**WELCOME TO ST ANDREW’S CATHOLIC CHURCH, TENTERDEN**

**Parish Priest:** Father Behruz Rafat (01580 762785)

**Parish Deacon:** The Reverend Jolyon Vickers (01580 766449)

**Sunday Masses:** 8.30 am and 10.30 am

 Vigil Mass Saturday at 6.00 pm

**Weekday Masses:** 10.00 am Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and

Friday

10.00 am Wednesday a service of the Word and Communion

**Holy Day Masses:** 10.00 am and 7.30 pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 10.00 am to 10.45 am, or on request

**GROUPS WITHIN THE PARISH AND CONTACT DETAILS**

**Parish Council**

This is the Parish Priest’s consultative body, which usually meets four times a year to help with the organisation of the Parish. Parishioners are welcome to attend and observe proceedings.

**Parish Finance Committee**

This is chaired by the Parish Priest and has membership of the Treasurer and other members of the Parish. If you have any financial experience and would be willing to participate and help, please contact Father Behr.

**Extraordinary Ministers (Eucharistic Ministers)**

Extraordinary Ministers are parishioners who, at the invitation of the Parish Priest, have undertaken additional instruction and training to enable them to assist the Priest and the Deacon in the distribution of Holy Communion.

**Readers**

We always welcome new readers at masses. Please contact either Father Behr or Pat Sargent (01233 850963) if you ‬would like to join the Readers’ Rota.

**Church Cleaning**

This is usually done by teams of two people. If you are able to help, please contact Brian Lawrence (01233 732657).

**Church Flowers**

Decorating the Church for Sundays and special festivals is a tradition that is maintained in St Andrew’s. No particular skill in flower arranging is required as help will always be available. If you are interested in the joining the group, please contact Frances Lawrence (01233 732657).

**Rosary**

The Rosary is said every Thursday morning in the church after the 10.00 am Mass. Just come along and join in. Enquiries to Anne Taylor (01233 850235).

**Socials**

There is a group of parishioners who organise a variety of social functions in the Parish. More help is always appreciated. If you would like to contribute, please contact Father Behr.

Usually after the Sunday Masses there is ‘tea and chat’ in the Parish Centre. All are welcome, so do join in and introduce yourselves.

**St Stephen’s Guild Altar Servers**

We encourage young people to offer their services as Altar Servers once they have received their First Holy Communion. Adults from within the congregation are also encouraged to offer themselves to serve on the altar. Full training will be given to any new volunteers. If you would like to become an altar service, please contact Peter Lonergan (01580 291421).

**Newsletter**

The editor compiles a weekly newsletter, which is available in the church porch and on the parish website. Any volunteers for helping with the newsletter or for covering when the editor is away would be gratefully received. If you would like to contribute or have any items that you would like to be included, please contact Pat Sargent 01233 850963).

**Children’s Liturgy**

This is a worthwhile scheme to enable the children to increase their knowledge of the Faith, and their appreciation of the Mass. Learning takes place in an enjoyable and sociable way. It is important as a basis and as an additional resource to learning within the child’s own families. Adult helpers are always required. Please make enquiries to Father Behr or Lorraine Sharp (01580 762764).

**Catechists**

This is an important ministry within the Church. Helpers are always needed to further the religious education of our young people and those interested in the Catholic faith.

**Door Keepers and Welcomers**

These volunteers are there every Sunday and Holy Day greeting parishioners and handing out mass sheets and hymnbooks. We would like more helpers to ensure that every occasion is covered. If you attend mass at a regular time and would like to help, please speak to either Father Behr or one of the helpers.

**Choir**

The choir sings at the 10.30am Mass every Sunday and at all major celebrations. They meet to practise on Wednesday evenings for about an hour. If you would like to join the choir or receive more information, please Contact Us.

**Gift Aid Donations**

This is a very simple, yet very effective way that any tax paying parishioner can help in the Parish in a significant financial way. All that is necessary is for the taxpayer to sign a form, which then entitles the Parish to a tax exemption of 25% on any donations. Gift Aid provides a very important financial benefit to the Parish. Please consider joining the scheme.

**Safeguarding**

The Church has a responsibility to ensure all those who undertake work in its name, whether these are clergy, religious or lay people are adequately screened and trained in safeguarding matters. Screening takes place at a number of levels, in particular, through a formal check with the Disclosure and Barring Service. We all have a role to play in safeguarding the young or adults who may be at risk and therefore, have a duty to report any concerns in the first instance to either Father Behr or to Janet Brierley, Parish Safeguarding Representative (01580 762526).

**Parish Database**

In common with most organisations, we have a database of parishioners, which contains a limited amount of personal information about parishioners and is invaluable for undertaking the pastoral and administrative work of the Parish. Information in the database is held confidentially and no personal details concerning parishioners leaves the Parish. Access to the database is restricted to key individuals within the Parish, including the Parish Priest, the Parish Deacon and a volunteer office assistant. The database is administered by Janet Brierley (01580 762526) who can be contacted if you have any queries regarding the database.

**Bereavement Services**

At some time in our lives we all have to face the shock and sadness of the loss of a loved one. This is where the Church and the Parish Ministry to the Bereaved comes in. It provides support and is a hand of friendship, helping people come to terms with their loss. More information about how we can help at this difficult time can be found on the parish’s website.

**JH/JMB/23.08.17**