

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
PRIEST: Fr. Peter Soper, The Priest's House, More Park, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 843302
 e mail: westmalling@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.westmallingrc.org.uk

St. Thomas More Pre-School, St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre, Lucks Hill, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 874559

Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) & Feast of the Holy Family (A) 22nd and 29th December 2019

THIS WEEKEND We celebrate the final weekend of Advent and make our final preparations to receive Jesus and his new light and strength this Christmas, and we will also have a second opportunity to contribute to our 'St. Nicholas Charity Collection' with a retiring collection.

CHRISTMAS, HOLY FAMILY WEEKEND AND NEW YEAR 2020 Please see Mass & Service Times below.

EPIPHANY WEEKEND (4th/5th January 2020) Special Children's Liturgy and 'Kings Procession' at Sunday 10am Mass. Youth Group meet in the Priest's House at 4pm on Sunday to prepare 5.30pm Mass.

ADORATION OF THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD There will be no Adoration evening on Friday 27th December, but we will be there on Friday 3rd January 2020.

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY IN THIS PAST YEAR - AND LOVE AND PRAYERS TO YOU ALL FOR THIS CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR. Fr. Peter (Please note that the Parish Office is now closed until Friday 3rd January 2020.)

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Advent Day 5) (Advent)	21	2.30pm 5pm	Baptism - Oscar Moon Molly & Simon Maher RIP (Alice, Margaret & Maureen)
SUNDAY (Advent Day 6) Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)	22	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Advent Liturgy) Annie Griffin RIP The Parishioners
MONDAY (Advent Day 7)	23	9.30am	Final Mass of Advent in Church - Josie Keen RIP
TUESDAY (Christmas Eve)	24	4.30pm 6pm 11.30pm	Children's Service at the Crib Vigil Mass of Christmas - Parishioners, Family & Friends Vigil of Carols leading to Midnight Mass - Parishioners, Family & Friends
WEDNESDAY (Christmas Day) (The Nativity of the Lord)	25	10am	Christmas Family Mass - Parishioners, Family & Friends
THURSDAY (St. Stephen)	26	11am	Mass of St. Stephen - Joan & Donald Hamilton RIP
FRIDAY (St. John, Apostle)	27	10am	Mass of St. John - Anne Crunley RIP
SATURDAY (Holy Innocents)	28	5pm	First Mass of Holy Family - Ruperta R. Inguito RIP (Anniv.)
SUNDAY The Holy Family	29	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Advent Liturgy) Frank Hall RIP (Birthday) The Parishioners
MONDAY (Christmas Octave)	30		NO MASS OR SERVICE
TUESDAY (New Year's Eve)	31	6pm	New Year's Eve Mass (All deceased Parishioners, Family & Friends)
WEDNESDAY (New Year's Day) (Mary, Mother of God)	1 Jan 2020	12 noon	New Year's Day Mass (Parishioners, Family & Friends)
THURSDAY (Christmas Weekday)	2	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Christmas Weekday)	3	9.30am 6-8pm	Welfare of the Diamond Family Adoration - everyone welcome to join team even for 10 minutes
SATURDAY (Eve of Epiphany)	4	5pm	First Mass of Epiphany for World Peace - and to drive away hunger, poverty and homelessness in the world
SUNDAY The Epiphany	5	10am 5.30pm	Epiphany Mass (Children's Liturgy & Kings Procession) Parishioners Family & Friends Epiphany Mass (Youth Group) Parishioners, Family & Friends

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Baby Giorgio Gangemi; Nicholas Powell; Terry Barton; Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Sarah Content; May Piddock; Baby Callie; Peter and Dee Avery; Colin Povey; Reece Reynolds; Fr. Tony Collins; Pauline O'Toole; Caroline Walker; Baby April Hayes; Sheila Koster; Jrena Beard; Eileen Calkin; Daphne Filmer; Mary Wilmot; Fr. Denis Lynch O.Carm; Dan Smith; Paul Head; John Langton; Natalie Walker; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Craig Richards; Oliver Young; Diane McSharry; Jacky Seeds; carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: Marie Casey; David Formosa; Ewa Wszolek; Dagmar Müller; Tony Fullwood; Christopher Haskins; Monica Unter; Margaret Mansfield; Keith Osborne; Dave Stapley; Josie Keen; also Paul Horsfall (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: 22nd December: - Francis Flanagan; Emmanuel Murto; Annie Griffin; Laurence O'Connor; Margaret Hopgood; Molly Maher; Mark Nicholls; John Whelan; Hedwick Steffan; Terence Finn; Yvonne D'Agostini; Daniel O'Shea; Cecilia Sampayo; John Kilgallen; Ronald Mannerings; James Boyle; Tony Kibble; Viva Redman; Joan Hamilton. **29th December:** - John Keegan; Theresa Hedderman; Maisie Lingham; John Murphy; Mary Forsythe; Catherine Sheppard; Michael Kavanagh; Mary Heggarty; Trevor Jones; Lily Feehan; Wilfred McCauley; Grace Moss; Kathleen Mortlock; Annie Thomson; Rev. Patrick Lonergan; Patrick Woods; Clementina Leonard.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SATURDAY 21	10-11am	Children's Christmas Workshop in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
SUNDAY 22	10am	Children's Advent Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
SUNDAY 29	10am	No Children's Liturgy but children specially welcomed in the Mass
SATURDAY 4 JANUARY 2020	10am to 12 noon	Gardening Club (subject to weather conditions)
SUNDAY 5	10am 4pm	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre and 'Kings Procession' Youth Group meet to prepare Epiphany Mass

