**Newsletter for the week commencing 14th January 2024**

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!**

**First Reading: The first book of Samuel 3: 3-10; 19**

**Psalm 39 Response: Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.**

**Second Reading:  first Letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.  Alleluia!**

**Gospel:  John 1: 35-42**

**Communion antiphon:  You have prepared a table before me, and how precious is the chalice that quenches my thirst.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

*The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew.*Pope Francis, Evangelii Gaudium, 1

As we begin a new year, we are reminded of the calling of all Christians to share the good news of God’s love revealed in Jesus Christ. Britain needs Jesus. The land we love needs the Good News.

Over the next few weeks, we will be exploring these themes of evangelisation and growth in faith together as a parish. There will be an opportunity to discuss this together in more depth during Lent.

We all have a part to play in the life of our parish and to help to make our parish a joyful place of welcome and mutual support in our Catholic faith.

Fr Behr

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:  Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Davidson RIP who died on Christmas Day. Please pray for her husband Peter (they were married for over 70 years) and her family.**

**The date for Maureen’s funeral is Thursday, January 18 at 2pm.**

**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:**Catherine Mellor, Norman Styles, Jan Czarski, Josephine Harrington, Mary Brangan, Norman Ulph, John Thompson, Alexander Watt, William Syer, Douglas Fowler, Adela de Heveningham, Michael Vickers, Margaret Lewis and Colin Morrison.

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| **This week’s services (13th – 20th January), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** | |
| **Saturday 13th January**  St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: Wendy** |
| **Sunday 14th January**  **SECOND SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (B)** | 10am Mass Clemens*Heinrichsmeier RIP***Reader: Suzanne**  12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| **Monday 15th January**  Feria | 10am Mass *Divine Will* |
| **Tuesday 16th January**  Feria | 10am Mass Margaret*Brownhill’s Intentions* |
| **Wednesday 17th January**  **St Anthony, Abbot** | 10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 18th January**  Feria | **2pm Maureen Davidson RIP Funeral**  No 10am Mass or Adoration |
| **Friday 19th January**  St Wulstan, Bishop | 10am Mass *Brittany & Christopher*  10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 20th January**  St Fabian, Pope & Martyr | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: P**eter |
| **Sunday 21st January**  **THIRD SUNDAY in Ordinary Time (B)** | 10am Mass Michael*Vickers RIP & Alison Vickers RIP***Reader: Rachel**  12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| **Flowers: for 21st January – Hilary** | |

**Society for the Protection of Unborn Children**

This weekend we have the White Flower Appeal with a retiring collection for those who want to support this important work.

**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**

At the 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**.                                                                                                                                                                                                     Please “Save this Date”, Sunday 28 January 2024. It is the date for on that day, 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.

**Building a Better Marriage**

Save the date Saturday 3 FEBRUARY 2024 9.30am – 4.00pm

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](mailto: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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk/)

**Retrouvaille – Do you need in your marriage?**Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)

**If you are new to our church, St Andrew’s, WELCOME!** Please take a welcome card from the porch and fill it in, including your email address, and we will send you our newsletter every week which gives Mass times and information about events, both locally and further afield, plus useful contact details.