

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James - A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | February 2024

Social Pillar

Book Club

Youth Pillar

• Pancake Night

Evangelisation Pillar

House Masses

Communication Pillar

 Volunteering Opportunities

FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE



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www www.stjamespettswood.org



Pastoral Care Pillar

We were all very sorry that Gaynor has stepped down from our team following three years of dedicated leadership. We shall all miss her commitment, attention to detail and the support she gave so willingly to the parish, our team and all of us individually. Thank you Gaynor.

It's great to see the days getting longer and the early signs of Spring in the garden. January can be a long difficult month for many people both financially and mentally. If you feel it would be helpful to have a discreet and confidential home visit, please speak to a member of our team (our photos and names are on the notice board at the Church entrance) or contact the Parish Office.

Our small team of eight would welcome new members. If you would like to know more about our role, please speak to a member of the team or Fr David.

Taking a family out for the day can be extremely expensive. However if you are in receipt of certain government benefits you may be eligible for tickets at greatly reduced prices. For example if you are in receipt of Universal Credit a visit to the London Transport Museum will cost £1.00 for an adult and children under the age of 17 can visit for free. Checkout www. kiddoadventures.com for more information.

Please see below details of the **themed Masses** for this year.

Monday 12th February 7pm - Healing Mass

Sunday 7th April 11am - World Autism Acceptance Week

Sunday 12th May 11am - Dementia Awareness Week Mass

Sunday 14th July 3pm - Mass for Bereaved Parents their Families & their Friends

Sunday 15th September 11am - World Suicide Prevention Day Mass

Monday 30th September 7pm - Healing Mass

Sunday 10th November 3pm - November Memorial Service





200 Club Subscriptions

Annual subscriptions are due by 31st March. Can those members please forward a cheque payable to St James Church 200 Club to the Parish Office by March 10th. Alternatively if you wish to pay on line please send a payment of £60 to:

Nat West Bank

Sort Code 601603

Account Number 77878736

St James 200 Club

For members paying by Standing Order no action is required.



Second collections – February

11th February - Maintenance/Building Fund

18th February - Clergy Support Fund

25th February - Cafod (Lent)

There are a number of diocesan and special collections during the next couple of months and if you are contributing to them by bankers' order, please use the Payment References below

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment

Maintenance/Gift Aid Number/Surname

CSF/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Cafod/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

We take this opportunity to thank you all for your generous support of St James' parish especially during the past difficult years and we pray those conditions do not repeat themselves.



Evangelisation Pillar

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the I ord

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 5pm till 7pm. The next will be on Friday **2nd February.** All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. Mondays 11am-12 noon, except for Bank Holidays, meetings are via zoom. Please contact the parish office who will arrange the zoom link to be sent to you. All are welcome

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Save The Date - You are invited!

The Agency of Evangelisation and Catechesis (AEC) have kindly agreed to presenting a Deanery Catechists Day on Saturday 10th February.

This is the start of the half term when sacramental prep will have naturally paused and more catechists will be free to attend, hopefully!

The day is presented by Dr Mark Nash & Ingrid La Trobe from the AEC.

We will be joined some 70+ catechists from other parishes across the deanery.

Saturday 10th Feb 2024 - St James Community Centre

9.30am teas/coffees, 10am Start, 12.30pm Mass

We will finish by 4pm. RSVP to lollybell@rcaos.org.uk

House Mass

House Mass is an initiative at St. James to help develop Fr. David's vision of St. James becoming a "Sanctuary in Suburbia".

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The idea of House Mass goes back to early Christians who, in small groups, gather in houses to celebrate the Lord's Supper. It typically has a more intimate atmosphere (than a Sunday Mass), and everybody feels more involved in the celebration. The setting also allows time to develop friendships and community.

A Host is however needed to facilitate this happening.

What does the Host of House Mass need to do?

1. Host to liaise with Parish Office on when he/she wishes to host a House Mass.

[Fr. David has allocated specific monthly dates in his diary when he is available for House Mass.] Suggest 8pm start. Provide the Parish Office with your full address / how to get there (as needed), parking restrictions, email, telephone number.

