

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
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Third Sunday of the Year (A) UNITY OCTAVE - CANDLEMAS JOURNEY 26th January 2020

FUTURE OF THE PARISH This newsletter went to press before the co-ordinating group met last Friday. We thank them for all their work - also the Youth Group who are preparing their own letter to the Archbishop, and will make further announcements about this this weekend - and keep them and all of us in our prayers.

THIS WEEKEND We begin the final week of our Candlemas journey and continue the week of prayer for Christian Unity with our Masses here asking the Lord to help us to take his Christmas and Epiphany light to root it in the temples of our hearts and especially our Parish in this challenging year just as he took it to the temple in Jerusalem on the first Christmas, and with the Unity Service for the Malling area at the Baptist Church, Swan Street, which we ask you to support - thanks for this.

FIRST RECONCILIATION We congratulate our First Communion children as they celebrate their First Reconciliation and Second Sacrament and stage of their faith and church journey tomorrow (Monday) and ask you to keep them and their parents and families in your prayers at this important time.

DURING THE WEEK There are meetings for the Baby & Toddler Group, Kings Hill & Mereworth Area Group, and a Parish Meeting on Wednesday. More Park PTA have a Quiz Night in the school which we ask you to support on Friday, and we congratulate and pray for the parishioners of Borough Green Church as it is consecrated on Saturday - details of all these overleaf.

NEXT WEEKEND - CANDLEMAS The true end of our Advent and Christmas journey where we bring the light and love and joy we have received from the Lord this Christmas and Epiphany to 'root' it in the temples of our hearts and especially our Parish in this challenging year. We celebrate with a special Mass and a children's liturgy and 'Christingles' at the 10am Sunday Mass and the Youth Group presenting the 5.30pm Mass (Youth Group meet at 4pm in the House to prepare the Mass and then have their Christmas/Candlemas party afterwards).

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Candlemas Journey) The Conversion of St. Paul	25	2.30pm 5pm	Baptisms: Alivia Price & Joshua Curtis Mary & Harry Fewtrell (60th Wedding Anniversary)
SUNDAY (Candlemas Journey) Third Sunday of the Year (A) Unity Octave	26	10am 4pm 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy) The Parishioners Malling United Service at Baptist Church, Swan Street, West Malling The Parishioners
MONDAY (Candlemas Journey)	27	9.30am	Communion Service
TUESDAY (Candlemas Journey) (St. Thomas Aquinas)	28	9.30am	Keggy Diamond RIP
WEDNESDAY (Candlemas Journey)	29	9.30am	Welfare of the Diamond Family
THURSDAY (Candlemas Journey)	30	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Candlemas Journey) (St. John Bosco)	31	9.30am 6-8pm	Candlemas Mass in <u>School</u> Adoration - everyone welcome to join team even for 10 minutes
SATURDAY (Candlemas Journey)	1 Feb	5pm	Ildefonso Bustamante RIP (Anniv.)
SUNDAY (Candlemas Journey) Fourth Sunday of the Year (A) Presentation of the Lord	2	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy & Christingles) - The Parishioners The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; May Piddock; Peter and Dee Avery; Pauline O'Toole; Mary Wilmot; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Abby & Olly Blackmore; John Stevens; Lawrence Jordan; 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: Patrick Faulkin; Luke Sullivan; Baby Francis Blackmore; Bert McLelland; Mary Gallagher. Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Bertie Roddy; Pietro Bottiglieri; Margaret Corcoran; Annie Donohoe; Daniel Lynch; Henry Gaiger; Margaret Kelleher; Eileen Connolly; Bridget Styles; Mary Russell; Karen Fox; Barbara Ann Collins; Jim Puxley; William (Bill) Lobeck; Stanley Jones; Alexander Gordon; John Hadwin; Freddie MacQueen; Charles Harkin; Joy Corrigan; Pamela Richardson; Patrick Willoughby; Jean Brooker.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 26	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 27	5-6pm 6-7pm	First Communion Children's First Reconciliation in Church (Council of Deans Meeting at Archbishop's House)
TUESDAY 28	1.30pm to 3pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
WEDNESDAY 29	7 for 7.30pm	Parish Meeting in Priest's House
THURSDAY 30	8pm	Kings Hill & Mereworth Area Group Meeting - details below
FRIDAY 31	7 for 7.30pm	More Park PTA Quiz Night at school
SATURDAY 1 FEB		(Dedication of Borough Green Church at 11.30am)
SUNDAY 2	10am 4pm	Children's Liturgy & Christingles in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre Youth Group meet to prepare Candlemas Mass followed by Group Party

THANK YOU for your offerings which amounted to £413.48. (Standing Orders average £355 per week). The second collection for Pax Christi raised £173.78.

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next children's lesson is this **Monday 27th January 2020 - Reconciliation Day**. We will meet in two groups in two separate sessions - each group will wait until everyone has made their sacrament to support one another. A parent must attend with their child and stay until the end of the lesson. **Candlemas Family Mass on Sunday 2nd February** - the workshop will take place during Children's Liturgy. **(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.)**

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER CARDS Please take a card and pray for the child whose name is on it as they prepare for their First Communion. The cards are in a box on the table in the porch. Thank you.

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP The next meeting will be on Monday 3rd February at 7.30pm in the Church Porch. If you would be interested in attending please contact Steph Blackburn on 07977 458970 or email steph@bbits.co.uk.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP The next meeting will be on Wednesday 5th February at 1.30pm. Venue: 3 Osprey Walk, Larkfield, ME20 6JJ. RSVP: Tony & Anne Law 01732 844077.

MORE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA Quiz Night on Friday 31st January (7 for 7.30pm). £5 per person. Tickets will be sold after Mass or please contact Victoria Morrissey on 07849 750272.

'CONTEMPLATING THE WORD WITH MARY' Saturday 21st March, 10am to 4pm, The Friars, Aylesford. See noticeboard.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE are launching '**Compassionate Neighbours**' on Thursday 30th January at West Malling Baptist Church, Swan Street, West Malling. This is a free, community-led social movement offering friendship and support for anyone who is lonely, at risk of isolation and nearing the end of life through age or illness. See noticeboard for session times and further information.

MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE (1) A Time for Mourning - 20th-22nd March 2020 A retreat/workshop for those suffering from the pain of loss. **(2) Building a Better Marriage - Saturday 4th April 2020** Married couples! You can give each other a wonderful gift by spending a day exploring your relationship more deeply to gain valuable insights into your communication. Couples who have attended the course noted the positive changes it made to their marriage. There is no group sharing and this is not marriage counselling or guidance but a chance to make your marriage even better. Contact: Carole - Tel: 07983 524727 or email: mflkent@rcaos.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 Group 4 week beginning 27th January.

CHURCH FLOWERS Maria's Group week beginning 31st January (**Candlemas**). Dee's group week beginning 7th February.

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

AREA GROUP MEETINGS

Kings Hill & Mereworth meet on Thursday 30th January at 8pm (Secret Santa - please bring a wrapped, new and unwanted Christmas present). Venue: 145 Discovery Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4DS.

RSVP Ray & Wendy Cassidy 01732 521261

