**Newsletter for the week commencing 21st January 2024**

**THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence is majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.**

**First Reading: Jonah 3: 1-5.10**

**Psalm 24 Response: Lord, make me know your ways.**

**Second Reading:  First letter of St Paul to the Corinthians**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia! The kingdom of God is close at hand; believe the Good News.  Alleluia!**

**Gospel:  Mark 1: 14-20**

**Communion antiphon:  Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners,

**‘How can we be a synodal Church in mission?’ from Evangelii Gaudium:**

**Pope Francis writes:**

*‘I dream of a “missionary option”, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelisation of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation.*

The Holy Father continues*“to make ordinary pastoral activity on every level more inclusive and open, to inspire in pastoral workers a constant desire to go forth and in this way to elicit a positive response from all those whom Jesus summons to friendship with himself. “*

*Evangelii Gaudium 27*

So, we are called as a parish to be less inward looking and more outward looking, to realise that the best gift we can give those we care about is to invite them to friendship with Our Lord.  This is only possible when we discover this great love that Our Lord Jesus has for each and every one of us.

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**Maureen Davidson RIP

**Those ill or infirm:** Paul Lane**,** Peter Crinnion, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time:**Arthur Wood, Nora Crouzet, May Scroope, Archibald Donald, Walter Wybourne, Patrick Byrne, Cyril Read, Canon Charles Walker and Ron Roberts.

**New Year Adoration asking for God’s blessing in 2024**

On Tuesday evening at 7.30pm we have a Holy Hour of Adoration praying for our parish.

This is a guided holy hour with hymns, prayers and readings. I’ll make sure our church is warm and welcoming.

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| **This week’s services (20th – 27th January), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 20th January**St Fabian, Pope & Martyr | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish*      **Reader: Peter** |
| **Sunday 21st January****THIRD SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (B)** | 10am Mass  *Michael Vickers RIP & Alison Vickers RIP***Reader: Rachel**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 22nd January**St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr | 10am Mass *John, Monica and Stella Ellis RIP* |
| **Tuesday 23rd January**Feria | 10am Mass *Edwina Finn Wellbeing* |
| **Wednesday 24th January**St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church | 10am Mass *Anna Lefebvre Wellbeing* |
| **Thursday 25th January**The Conversion of St Paul the Apostle | 9am-10am Adoration10am Mass *for Priests* |
| **Friday 26th January**Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops | 10am Mass *Holy Souls (Margaret)*10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 27th January**St Angela Merici, Virgin | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*Lucy Cziraki RIP (Wendy)*               **Reader: Lorraine** |
| **Sunday 28th January****FOURTH SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (B)** | 10am Mass  *People of the Parish***Reader: Collette**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 27th/28th January – Hilary** |
| **Cleaners: for 27th/28th January – Brian & Frances** |

**Confession**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

**Children’s Liturgy**

10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine isSunday, February 4th, 2024.

**Racial Justice Sunday 2024:** Sunday 28 January 2024, Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate a Mass at St Georges Cathedral; Time 10.00am followed by a light refreshment at the upper deck of the Amigo Hall. All Parishes, Schools, Chaplaincies, Institutions in the Archdiocese are kindly invited to be part of this colourful celebration led by Archbishop John as he invites everyone to prayers and actions that will harness the richness in our diversities and route out any form of exclusion in our communities and the wider society.

**Racial Justice Sunday Prayer**

This prayer is for individuals or parishes to use on Racial Justice Sunday.

**God of our past, present and future,**

**you created each one of us in your image and likeness.**

**Help us to recognise you in each person.**

**As we pray for an end to suffering caused by racism,**

**lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together, so that we create a future**

**based on justice and healing, where all can fulfil the hope, you have for all peoples.**

**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen**

**Building a Better Marriage:  Saturday 3rd February 9.30 – 4.00 pm:**

This day, held at Maidstone South parish hall, Bicknor Road, Park Wood ME15 9PS starting at 9.30am until 4pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course. Booking is essential - please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk or by phone:  07983 524 727 Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

**Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages.**

**Help Your Marriage –**Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue … or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/)

**Peace Sunday:** Pope Francis’s message for the 2024 World Day of Peace focuses on the role of Artificial Intelligence in peace-making. With new technologies developing so quickly we need to think about their consequences for our freedom, peace and security. Who is gaining power through AI – and who is being disempowered? Read more:<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/artificial-intelligence-and-peace/>.

**Jubilee Year 2025:**

The Holy Father will commence the next ordinary jubilee with Mass on 24th December 2024 and the Jubilee Year will conclude on the feast of the Epiphany 2026. It is intended that the year 2024 be a year of prayer in preparation, with a focus on pilgrimage. A large event is being planned for June 2025 as part of the diocesan celebrations. The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

**Pro-life:**

Would you like to connect locally, in-person, with other people who support the pro-life cause? March for Life UK are inviting people to be part of a new initiative called 'Connect' which will help establish local pro-life groups to pray, fundraise, socialise, educate and get involved in outreach. To find out more and be part of an initial online meeting please email Isabel at info@marchforlife.co.uk

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:**

“Go and do Likewise”

18th to 25th January 2024

Service in Saint Mildred’s Church

Saturday 20th January at 09:30

Booklet of Daily Prayers and Meditations available