to die for our sins as a sacrifice to appease a wrathful God. Franciscan theology offers an alternative, non-violent, atonement theory which has never been deemed heretical. It is synopsised by Richard Rohr: “This theory says that Jesus did not come to change the mind of God about humanity, He came to change the mind of humanity about God.” Listen to a fascinating interview on this topic with Pat Coyle, Director of Irish Jesuit Communications, on SoulWaves Radio at. [www.New](http://www.New)PilgrimPath.ie

**Second collection this weekend for Ecclesiastical Education.**

**This week’s services (11th – 19th May)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Saturday | 11th May | Feria | 6:00pm Vigil Mass of Sunday *People of the parish* |
| Sunday | 12th May | Fourth Sunday of Easter | 8:30am Mass10:30am Mass *Mary Joseph RIP* |
| Monday | 13th May | Feria | 10:00am Mass *Margaret Stanley RIP (M. Dolby)* |
| Tuesday | 14th May | St Matthias | 10:00am Mass *Rev Alec Fraser RIP* |
| Wednesday | 15th May | Feria | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Thursday | 16th May | St Simon Stock | 9:00am Mass *Rev Huebert Miranda RIP* |
| Friday | 17th may | Feria | 10:00am Mass followed by Adoration |
| Saturday | 18th may | Feria | 10:00 to 10:45 Reconciliation6:00pm Vigil Mass |
| Sunday | 19th May | Fifth Sunday of Easter | 8:30am Mass10:30am Mass *Beryl & Ted Skerritt RIP (M. Dolby)* |

**Next week’s responsibilities (18th/19th May)**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **6:00pm Saturday** | **8:30am Sunday** | **10:30am Sunday** |
| **Reader** | Roger S | Tony M | Maria P |
| **Extra-ordinary Ministers** |  | Louise CarterAlan Shipton | Collette IglinskiPeter Hook |
| **Flowers** | Frances | **Cleaners** | Rachel and Martin |

**Forthcoming events**

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage** **on** **July 13th, 2019 at St George’s Cathedral:** If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible.  Get in touch with us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop.  Please let us have the location of your parish in the title of your email.

**Christian Aid Big Breakfast Saturday May 25th Saint Andrew's Parish Centre at 08:30**

Christian Aid along with CAFOD, Islamic Relief, World Vision and the Tear Fund are the faith-based charities along with 9 others, who form the Disasters Emergency Committee, that respond to world-wide charitable needs.

Please join us to support Christian Aid Week and demonstrate our Christian Unity in this town and district.

A continental breakfast, a presentation on the work of Christian Aid will proceed a short service to celebrate Christian Unity.

The charge will be £10 per person and all "profits" will go to Christian Aid. The event should end by 10:30.

Offers of help to set up the room on Friday evening and to serve and clear up on Saturday would be welcomed - please contact Jolyon.(j.vickers1@btinternet.com).

Please book your place for breakfast with Deacon Jolyon, either by email or after Mass.

Please pray for the five children who will be making their **First Holy Communion** on Sunday 26th May at the 10.30 Mass.