2. Host to invite parishioners to come to the House Mass in his/her house.

[Suggest host to invite say 8-12 people, but the number of people very much depends on the space/ seating arrangement available in the host's house. The host decides how many and who to invite to the House Mass. It will be good to invite a mix of parishioners, particularly new parishioners, and parishioners who are less involved as one of the objectives of the house mass is to form friendship/ communities]

3. Host to arrange reader(s) from the attendees (usually 1st reading + psalm) and someone to bring up offertory.

[The reading will normally be the Daily Mass readings, and that will be sent to you by the Parish office one week before the event. If you wish to use other readings, please discuss and agree with Fr. David beforehand]

- 4. Host to arrange chairs for everyone (including yourself and priest) – usually around the room. A small table with white cloth will also be needed as an altar.
- 5. Host to provide tea & coffee or other drinks after Mass. Suggest host to ask attendees to bring simple nibbles to share for the social.

Provisional Timing for House Mass:

8pm Arrive (before 8pm if possible) and settle

8:05pm Start Mass

8:50pm Mass finishand social to follow.

Dates for 2024

Tuesday 20th February - Allocated

Tuesday 14th May

Tuesday 25th June - Allocated

Tuesday 23rd July

Tuesday 24th September

Tuesday 22nd October

Tuesday 19th November

Tuesday 10th December

If you think you would like to host a House Mass, please contact Suzanne and Caroline via email pettswood@rcaos. org.uk to agree mutually convenient date.

Repair Cafe In Petts Wood

One good way of cutting down on waste is to repair things rather than throw them away.

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There is a successful repair café which has been running at St Francis Church in Greencourt Road, BR5 1QW since April 2023. It meets once a month from **2.00-5.00pm** on the following Saturdays: 24 February, 23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June and 27 July.



Evangelisation Pillar

This local community repair service can tackle items such as small electrical/mechanical appliances, laptops/computers, clocks/watches, joinery, needlework repairs and bicycles.

No charges are made for repairs but donations towards running costs are very welcome.

For a small charge you can also enjoy a slice of homemade cake and a drink while you wait for your item to be repaired.

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Could you be the next happy customer?

Prayer Meetings on Thursdays

Charism Thursdays exists to establish a weekly spiritual hour of rest and worship, open to anyone who is interested in deepening their connection with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

During charismatic worship songs, each member is encouraged to participate and share their spiritual gifts from a place of liberty and freedom. Rest and contemplation in the Agape love of God is primary, contributions in scripture reading, words of encouragement, pictures and prayer etc is secondary.

Along with the main focus of group singing, we focus on practices of meditation and circling.

These types of practices help to facilitate transformative experiences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have already enjoyed our first few meetings with a good response.

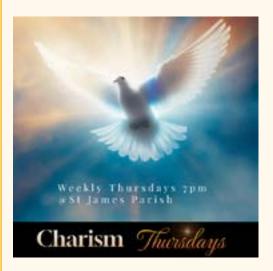
Everyone is welcome to participate in the weekly event, starting at 7pm in the parish hall.

Dates for the upcoming evenings are as below – pls note the <u>2 week break on 8th and 15th February</u>:

February: 1st, 22nd, 29th

Kind regards,

Nick



Lent 2024

Please come to our workshop about Brother Lawrence which is scheduled to be held in the **Community Centre on Saturday 16 th March from 10.00am to 2.00pm**.

"Brother Lawrence was a seventeenth century Christian who had a dramatic spiritual awakening at the age of eighteen. Seeing a tree in winter, his soul suddenly opened to the presence of God. Within six years he had entered a Carmelite monastery in Paris, where he worked chiefly in the kitchen cooking and cleaning. He practiced a simple and natural method. He merely turned his attention to the Divine Presence available at all times during any activity. He reports that he was as fully present with God while washing dishes in the kitchen as he was when partaking of the sacrament in worship."

The profound peace and joy evident In Lawrence's life attracted many visitors who sought to learn the secret of his unique spiritual practice. 1

Please read this book: "Brother Lawrence, The Practice of the Presence of God in Modern English", translated by Marshall Davis, to join in our discussions on the 16 th . Pam will aim to help with discussions too.

If you would like to attend this workshop, please let the Parish Office know by telephone on 01689 827100 or by email to, parish.office@stjamespettswood.org; and please bring your own lunch! Tea and coffee will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you!

The St Andrews Sisters at Lewisham are offering a Lenten Retreat

The retreat is an opportunity to deepen your prayer life in preparation for Holy Week.

It is also an opportunity to experience spiritual accompaniment.

Spiritual accompaniment is a time to share about your faith journey during the retreat.

Your prayer companion will provide the necessary tools for your prayer.

Possible locations to meet your prayer guide during the four weeks:

St Andrew's Lewisham, Brockley, Sidcup, West Wickham, Bexley, Swanley 'The Sanctuary' or online.

Further details on the St Andrews Sisters website.



