



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **January 2024**

New Year

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Pastoral Care Pillar

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- New Year Resolutions

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Pastoral Care Pillar

Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel to say your nightly prayer.

Maya Angelou

A very blessed New Year from the Team to you all!

Memorial Christmas Tree



During the Parish Carol Service on 17 December, Fr David read a special prayer to mark the lighting of our White Memorial Christmas Tree bearing the gold stars dedicated to our missed loved ones.

At the end of the Christmas period, the stars will be returned to the Baptistry until November when they will be moved once again to the Sanctuary for the month of remembrance.

If anyone wishes to personalise a new star for a deceased loved one during the year, please contact the Parish Office.

Also please contact the Office if you would like to have the name of a deceased family member inscribed in the **Memorial Book** in the Lady Chapel.

Themed Masses in 2024

The following dates have been set to mark certain particular times of focus.

Healing Mass - 7pm, Monday 12 February

World Autism Acceptance Week - 11am, Sunday 7th April

Dementia Awareness Week - 11am, Sunday 12 May

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

World Suicide Prevention Day - 11am, Sunday 15 September

Healing Mass - 7pm, Monday 30 September

November Memorial Service - 3pm, Sunday 10 November

The Petts Wood Bereavement Help Point

The Help Point is run by Petts Wood Churches Together in partnership with St Christopher's Hospice. This provides a safe space offering advice, guidance & a listening ear to anyone finding life difficult, as well as an opportunity to meet others who have shared similar experiences.

The Help Point is open from 2pm - 4pm on Tuesday afternoons at the Methodist Church in Queensway. Everyone is very welcome.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week, 22-28 January.

Cervical Cancer Prevention Week is an annual initiative promoted by various healthcare organisations.

This year the Department of Health & Social Care, together with NHS England and NHS Improvement, are launching a **"Help Us Help You" Cervical Screening Campaign** to highlight the benefits of cervical screening & remind people that it can help stop cancer before it starts.

The Campaign encourages those eligible for screening to respond to their invitation letters & to book an appointment at their GP practice.

Two women die every day from cervical cancer in England. However, it is one of the most preventable cancers & screening can help stop it before it starts.

Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust is the UK's leading cervical cancer charity. It provides information & support to anyone affected & campaigns for excellence in cervical cancer treatment, care and prevention.

The Trust's website is www.jostrust.org.uk/ccpw. Their free & confidential National Helpline can be reached on 0808 802 8000.

Additional information can be found at www.nhs.uk/cervicalscreening

AND FINALLY - A special appeal for new members!

We would warmly welcome new members to help strengthen our important outreach in the Parish.

If you think you have the skills & time to spare - as much or as little as you feel able to contribute - our small Pastoral Care Team would be delighted to have a chat with you



Pastoral Care Pillar

with no commitment whatsoever on your part.

Our main tasks include:

- **offering a confidential listening ear to anyone seeking comfort & emotional support;**
- **promoting & heightening awareness on matters of pastoral significance via notices in Parish media & by contributing to special themed Masses (see below);**
- **supporting Fr David in reaching out to the newly bereaved including with a condolence card & a First Anniversary Card;**
- **following guidance from Fr David, providing home visits to parishioners, as well as Eucharistic Ministry to the housebound, by those of us who have received training;**
- **maintaining the Baptistry area & the Order of Service display to ensure a tranquil space of respectful serenity.**
- **We offer support at funerals which involves:**
 - preparing the Church for the Funeral Service;
 - providing hands-on support as needed to Fr David, the bereaved family & the funeral directors;
 - welcoming & guiding the mourners;
 - offering a discreet presence to ensure that the Service runs as smoothly as possible.
- **We identify appropriate readings, prayers & music to help Fr David prepare for special themed Masses to mark particular times of pastoral focus. To support those mourning loved ones, these Services include:-**
 - an Annual Mass for parents & their families who have been bereaved of a child of any age,
 - a Memorial Service in November for all our deceased & to remember by name those in our Parish & close relatives of parishioners who have died during the past year.
- **At the beginning of Advent, our special White Memorial Christmas Tree is placed on the Sanctuary, decorated with the gold stars dedicated to the memory of our missed loved ones. The tree is then lit during the Annual Parish Carol Service.**

If you feel drawn to offer your support to our rewarding Ministry & would like to know more, please have a word with Fr David, a member of our Team (our photos are on the porch noticeboard) contact the Parish Office or pastoral@stjamespettswood.org by email.