THANK YOU for your Offerings which amounted to £438.94. (Standing Orders average £355 per week). The second collection for St. Nicholas Welfare raised £250 and the collection for Christmas Flowers raised £248.65.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE The total raised was £440. Thank you to suppliers of goodies, ticket sellers and buyers.

RUTH TRANT Thanks to Ruth and volunteers for the great improvement to the car park.

SECURITY Anyone going into the Church alone must notify the Parish Office **even if they have their own Church key** and lock themselves in for safety reasons. They must also notify the Office when they leave.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND 2020 CALENDARS Please support the Church by buying our cards and calendars. We work an honesty box system. Please put money in the box marked "Cards" in the porch near where you get your tea. Many thanks.

MISSIO CALENDARS Please feel free to take a Missio Calendar from the back of the church.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Taking part in Advent. The next children's lesson is on **Monday 6th January 2020 from 5-6pm** (Lord have mercy - read chapter and discuss being truly sorry in everyday life). The next parents meeting is on **Wednesday 8th January** (7.30pm for 8pm). Please remember to bring a photo of your child for the board at the back of the Church. (**We have taken down photos of last year's first communicants and they will be left on the table in the porch for parents to collect.**)

SALVATION ARMY Please see the noticeboard for a 'Thank You' letter from the Maidstone Salvation Army thanking our parishioners for their very generous donations for the homeless.

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.

GARDENING CLUB meet on Saturday 4th January 2020 from 10am to 12 noon (subject to weather conditions).

CHURCH FLOWERS **All flower arrangers to meet on Monday 23rd December for Christmas Flowers.** Dee's Group week beginning 27th December.

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Isaiah 7:10-14 Romans 1:1-7 Matthew 1:18-25)

Taking courage from love

The Gospel relates how Joseph overcame his serious doubts about Mary - and married her! She too had faced her own fears about the future - and said "Yes!" We too can have doubts and lack confidence in the future, but like Mary and Joseph we can take courage from our love for each other and God's love for us too.

Christmas Day (Midnight Mass) (Isaiah 9:1-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14)

Excitement and Joy

Mary knew the excitement and joy of this special day; Joseph too. He and Mary were 'together' beginning a new journey, and no doubt believed all was going to be well. We, too, like Mary and Joseph, need to be open to the joy and excitements of new beginnings 'together', especially when they involve experiences that are totally new.

The Holy Family (Ecclesiastes 3:2-6, 12-14 Col 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 17-23)

Be kind and gentle when we are making decisions

The readings today challenge us to listen sensitively to each other; to be prepared to let go of our own desires and to be deeply aware of each other's thoughts and feelings as we make decisions together. For this we need to ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts to the gifts of compassion and understanding, courage and hopefulness.

Mary, Mother of God (Numbers 6:22-27 Galatians 4:4-7 Luke 2:16-21)

A new title

On our wedding day we received a new and special title of 'Husband' and 'Wife'. These titles announce to our family and friends our unique and special place in God's plan for us, His Church, and the world. In celebrating this Feast Day let us remember who we are and, like Mary, 'treasure and ponder it in our hearts'.

Second Sunday of Christmas (Eccles 24:1-2,8-12 Ephesians 1:3-6,15-18 John 1:1-18)

He chose us to be holy and spotless

He chose us "to be holy and spotless and to live through love in his presence". 'Holy and spotless' ... with all the messiness of our lives ... clothes, toys, all over the floor, washing up in the sink? Yes. 'Holy!' ... 'through loving'. So, whether cleaning up the mess or working to earn money, you are doing loving things. You are 'holier' than you think!