Evangelisation Pillar



The current needs are for:

- Squash & Fruit Juice
- Cooking Sauces
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned Cold Meat
- Desserts, Sponge pudding, jelly
- Washing up liquid

There are two baskets available for your donations: both are in the main church entrance



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account Bank NatWest Sort code 60-16-03 Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank Account number 77879007
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Reference STJAMESPW

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.





3rd Petts Wood Scout Group YOUR PARISH GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteer opportunities

There are 2 positions which we are looking for your help, we have a thriving and successful Scout Group who need your support, the current volunteers have been undertaking the roles for well over 10 years and wish to retire from the roles.

Treasurers' position

You will be required to reconcile expenditure, check bank statements and prepare financial information for the AGM, attend Trustee Board meetings which are held 3 or 4 times a year. You will also need to undertake some on line training as required by the Scout Association. The role does not require too much of your time, approximately 2-4 hours per month on average.

The role would suit someone with book keeping/banking/ finance experience and who is experienced using Excel, it is an important and rewarding role supporting the Scout

If you would like further information about this role please contact Jackie Cosgrave by email cosgrave jackie@hotmail. com (please note there is an underscore between the surname and first name.

Secretary's position

This is an administrative position and would suit someone who has good IT and minute taking skills, you are required to arrange the Trustee Board meetings held each term, draft the minutes and distribute them, you will also arrange the paperwork for the AGM and take the minutes and assist the Scout Leader with any other administrative tasks. This role also does not take up too much time approximately 2-4 hours per month on average. You would be required to undertake some on line training.

Please contact Elaine Scott by email elainemscott100@ gmail.com if you would like to discuss the role and attend a Trustee Board meeting to see what is required.

Alternatively, you can contact Kate Charlesworth, Scout Leader by email about the positions c.charlesworth@ btinternet.com

Assistant Group Scount Leader

Are you passionate about helping younf people develop skills for life? If you are, then why not apply to help our Scout Group in the role of Assistant Group Scout Leader.

An Assistant Group Scout Leader i8s a volunteer role where you will support the Group Scout Leader in running and coordinating the Scout Group, which consists of different sections for young people aged 6 to 18.

You will help plan and deliver a balanced and exciting programme of activities for all sections, assist with

recruitment and training of adult volunteers and ensure the general safety and welfare of all members and volunteers in the Group, whilst complying with the Scout Association's rules and regulations.

You will also have the opportunity to learn bew skills, meet bew people and have lots of fun along the way.

You don't need to have any previous Scouting experience, as long as you share our values and vision.

The role will involve a limited number of Leaders meetings and the occasional District meetings in addition to any miscellaneous duties as required.

If you would like to make a positive difference to the lives of the young people in our parish, then this is the role for you.

Interested: then contact c.charlesworth@btinternet.com



Volunteering Opportunities at St James

Would you like to get more involved in parish life? We need help on the following rotas.

Please email Rosa, rosa.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org if you can help with any of the following jobs:

Sunday Coffees after the 9.15am and 11am Masses

Ushers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am

Readers Saturday 6pm Mass, Sundays 9.15am and 11am

Readers for weekdays Mon to Thur 10 am.

Cleaners Saturday 9.30am

Tellers Sunday 11am

Memory Cafe helpers (first and second Tuesdays of the month - 1pm to 4pm). If you are able to help with the cafe please contact Suzanne in the parish office.

We are looking for a couple of additional young people to become **Altar Servers** and join the 11am team to help support Dejan and James. Please drop us an email if interested on <u>altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org</u>.

St James Repository

The Repository in church is open after Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses throughout the year. There is a good selection of Religious articles always available, including Bibles, Prayer Books, Sunday Missals, Children's Books, Rosaries, Statues, Mass cards and cards for most other occasions.

Appeal From The Knights of St Columba

Please continue to bring in your used postage stamps. If they are on postcards, it is fine to donate the postcard as well. Money raised will go to Knights good causes. Please leave stamps in the wooden box in the church porchway.

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ADVERTISEMENT



Do you have any issues that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish?

Do you have any good news stories that you would like to share with the Parish?

If you do then why not use the Newsletter as a medium to share your thoughts with us and one to make a positive difference to the life of our Parish. If you do have anything that you would like to bring to the attention of the Parish then please send the information to Paul Cosgrave at the following email address: communication@stjamespettswood.org



Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on Wednesday, 21st February. We will be a serving a light lunch from 11.30am in the Community Centre. All Welcome.

Note for your Diaries - please see the Wednesday lunches dates for 2024

21st February

20th March

17th April

15th May

19th June

17th July

18th September

16th October

20th November

11th December

The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

February date for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesday 7th

Wednesday 14th

Tuesday 20th

Tuesday 27th

Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Book Club

Please consider joining us at our sociable book group. Everyone is welcome. Our meetings for the first part of 2024 are at 7.30pm on the following Wednesdays:

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21st February - Please join us at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21 st February in the Community Centre to discuss Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers. Clare will be joining us and we would love to welcome more people to the group on that day.



20th March - All my Mothers by Joanna Glen

April - no meeting

Please email the Parish Office if you have any queries.

Film nights in February and March

Further to the announcement in the January Newsletter about your generous donations last month for Keen2Go, we have received the following message of gratitude from the Charity's Founder & Director, Robbie Keen.

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"Thank you so much to everyone at the Film Night. We really appreciate the donation and it will be put towards lots of new activities and resources for our members.

We pride ourselves on being led by the ideas and aspirations of the people who use our service and will ask them to decide where they would like the money to be spent (within reason!).

Please pass our thanks on to everyone who donated and we wish you all the luck with the film night going forward.

Thank you again for thinking of us and the work we do."

Our upcoming film on Saturday, 17 February, will be "Jimmy's Hall" (2014), directed by Ken Loach. The running time is 104 minutes.

In 1932, political activist Jimmy Gralton returns to rural Ireland from exile in the US to help his mother manage the family farm. He decides to reopen an abandoned Church Hall as a Community Centre for the Arts as a place for young people to enjoy dancing, socialising & studying. However, as the Hall's popularity flourishes, staunch opposition builds notably from the local priest, Fr Sheridan, who condemns the music and dancing as indecent.

The film has been critically described as "tense, inspiring & gripping".

Any donations raised will go towards a special Parish initiative, details tba.

Our Film on **Saturday, 23 March** will be "Their Finest" (2016) starring Bill Nighy & Gemma Arterton. This runs for 117 minutes.

During the World War 2 Blitz in 1940, a young talented scriptwriter, Cathrin Cole, joins the British Ministry of Information & is thrust into the production of a major film. The aim is to celebrate England's resilience & shore up the flagging spirits of the general population.

Cathrin's role is to investigate the story of two young women who supposedly piloted their father's boat to take part in the Dunkirk Evacuation. However, as she delves deeper, it emerges that this is based on a complete misapprehension!

The story then becomes the basis for a fictional film causing Cathrin & her colleagues to labour against many



challenges to come up with an acceptable script.

As usual, our films will start at 7.30pm with the Community Centre & the Bar opening beforehand at 7pm.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Appeal for more helpers

Many hands really do make light work, we know. In the coming months, we want to fill the role of the Social Pillar Lead and strengthen the Events Committee. This warm appeal goes out to any of you who don't currently help out in any way at all, because the support of a great many more volunteers is needed to facilitate the planning and running of each event as we celebrate 85 Years of Parish Life.

If you like the sound of, or enjoyed attending the Parish Awards Ceremony, Summer Garden Party, Christmas Fair or NYE Party, please consider signing up to micro-volunteer an hour or two of your time at future parish events. No half hour is too little and every effort to sell tickets, help with set-up of gazebos, tables and chairs, and decorations, cooking a dish or two, wrapping gifts and prizes, will make a huge difference. Please text 'YES to Help' to Lolly today (07541 759163) if you feel you have a little time to give towards the many events to be rolled out this year. Team work really does make the dream work! Thank you.

Petts Wood CWL

The February meeting of Petts Wood Catholic Women's League will be held on Wednesday 28th February at 1pm in the Community Centre.

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Ladies, please come along if you would like to make new friends and learn more about the CWL.

Future events will include our annual plant sale and making up backpacks for prisoners as they leave prison.



Upcoming Youth Events

Sat 3rd February 11am-12.30pm Faith in Action Launch Day Sat 10th Feb 9.30am – 4pm Deanery Catechists Day at St James the Great (AECF)

Tue 13th February 6.30-8.00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night

Wed 14th February 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Mass (all young people invited)

Sun 18th February 12-2pm Deanery Lent Retreat Day at St James (half term)*

Thu 26th March 7.30m Maundy Thursday, Mass of The Lord's Supper

Fri 27th March 10.00am CLOW Good Friday Stations of the Cross

Sun 29th March 10.15am CYM/FIA Easter Egg Hunt Quiz

• Re-Launch - Re-enactment of The Stations of the Cross

Sunday 24th March, run by CLOW

Please contact Lolly Bell for more information lollybell@rcaos.org.uk





Youth Matters

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus 2:13-4:23,4:27-5:2

A short story from the Bible

Moses: a Hebrew adopted by an Egyptian princess. He killed an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrewslave, and hid the body.



Why are you beating up one of your own people?



Moses had to run away from Egypt.

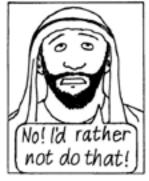


One day, on Sinai Mountain, he saw a burning bush that didn't burn up. Now God had got Moses' attention, He said.



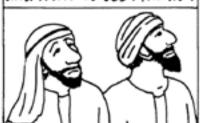
You will go to Pharaoh and tell him to let my people Leave Egypt.







Aaron and Mases met up



Our God says you must let and went to see Pharaoh all his people leave Egypt.



Your God means nothing to me. I will never change my mind. Your people can never leave!

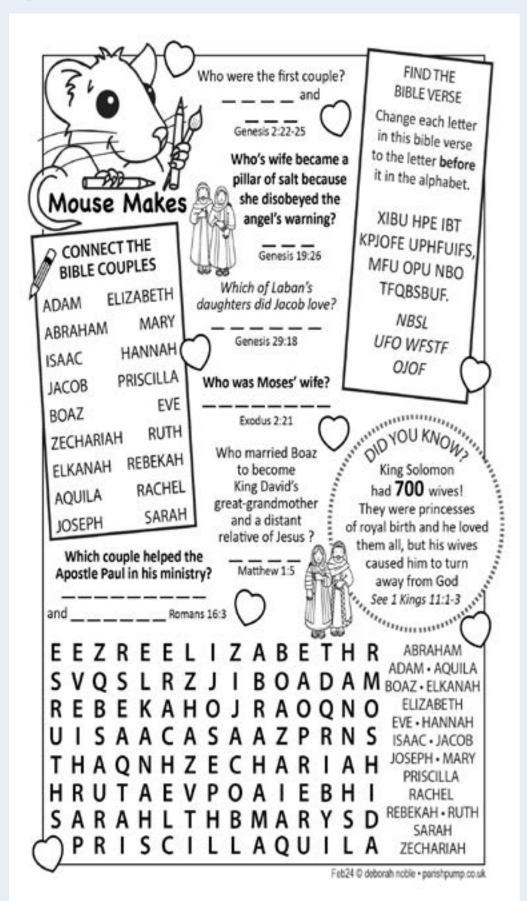


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change burning choice Moses father leave Egypt bush attention mountain Paraoh sheep run Hebrew body Sinai

brother killed Midian Aaron princess married people never

Youth Matters





February Calendar 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1	2	3	4
			4.30pm to 9pm	5pm to 9.30pm	9am to 1pm	
			Girlguiding	Scouting	Faith in Action	
			Meetings	meetings	Launch	
					4pm - 6pm	
					First Holy	
					Communion	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
6.30pm to	2pm	1.30pm	4.30pm to 9pm	5pm to 9.30pm	9.30am - 4pm	
8.30pm Confirmation	Memory cafe	Companion Club	Girlguiding Meetings	Scouting	Deanery	
7pm	7pm - 7.45pm	Club	Meetings	meetings	Cathecist Day	
Confirmation	Firm Believers					
parents	8pm					
meeting in church	Table Tennis					
12	13	14	15	16	17	
	2pm	1.30pm	4.30pm to 9pm	5pm to 9.30pm	10am - 1pm	
	Memory cafe	Companion	Girlguiding	Scouting	Seminar ??	
	6.30pm	Club	Meetings	meetings		
	Shrove	0			7pm	
	Tuesday Pancake Night	8pm Catenians			Film Night	
		Catenians				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
6.30pm to	1.30pm	11.45am	4.30pm to 9pm	5pm to 9.30pm	9.45am	
8.30pm Confirmation	Companion Club	Wednesday Lunches	Girlguiding Meetings	Scouting meetings	Dad and Me	
	7pm - 7.45pm	7pm to 9pm			4pm - 6pm	
	Firm Believers	Book Club			First Holy	
	8pm				Communion	
	Table Tennis					
26	27	28	29			
6.30pm to	1.30pm	1pm to 3pm	4.30pm to 9pm			
8.30pm Confirmation	Companion Club	CWL Meeting	Girlguiding Meetings			
	7pm - 7.45pm Film Believers	7.45pm JPIC Meeting				
	8pm					
	Table Tennis					