

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH , LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
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THE EASTER DAYS
Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)
Celebration of First Communion (2)
6th May 2018

THIS WEEKEND We continue the Easter Days and also have the joy of the second weekend of our First Communions - please pray for the children and their parents and families as they take this new stage and step in their Faith and Parish Journey - with thanks to them and a special thank you to our Catechists. We also welcome the Syro-Malabar community (including some of our parishioners) who begin a series of monthly Syro-Malabar Rite Masses here today [Sunday].

THURSDAY - FEAST OF THE ASCENSION We rejoice as the Risen Lord ends the Easter Days by Ascending for us again to confirm the Resurrection and new life He has brought us this Easter and add new glory and strength to it. It's a Holy Day of Obligation and we should try to get to Mass if we can (Mass times below). We then join Mary and the Apostles to prepare in faith and love, as they did, for the new coming of the Spirit at Pentecost in ten days time and also have the Novena of Prayer for Christian Unity (special pink prayer sheets for this will be available in Church on Thursday).

FUNDRAISING - BOOT FAIR THIS SATURDAY - please support.

NEXT WEEKEND We celebrate the Seventh Sunday of Easter and continue our preparation for Pentecost. It's also World Communications Day with prayers and a collection during the Notices for the work of the Catholic Communication Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media on current issues. It's also the 'Survive-Miva' appeal, one of our special charities this year, and we welcome Carol who will be talking to us at all Masses about the important work of this Catholic Lay Association which provides funding for essential transport for health outreach work and pastoral care in isolated rural areas and places of difficult access in the poorer countries of our world.

FOOTNOTE: BRING LOTS OF MONEY NEXT WEEKEND!

CONFIRMATION THE CALL FOR CONFIRMATION WILL BE MADE NEXT WEEKEND - please see the special page 3 of this Newsletter and read carefully. The call is also open to any adults who wish to be confirmed.

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Easter)	5	5pm	(First Communion Mass) The Parishioners
SUNDAY Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)	6	10am 12 noon 5.30pm	(First Communion Mass) The Parishioners Syro-Malabar Mass Claude and Alix Terriere (Wedding Anniversary)
MONDAY (Easter)	7		NO MASS OR SERVICE - BANK HOLIDAY
TUESDAY (Easter)	8	9.30am	Svetlana Kostrominos RIP and Family
WEDNESDAY (Easter)	9	9.30am	Deceased Relatives and Friends of the Lobo Family
THURSDAY (The Ascension)	10	10am 8pm	School and Pre-School Mass in CHURCH Parish Mass (Masses Offered for Parish Family, Families and Friends)
FRIDAY	11	9.30am	Peter Lawrence RIP and Family
SATURDAY Survive-Miva Appeal	12	2.30pm 5pm	Baptism: Braydon Sweeney Simon Maher RIP (Alice, Margaret and Maureen)
SUNDAY Seventh Sunday of Easter (B) World Communications Day Survive-Miva Appeal	13	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy) Josephine Engelbrecht RIP The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday from 4.30 to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Baby Giorgio Gangemi; Joan Wegrzyn; Jenny Craddock; Nicholas Powell; Terry Barton; Betty Ward; Max Bryer; Sue Foley; Meg and Tony Brewer; Moira Stevens; James Hay; Libby Batchelor; Brendin O'Doherty; Sarah Content; Marie-Louise Wise; Betty Callaghan; Frank Hall; Catherine Finn; Sally Atmore; Paula Thornton; Jenny McTighe; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray, too, for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: John Calloway; Alfie Evans; Joe Dennis; Susan Walkling; Fr. Michael Murphy; Kevin Osborne; Colin Mansfield. Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: George Patrick; Catherine Fry; Christopher Faulkin; Ann Hillan; George Gerald Smith; Eddie Paul, Selina Cox; Dorothy Bolton; Mr Stevens.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 6	10am 12 noon	No Children's Liturgy - First Communion Mass Syro-Malabar Mass in Church
MONDAY 7		BANK HOLIDAY
TUESDAY 8	1.30-3pm 7.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group meet in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre Deanery Pastoral Council - Tenterden
WEDNESDAY 9	7 for 7.30pm 7.30-9.30pm	Parish Meeting in the Priest's House Needlework and Knitting Group meet in the Church Porch
THURSDAY 10		ASCENSION - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION
FRIDAY 11	7-9pm	Youth Group meet in the School
SATURDAY 12	10am-1pm	Boot Fair in the Church Car Park
SUNDAY 13	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your Offerings which amounted to £629.63 (Standing Orders average £303 per week). The second collection for St. George's Cathedral raised £325.04

GIFT AID FOR SECOND COLLECTIONS If a collection is not for the Parish it can only be GIFT-AIDED if there is a pre-printed envelope, either in your box or one from the Charity itself eg. CAFOD / Apostleship of the Sea. Parish second collections eg. Flowers / Welfare / Sponsored walk can be GIFT-AIDED if you use one of your spare envelopes or one of the white envelopes at the back of the Church. In either case please mark the envelope with the intent of the donation. If it is not marked your donation may go to the wrong organisation.

FUNDRAISING

£2,000.05 total raised in April through donations and events. Overall total raised is £78,311.43

Amount still owed on loan is £6,688.57

A final push is needed to raise the remaining balance of the loan which needs to be repaid by November 2018

BOOT FAIR - please see the box below.

NEEDLEWORK AND KNITTING GROUP meet on **Wednesday 9th May** from 7.30 - 9.30 pm in the Church porch. A £2 contribution towards the Building Fund is requested at each meeting.

All welcome or call Chris on 01732 841522

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER CARDS Would parishioners please return these **this weekend**.

SAVE THE DATE The Parish / School Summer Fayre will take place on Saturday 16th June from 11am to 2pm.

PRE-SCHOOL St. Thomas More Pre-School are looking for a new part-time member of staff (term-time only). If you are interested please contact Cathy Collins on 01732 874559 for an application form and more information.

BEREAVEMENT RETREAT to be held at Minster Abbey on June 1st -3rd. For further information go to www.minsterabbeynuns.org or write to Minster Abbey, Church St., Minster. Nr. Ramsgate. Kent. CT12 4HF Tel: 01843 821254

SPUC The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has launched a petition calling on the Home Secretary, to oppose any moves to restrict peaceful pro-life citizens' freedom of expression and freedom to pray outside abortion centres. Moves are being made around Britain to prevent peaceful pro-lifers from praying outside abortion centres and offering support to women who may not want to proceed with an abortion. Vulnerable women who come under pressure to abort their babies will be denied a quiet word of support from peaceful pro-life citizens. Please support this petition. Petition forms and leaflets are available at the back of the Church, or you can sign the petition online at www.spuc.org.uk

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS For safeguarding reasons all children under 10 must be escorted to the toilet during Mass. Could we also remind parishioners that the doors inside Church must be accessible at all times and that prams or other items must not block them. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING Eileen's Group - week beginning 7th May.

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

BOOT FAIR

There will be a Boot Fair in the Church car park this Saturday 12th May starting at 10am. Pre-booked cars only. If you wish to book a place (for £5) please contact Victoria on plum_vh@hotmail.com and put your payment in an envelope with your name and contact number on and hand in to the Parish Office. Further details to follow.

AREA GROUP MEETINGS

Kings Hill and Mereworth meet on Wednesday 23rd May at 8pm. Venue: 38 Braeburn Way, Kings Hill. ME19 4BG. Contact Ana and Geoff Wild 01732 220661

CONFIRMATION 2018

This year there are two courses being run for Confirmation on Sunday 14th October in the Maidstone Deanery.

1. I will be running our usual course here for young people at present in **Year 10** and above (ie born on or before 31st August 2003) which we are also opening up to the Deanery. The course is geared for Year 10 and above with personal interviews throughout the course - a group study and renewal of Baptism, Reconciliation and the Eucharist in June / July - a personal Prayer Training Programme for each candidate at home during the Summer Holiday period - a group study of Confirmation and its call to us as individuals and as members of the Church and Parish in September with follow-up meetings and interviews after the Confirmation in October and November. We shall also be joining with St. Francis, Maidstone in the Deanery Day of Preparation on 7th October and candidates will have the option of joining St. Francis in the Deanery residential weekend on 13th to 15th July.
2. The second course which will be open to young people at present in **Year 9** and above (born on or before 31st August 2004) is being held at St. Francis, Maidstone and any young people in Year 9 in the Parish will be welcome to join them if they don't want to wait for the Year 10 and above course here next year.

We shall be making the Call for Confirmation for Year 10 and above at our Masses here on the 7th Sunday of Easter (13th May); Pentecost Sunday (20th May) and finally on Trinity Sunday (27th May) where information and application forms will be available.

Information forms for young people in Year 9 who wish to join the course at St. Francis, Maidstone are available to be collected from me at our Masses here this weekend (28th / 29th April).

Fr. Peter