**S****t. Andrew’s Catholic Church, Tenterden**

 **Parish Priest: The Rt Revd. John Hine, Emeritus Bishop.**

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**Week beginning 29th October, Thirtieth Sunday of Year A**

**Today's Readings:**

**First Reading** *-* (Exodus 22: 20-26) These verses speak of various forms of oppression of the poor and the weak such as the stranger, the widow and the orphan.

**Psalm** - (17)  It is likely that David wrote this psalm as a younger man; yet in his old age he could look back with great gratitude and sing this psalm again, looking at his whole life.

**Psalm response** - **I love you, Lord, my strength**

**Second Reading** - (1 Thessalonians 1: 5-10) Paul praises the steadfastness and the energy the Thessalonians show in the practice of faith which has become known to the people around.

**Gospel** - (Matthew 22: 34-40*)* Loving God and neighbour wholeheartedly is the greatest commandment.

**Fr. John Writes -**

I am happy to record that the great ‘Harrods sale’ last week raised over £1,700 for Cafod – congratulations to all involved!

This week we move into November and as the trees lose their leaves, our minds and prayers turn to those of our family and friends who are dead. Grieving for those we love most never entirely leaves us, but it can be consoling for us to know that our prayers for them are never wasted however long ago it was that they left us. Our God is a God of infinite love and mercy, and of infinite joy also. On Wednesday we celebrate the feast of all saints (holyday of obligation) when we rejoice, not only with the canonised saints, but all the unknown who have generously lived their faith in the Good News of the Gospel. They are not only a source of inspiration and encouragement for us, but in our daily journey of life they also support us to grow in God’s love. They are still part of our church – the Church Triumphant (in its proper meaning of God’s triumph over all that is evil). The November book is available in Church porch for all who want to write in it the names of their deceased family and friends – and that book will be on the altar during Mass during November to symbolise our prayer with and for them.

**More on Dealing with an Emergency.** Unlikely as it may be, we need to be sure that, in the event of an emergency – whether it is an attack, a bomb or a fire,– we can react quickly and effectively. So fluorescent “grab bags” have been placed at the rear of the Church and in the Parish Centre, which contain a yellow vest to be put on by the person closest to the door so that he or she can take charge, along with simple instructions for evacuation and immediate response actions. **Please do not be afraid to be the one to lead us all to safety!**

**2017 Parish Christmas Lunch** This year’s Parish Christmas Lunch will be held on **Sunday 10th December** in the Parish Centre from 1pm. The lunch will be a 3 course sit down meal with outside caterers supplying the food. The cost will be £28 per person and £14 for children 12 and under. As in previous years please bring your own alcoholic/soft drinks with you.  The menu to select your choices will be available in the church porch from the first weekend in Nov.  There will also be the Parish Christmas Raffle with the draw being made at the Lunch; more about this next month.
Please make payment to Fr John. If paying by cheque please make your cheque payable to St Andrews and write Christmas Lunch on the back of the cheque.

If you have any questions/queries please contact Fr John or Peter Lonergan.

**Prayers**

**Those ill or infirm in our parish** – Elizabeth Morrison and Colin Morrison, Joseph Adams, Patricia Hook, Michelle McKinnon, Jo Venables**,** Marjorie and John Dumbleton, Joseph Delaney, Elena Troake (Elena Peck's daughter), Linda Wharfe, Jane McKinnon, Michael McDermott(Mara's husband), Wendy Butler, Stephen Beasley, Mgr. Hill, Lester Kinkel, Ellie Lawrence and Kevin Thornton.

Your **p**rayers, please, for all our sick parishioners, family members and friends.

'**Relatives and Friends'** list is on the porch noticeboard

**Those whose anniversaries occur about this time:** Maureen Gilberto, Arthur Mollett, Lucy Mullins and Norah Reed.

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| ***This Week’s Services*****Saturday 28th Oct. Thirtieth Sunday (A) 6pm Vigil Mass** **Sunday 29th 8.30am Mass** *People of the parish* **10.30am Mass** **Monday** 30th Feria 10.00am Mass *deceased clergy* **Tuesday** 31st Feria 10.00am Mass **Wednesday** 1st November **ALL SAINTS** **Holyday of Obligation** . 10.00am Mass  7.30pm. Mass**Thursday** 2nd  COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED. 10am.Mass **Friday** 3rd St Martin de Porres10am Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament **Saturday** 4th St Charles Borromeo 10am – 10.45am. **Sacrament of Reconciliation**  **Thirty-First Sunday (A) 6.00pm Vigil Mass** **Sunday 5th November Masses at 8.30am, and 10.30am**   *On* ***Sunday the 5th November*** *we have the annual custom of blessing the graves of all our deceased relatives and friends who have been buried in Tenterden cemetery over the years. We gather about 12 midday with a prayer, including for all the deceased, and then individuals guide the priest to the various specific graves of those who have personal significance for them. It would be most helpful if you could spot beforehand where you want your priest to go so that he can cover the ground methodically without having to retrace his footsteps backwards and forwards again and again, which is what tends to happen!*  |

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| **November 4/5 Thirty-First Sunday (A)** |
| **Readers**  **Nar**  |  **6.00pm** Maggie Urquhart |  **08.30am**  Tony Mallet |  **10.30am** Kevin Thomas |
| **Extra - Ordinary Ministers** |   | Maria MiltonLouise Carter | Peter HookMartin Heinrichsmeier |
| **Flowers -** Francien **Cleaners -** Anne and Maria  |

**Our Food Bank:** Do please remember the very needy; especially welcome are items such as Irish stew, minced beef & onion, stewed steak, meat balls, frankfurters, tinned carrots, peas, potatoes. tinned fruit; rice pudding, breakfast cereal & biscuits.

**Christmas Day Festive 'DO'**

The 'Friends of Highbury Hall' are again putting on a festive meal for anyone who cares to come along. PLEASE see the poster in the porch for full details. Last year they were hosts to 37 people young, old, on their own or not.

A three-legged dog pushed open the swing-doors of the wild west saloon and walked in . The room went silent as he looked carefully around and then said "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw".