

T E N T E R D E N                                                                          K E N T

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

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

**Telephone:** 01580 762785. **Mobile: 07802 510847**

**Parish E-mail** [tenterden@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:tenterden@rcaos.org.uk)               **Parish Website:** www.standrewstenterden.org

**Deacon:** Rev. Jolyon Vickers     **Telephone:** 01580 766449            **Email:**  j.vickers1@btinternet.com

**Hire of Parish Hall:**  Lesley McCarthy 07791 949652       **E-mail:** [bookings.standrews@talktalk.net](mailto:bookings.standrews@talktalk.net)

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

**Newsletter for the week commencing 12th July 2020**

**Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A): Sea Sunday**

**First Reading:   Isaiah 55:10-11**

**Psalm 64 Response:  Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop**

**Second Reading:** **St Paul to the Romans 8:18-23**

**Gospel:** **Matthew 13: 1-23**

**Father John writes:**

Next Sunday we hope to be celebrating Mass in our church once again. - I doubt if the church will be completely finished but it may be possible (for a limited number of worshippers - using our hall as well as the Church). That will be my last Sunday as your parish priest - Fr Behr will moving in on Monday - so you will be able to welcome him on Sunday the 26th July!

**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, Josie Payne, Joe Venables and all those self-isolating or suffering from COVID-19

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:**  Hugh Broad, Alexander Porcherot, Gertrude Fisher, William Buck, Esther Tickner, Ivor Corbett and Maisie Strivens.

**This week**

**Important**: A repeat of Fr John’s message from last weekend…

I am pleased to say that we will be able to resume public Masses here in Tenterden from **Sunday July 12th,** **BUT** these will be under very specific constraints as follows:

1. **Firstly, PLEASE** read the documents “Guidance for the celebration of Mass” and “Track and Trace” on our Parish Website under the Coronavirus heading. These detail the constraints under which we will be operating and the way in which the service will be conducted. This will, of necessity, be very different from what you are used to experiencing.
2. Every weekday Mass (10am) will use the Sunday scripture readings, prayers etc so that as many parishioners as possible can join in the previous Sunday’s liturgy.
3. The obligation to attend Mass on Sundays is still suspended.
4. There is no obligation to attend Mass at all at present, particularly if you feel unsafe or at risk.
5. As the Mass will be the same every day of the week, please only attend once a week to allow other people to attend.
6. If you would feel safer wearing a mask and/or gloves, please feel free to do so.
7. There will be a strict control on the numbers able to attend. This will be 14 people per Mass until the Church is ready for use again.  Once the Church and Parish Centre are in use, the number will be restricted to 30.
8. Groups of people in agreed “bubbles” may attend together and the head count can be adjusted to accommodate these circumstances.
9. When only the Parish Centre is in use (before the Church refurbishments are completed), there will be a one-way system in use.
10. Entrance off Turner’s Avenue,
11. Exit via the fire exit into the garden.
12. The flow described in 9 above will be used during the distribution of Holy Communion. Please come up to the distribution point, maintaining social distance, exit via the fire exit and re-enter the Parish Centre via the main entrance, having said your personal private thanks as you walk. The final prayers and blessing will follow. Please leave via the fire exit. There will be no social gatherings after the service. We will be adopting Version 1 from the document.
13. If you feel you are unable to walk around the garden in this way, there will be a limited space made available for you at a designated place in the Parish Centre (initially), where you will receive communion at your place.
14. In the event of a second lockdown, as there are currently concerns about the “R” number in the Ashford area, these arrangements will be terminated by the civil authorities, with little to no notice. Please bear with us and we will try and keep you updated via the Parish Website.

I have asked Deacon Jolyon to co-ordinate the Mass attendance numbers and names. Please contact him by email preferably on [**jolyonvickers@rcaos.org.uk**](mailto:jolyonvickers@rcaos.org.uk) to advise him each time you wish to attend Mass. He will then confirm asap if there is a space available for you. In difficulties, please ring him on 01580 766449.

Please could you also email Deacon Jolyon, if you are able to offer yourself as a volunteer steward and post service cleaner.

**Please do not turn up “unannounced”, or after 10am, as you may have to be turned away.**

To summarise:

* **There will only be ONE Mass a day at 10am**
* **Places for these must be booked with Deacon Jolyon, preferably by email (jolyonvickers@rcaos.org.uk)**
* **The Church will not be available for the time being, all Masses will take place in the Parish Centre**
* **The Parish Centre will be open for private prayer only on Friday mornings, there is no service, people should only stay for a short time and then go.**
* **There will be NO extra-ordinary form Latin Mass for the foreseeable future**

**This week’s services**

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| **Day** | **Date** | **Feast** | **Time/Detail** |
| Sunday | 12th July | 15th Sunday/Sea Sunday | 10:00am Mass |
| Monday | 13th July | St Mildred | 10:00am Mass |
| Tuesday | 14th July | Feria | 10:00am Mass |
| Wednesday | 15th July | St Bonaventure, St Swithun | 10:00am Mass |
| Thursday | 16th July | Our Lady of Mount Carmel | 10:00am Mass |
| Friday | 17th July | Feria | 10am then closed for deep cleaning before private prayer from 11.15am -12 midday. |
| Saturday | 18th July | Feria | 10am |
| Sunday | 19th July | Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time | 10:00am Mass |

**Aylesford Priory**: Fr. Francis asked that the following message be relayed to you.

“The grounds of The Friars will be open daily from 4th July from 10.30am to 5.30pm.  The Relic Chapel will be open for private prayer on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 2.30pm to 4.30pm.  On the days that the Relic Chapel is closed the Main Shrine, Rosary Way and the Peace Garden will be open for prayer and reflection.

The Tearooms will be open once we have completed the risk assessment.”

**New Pilgrim Path Website of the Week.** According to the American mystic, Thomas Merton, the more we try to analyse life, the more we involve ourselves in sadness. “But it does not matter much because no despair of ours can alter the reality of things, or stain the joy of the cosmic dance which is always there. Indeed, we are in the midst of it, and it is in the midst of us, for it beats in our very blood, whether we want it to or not”. James Finley spent six years at the monastery of Gethsemane, where Thomas Merton was director of novices. He has given a series of insightful online talks and retreats on Merton’s spiritual writings. Access them at: www.NewPilgrimPath.ie

**Update on Progress with the Church Refurbishment.**

Over the past month the contractor has been working hard in the Church and we hope that everything will be completed in a couple of weeks’ time.

The focus of the recent work has been to insulate and decorate the roof of the nave. The contractors have also installed new lighting there and in the sanctuary. But of course, there is a lot still to do: the sanctuary needs new flooring and the tabernacle will be moved to centre stage. Additionally, the entrance lobby needs better lighting and proper heating. As a result of all this work, things will look brighter and lighter, and it should be warmer in the winter! When it is all done, our Church will look very smart indeed and we shall all be very proud.

We receive weekly reports of progress from our building surveyor and you can find these on our website at <https://www.standrewstenterden.org/> under the “The contractors are in!” posting. You can also find photos of the work on there too!