Thank you!

A message from Patricia

At the beginning of October 2023, I will have been a widow for four years. When my dearly loved husband died, I was often told that "time heals" and "as time goes by things

become easier". I have to say neither of these have really happened for me. Derek is as near to me as he was all through our long, happy marriage. I find myself chatting to him happily about day-to-day things, the happy moments, the sad and the worries. Strange things happen too, I am happily sorting out a drawer or book shelves and suddenly, some seemingly unimportant thing will have me crying. This does not worry me as I am a great believer that tears are important and also, if I am crying over some shared thing it means he is still "there".

This was something else I have learnt. I think it was mainly from the Victorian period, that showing emotion was not considered the "correct" behaviour. One should learn to control one's emotion, especially in public. Boys were especially encouraged to have "a stiff upper lip"; "Men do not cry" "Being emotional was weakness of spirit" etc. All of this is, as far as I am concerned, rubbish and causes so much physical and, more importantly, mental stress. Whether in private or public, crying is a very natural and good thing both for body and soul.

Again, I realised that when someone dies, the friends and even relatives of those mourning, find themselves in a difficult position. The immediate thing is to send a letter or card, expressing their condolences and love and often mentioning something the relatives or friends and the deceased have shared. Those who live nearby may pop in or phone up, all very comforting. It is when people come face to face with a mourning person, there is often embarrassment. If it is the first time of meeting then something will be said but it is when there are more meetings, then I found people really did not know what to say; they have said "sorry for your loss, etc" and really meant it, so what else can be said? Of course, well speaking for me, one can actually ask how the mourning person is coping; they can ask if there is anything that they can do to help this person; they can invite the person to come for a coffee or cup of tea; or they can chat normally and when both are relaxed, try some of the earlier suggestions. This is what I have found helpful.

What is even more important is to mention the dead person by his/her name and this will help the mourner to continue and perhaps mention the loved one by name too. It is so lovely to hear the one you loved mentioned by name. Talking about the person will be a great comfort. I still smile remembering when a friend asked me various questions about Derek.

I find it very helpful to talk about Derek, of course only if it comes naturally into the conversation and I find that after the momentary pause, most people are now relaxed and happily continue chatting. After all, we talk about friends and relatives of the past quite easily, so why not the person who is so very important to us.

St James and the congregation have been very helpful for me. We had left St James for a while but when Derek died, St James was the church where I felt he must have his funeral.



Pastoral Care Pillar

Father David was extremely kind and understanding and was very supportive which made everything much easier. I felt an immediate comfort at his funeral and have been attending ever since.

I think belonging to a caring community is very important when someone you love, dies. It is comforting to have people around one who will happily listen and sympathise. I think joining activities apart from churches, is also a very helpful and comforting thing because, you meet people who share the same interest and through that, one makes new friends. I have found it is very helpful to be able to talk about one's feelings openly to someone who obviously cares and in this, I am very fortunate with my family who all adored their father and it is joyous to hear the grandchildren happily talking about their grandfather knowing he is in their hearts as he is within mine.



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the December winners

£500 Angela Hawkins - Number 35

£200 Andrew Delamain - Number 22

£200 Sam Do - Number 79

£100 Lesley Matthews - Number 58

Congratulations to the January winners

£100 Helen Wright - Number 20

£50 Liam Keane - Number 159

£25 Jackie Padfield - Number 113

£25 Maureen Mulvey - Number 24

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

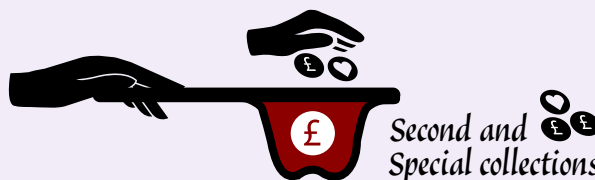
Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



Second collections – January/February

28th January - 4 in 1- Racial Justice/Communication/Day for Life/ Peter's Pence.

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 references:

4in1/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

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 Lord

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 **5th January**. 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

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".

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 finish and social to follow.

Dates for 2024

Tuesday 23rd January - Allocated

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 parish.office@stjamespettswood.org to agree mutually convenient date.

Sunday 21st January 2024 - 4pm/4:30pm at St James the Great Catholic Church

Come and foster Christian Unity within Petts Wood churches Together.



Evangelisation Pillar

Gather around the Cross for:

- Meditative singing of Taize chants
- Listening to the Word of God
- Time of stillness and silence
- Praying for our own communities and the wider world

Tea and Coffee will be served afterwards

Repair Cafe In Petts Wood

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

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: **27 January, 24 February, 23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June** and **27 July**. You just turn up on the day with your item to be repaired.

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.

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.

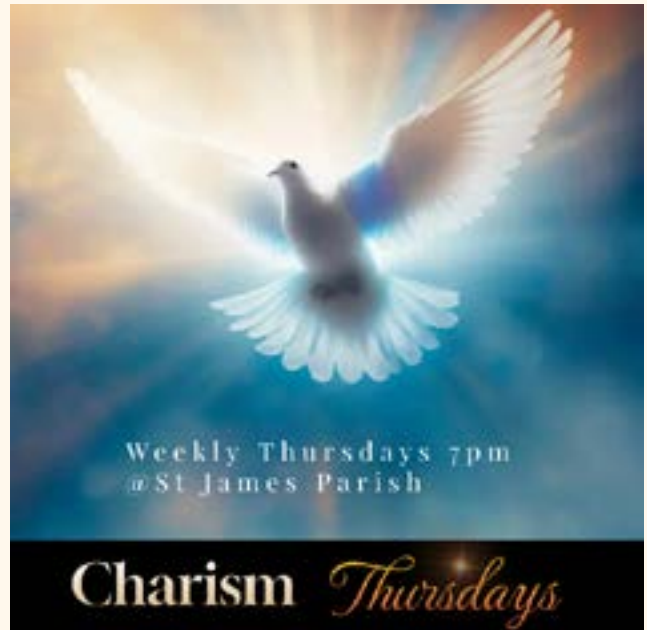
Dates for the upcoming evenings are as below – pls note the 2 week break on 8th and 15th February:

January: 18th , 25th

February: 1st, 22nd, 29th

Kind regards,

Nick





Evangelisation Pillar

Bromley Borough Foodbank

On behalf of Bromley Borough Foodbank, I would like to thank everyone at St James The Great for donating an amazing 795.45 kg of food to the Foodbank in 2023 and for your continuing support. Your donations helped us feed many vulnerable people in our community, over 14,000 last year, and support those most in need.

Many thanks once again to you all for showing such kindness and generosity.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce



The current needs are for:

- Squash
- Fruit Juice
- Cooking Sauces
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Razors

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
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

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.



Communication Pillar

How to keep those New Year Resolutions



We are full of good intentions at the start of each year. How come we fizzle out by February? Here are some tips to keep you going...

Be realistic. If you have a number of goals, do NOT attempt them all at once. Research has found that if you stagger your goals, you will have more success. So, for example, if this year you want to spend less money, do more exercise and spend more time with your family, start one change this month, another in February, and start the third in March.

Be specific. For example, don't tell yourself: Lose weight. Decide exactly how much you want to lose. When do you want to lose it by? How will you do it? If you want more time with your family, how and when will you do that? The more exact you can be, the more likely you are to succeed.

Write it down. There's something about committing thoughts to paper that helps to cement your resolve. Why not start some sort of journal this year, to track your thoughts, your hopes, your goals – and your successes!

Tell other people. If you intend to do something, tell someone, and therefore you will feel more obliged to get going with it... your pride may keep you going when all else fails!

Focus on GAIN, not loss. Ever notice how many resolutions are about giving something up? Why not put it the other way round - instead of saying you will eat less, tell yourself you are headed for those skinny jeans....

Give yourself rewards. If you are quitting smoking or sweets, for example, put the money you would have spent in a jam jar, and treat yourself to something nice (and healthy) with it.

Break your resolution into steps. Some goals will take months to achieve. So – break each one down into tiny steps, and simply head for each step. Build in some time frames, to prevent you procrastinating.

Finally, don't let failure defeat you. You will make mistakes. But the secret is to simply get up again, and to keep going. Only if you stop are you really defeated. None of us are perfect, and the Bible encourages us to always start again.



Communication Pillar

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 altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org.

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.

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



Social Pillar

Wishing you a very happy New Year and a wonderful 2024.

Christmas Fair

Many, many thanks to everyone who contributed to or helped with the Christmas Fair. Not only did the hall and stalls look beautiful but there was a wonderful community spirit present throughout the day. As an added bonus we raised £2400.00 on the day. What a magnificent effort.

Christmas Thank You

I would like to thank those of you who helped make our Christmas celebrations so wonderful. The decorations, flowers, crib and the entire church looked lovely. Also to all the Servers, choirs, instrumentalists and everyone who take part in the Masses. Also, on behalf of myself, Bishop Pat, Fr Andrew, Suzanne and Caroline I would like to thank you for all your cards, gifts and generosity too.

Fr. David God Bless You.

Christmas Day Lunch

On Christmas day, Fr David and 13 parishioners enjoyed a wonderful lunch organized by Chola Ingle. The food was prepared by several volunteers who generously donated their time and skills to make the meal such a very enjoyable experience for everyone who shared the afternoon with Fr David.

The lunch was held in the Community Centre, where the atmosphere was warm and cheerful with the lunch being a memorable and meaningful way to mark the Christmas day and a great way to celebrate the birth of Christ and to strengthen the bonds of friendship and faith in the Parish.

At the end of the meal, Fr David thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions to the parish community. He also gave a blessing and prayed for peace and joy in the new year.

Everyone left with a smile on their face and a feeling of gratitude in their heart.





Social Pillar

Parish New Year's Eve Party





Social Pillar



With less than two weeks' planning time, how marvellous it was to have a full house at this family focused event. The power of St James' parish party spirit coupled with the great value of the Family Ticket (held at £35) made this final event of the year, another celebratory success. With good food, prosecco and good conversation flowing, the night was punctuated by more sensational solo and group karaoke performances bathed in festive low lights against a glittery backdrop. Fr David seemed to have caught the karaoke bug and gave another relaxed and captivating performance, this time of The Prayer – a stunning duet with the great Andrea Bocelli!

High energy activities were put on for the children, who seemed even more competitive than last year! Well done to the girls' team for winning the dress-up relay and charades. The boys' team fought hard to win the all new Festive-Name-That-Tune! Huge thanks and credit to Paul and the team behind the bar, for helping to ramp up the new year spirit - we may have hit a parish personal best in prosecco drinking! On the big screen, videos of other countries ringing in the new year ahead of us, were streaming in, and finally as the midnight chimes rang loud, confetti cannons were set off and Fr David leapt into action to lead a full house Conga line, to Feliz Navidad!

The unbeatable good will and support of a few (we need more!) ensured the night ran smoothly – heartfelt thanks to the NYE dream team: Matt, Vera, Rosa, Sam, Mike and Paul for making this possible, and to the wonderful Cheryl, Jennifer and Sofia for stepping up to serve the meal to each and every party goer. Mike and Lolly want to express their gratitude to all the families who stayed (again) until the end, to help clear-up and pack-up. Huge thanks also to Kate, Paul and Dawn for checking in early on New Year's Day to perform the final 'finessing', ensuring the hall was fit for use, again. **Happy New Year with best wishes for an event-filled year in 2024!**



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 17th January**. We will be 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!

January date for The Companions Afternoon Club:

30th January

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:

21st February - Small Pleasures by Clare Chambers - Clare will be joining us for this meeting so it would be great if you could join us - it should be interesting to talk to the author)

20th March - All my Mothers by Joanna Glen

April - no meeting

Please email the Parish Office if you have any queries.

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League

Our January CWL meeting will be held in the afternoon, 1-3pm on **Wednesday 31st January** in the Community Centre.

We will be welcoming Bishop Pat who is coming to give a talk. Please come along and learn more about the CWL and Bishop Pat.

Our CWL National Charity is PACT. This is the Prison Advice and Care Trust. PACT supports people affected by imprisonment to cope and to make a fresh start, including prisoners, people with convictions, their children and families.

We will be giving more information in the New Year about the backpacks we will be making up, containing toiletries and basic items for prisoners as they leave prison.

We are also planning another Plant Sale in the Spring, so please remember CWL when you have too many seedlings or plants.

Film nights in January, February and March

First of all, a very loud thank you to everyone who joined us last month in festive spirit to watch "Scrooge" & also to those who joined us on 13 January for "To Kill a Mockingbird."

In December your generosity raised £130 in donations to buy something special for the new Parish Peace Garden. JPIC are extremely grateful!

This month your donations amounted to a wonderful £140 for Keen2Go, a South London based Charity which runs programmes of events & activities for young people with autism & learning difficulties.

On **Saturday, 17 February**, our film will be "Jimmy's Hall", directed by Ken Loach.

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 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 running time is 104 minutes.

Any donations raised will go towards the purchase of small LED Lanterns, which will be used to decorate the Church for particular special occasions.

Preview!

Our Film in March 23rd will be "Their Finest" starring Bill Nighy & Gemma Arterton. More information to follow in February.

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!



Social Pillar

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.



Youth Matters

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

**SHROVE TUESDAY
PANCAKE NIGHT**

**TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
6.30-8.00PM**

ST JAMES COMMUNITY CENTRE

**ALL YOUR FAVOURITE FILLINGS AND
TOPPINGS GALORE
AND A HOT CHOCOLATE!**

**AGES 7-16
SCAN TO REGISTER
£5.00 ENTRY**

2024 LAUNCH

**faith
in action**
Catholic Awards Scheme

**Saturday 3rd February
11.00am - 12.30pm**

St James the Great
283 Crescent Dr, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY
Open to young people aged 9-18

Please register in advance of the launch

- Scan the QR code to register
- Bring a friend
- Meet the FIA Team
- Meet charities we work with
- Select the award level for you
- Complete your Sign-Up

See you there!

ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Awards Scheme



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

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

 [@stjamespettswood](#)

 [01689 827100](tel:01689827100)

 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 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**



Finance Pillar



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:

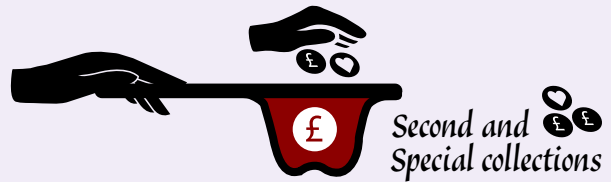
Nat West Bank

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 references:

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 Lord

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

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".

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 finish and 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.

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.

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 2 week break on 8th and 15th February:

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.



Communication Pillar



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 Group.

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 Scout Leader

Are you passionate about helping young 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 is 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 new skills, meet new 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



Communication Pillar

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 altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org.

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.

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



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 21st February**. We will be 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:

21st February - Please join us at 7.30pm on Wednesday 21st 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.

"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



Social Pillar

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.

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.



Youth Matters

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

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE NIGHT
TUESDAY 13TH FEBRUARY
6.30-8.00PM
ST JAMES COMMUNITY CENTRE
 ALL YOUR FAVOURITE FILLINGS AND TOPPINGS GALORE AND A HOT CHOCOLATE!

2024 LAUNCH

faith in action
 Catholic Awards Scheme

Saturday 3rd February
11.00am - 12.30pm

St James the Great
 283 Crescent Dr, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY
 Open to young people aged 9-18

Please register in advance of the launch

- Scan the QR code to register
- Bring a friend
- Meet the FIA Team
- Meet charities we work with
- Select the award level for you
- Complete your Sign-Up

See you there!

AGES 7-16
 SCAN TO REGISTER
 £5.00 ENTRY

ST JAMES THE GREAT
 Parish of St James the Great



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **MARCH 2024**

Social Pillar

- Quiz Night

Youth Pillar

- Faith In Action

Evangelisation Pillar

- Peace Garden Update

Communication Pillar

- 85th Anniversary of our parish

FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE

 [@stjamespettswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjamespettswood)

 01689 827100

 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 <https://stjamespettswood.weebly.com>



Pastoral Care Pillar

The Memory Cafe

The Memory Cafe continues to flourish under the excellent leadership of Kate and Suzanne together with the band of volunteers.

We usually have just under 40 guests from various parts of the borough. Although some guests are parishioners the majority are not and that works very well. Many strong friendships have been made and carers help one another sharing ideas and information.

The children from St James' school attend regularly and both pupils and guests enjoy chatting together comfortably. One of our guests can always be relied upon to make some beautiful cakes for special occasions, they are a real treat for everyone. A long standing guest died last year and the coffin was brought in to the Church accompanied by Bring Me Sunshine as a tribute to our Memory Cafe. We always finish with this song and it makes us all smile.

Many people living with dementia could be eligible to claim Attendance Allowance depending on their needs. Attendance Allowance is a tax free non contributory benefit payable to people state pension age and over who have needed help with their personal care for six months prior to the date of the claim.

In August 2019 the criteria for Blue Badge applications changed to include people living with dementia. A successful application would be dependent on the person's mobility, perception and several other factors.

If you require some help or advice in completing any of the above application forms please contact the Parish Office who can signpost you to someone who has experience of these forms.

The Healing Mass

The Healing Mass was held on Monday 12th February. It was well attended with around 100 parishioners. Fr David had chosen some meaningful words from the scriptures relating to healing and anointed with oil those parishioners who chose to come forward. It was a humbling and serene experience. Fr. David helped those going through spiritually, mentally and physically challenging times. The musicians accompanied the service beautifully and we all found it an uplifting and moving experience.

Welcome

We would all like to give a very warm welcome to our latest new member Jane Blake. Jane has already been a great help to our team and we know she will be a wonderful asset. Jane has kindly written the article below describing her personal experience. Thank you Jane.

World Autism Awareness Month

April is World Autism Awareness Month. This year marks the 16th annual World Autism Awareness Day on 2nd April!

St James the Great parish will celebrate all autistic people and their families/friends with an Autism Acceptance Mass at 11am on Sunday 7th April.

Speaking from first hand experience, this yearly Mass was a huge success last year. My 22 year old son who has a diagnosis of profound autism attended with us and was made to feel so welcome by Father David and all the parish community. As a family we also felt understood in a way that we have never experienced at any other church previously.

Mass and social/formal occasions can cause huge anxiety for autistic people, sometimes leading them to cover their ears or shout loudly. The pressure to be quiet and conform can be totally overwhelming at times.

Please do support our autistic parishioners with a welcome smile. It will make them feel included and loved in an often lonely and judgemental society. Thank you.

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

Sunday 7th April 11am - **World Autism Acceptance Week**

Sunday 12th May 11am - **Dementia Awareness Week Mass**

Sunday 7th 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**



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the February Winners

£100 Raycarlos Cruz - Number 199

£50 Jonathan Baker - Number 138

£25 Joanna Molloy - Number 130

£25 Marie Morley - Number 34

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:

Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

For members paying by Standing Order no action is required.

Thank you all for your continued support

Ken Evans

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

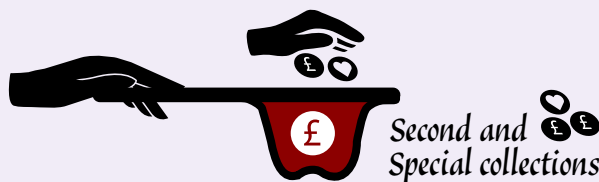
Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



Second collections – March

17th March - Poor Parishes

24th March - Maintenance/Building Fund

31st March - Easter Offering - The collection at the Masses over the Easter weekend are your personal offerings for your Parish Priest.

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

Poor Parishes - PP/Gift Aid Number/Surname

Maintenance/Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/Surname

Easter Offering - Easter/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

The evangelisation pillar are busy working on a parish plan for evangelisation and formation for 2024, which is to be submitted to the diocese.

Lent 2024

The Practice of the Presence of God – Brother Lawrence is the book that has been chosen as the topic for a Lenten workshop taking place in the Parish Community Centre on Saturday 16th March. This will be followed by a shared lunch. Please let the parish office know if you wish to attend.

Stations of the Cross will be held each Sunday during Lent at 3pm. The Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation group will be leading an Oscar Romero themed Way of the Cross on one of those weeks.

Taizé – Prayers around the Cross will be held on Good Friday at 8pm

We will be presenting a cheque to a representative of the Archbishop Romero Trust at 6pm mass on Saturday 16th March – this is to pay for the Autoclave purchased through the Parish Overseas Project for the Divine Providence Hospital in El Salvador. The generous donations from parishioners have made this possible. We are continuing to collect to make a contribution towards the cost of installing solar panels at the hospital.

We will be inviting a representative from Missio – an organisation supporting missionaries abroad to come and speak at masses later in the year. We are hoping to sponsor a seminarian for 4 years. More details to follow.

Bromley Foodbank urgently need contributions as demand is currently outstripping supply. Please consider adding something to your weekly shop. A list of their most urgent requirements will be at the collection point in the church porch.

SAVE THE DATE!

25th – 27th October for a Parish Weekend Retreat – More details to follow.

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

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 **1st March**. 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

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".

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.

Provisional Timing for House Mass:

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

8:05pm Start Mass

8:50pm Mass finish and social to follow.

Dates for 2024

Tuesday 14th May - Allocated

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.

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.

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

Dates for the upcoming March evenings are as below – 7th, 14th, 21st.



Evangelisation Pillar

Passing On The Faith

How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages?

Four online sessions for parents starting Wednesday 28th February, 8pm – 9:30pm.

And for grandparents, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18th April, 7:30 – 9pm.

Email Lisette on mflse@rcaos.org.uk

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than May 31, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

Day of Prayer – Petts Wood Churches Together

Following an uplifting and peaceful Day of Prayer with Petts Wood Churches Together last year, we've decided to have another one.

This one will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday 4th May from about 9.30am until about 4pm.

There will be more information and invitations for participants soon.

Meantime we would like to invite volunteers to sign up as welcomers, and to coordinate hospitality and refreshments, including hot drinks all day, a sandwich lunch with fruit midday, and perhaps tea and cakes in the mid-afternoon. (Any bakers out there?....)

Would you like to be a part of this hospitality team? If you would, please contact the Parish Office, to join the helpers list for the Day of Prayer, on 01689 827100, or by email to: pettswood@rcaos.org.uk. See you there and thank you!

Repair Cafe In Petts Wood

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

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: **23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 29 June** and **27 July**.

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.

Could you be the next happy customer?

Lent Carbon Fast Calendar 2024

If you have not, do pick up your copy of the Lent Carbon Fast Calendar 2024 from the back of the church or request a digital copy by contacting the Parish Office. The calendar has a suggestion for every day of Lent.

Parish Peace Garden Update

Following the update in the December 2023 Monthly Newsletter regarding the Peace Garden, work has now commenced on the hard landscaping of the Peace Garden area, installation of the pergola and implementing a pathway to the Garden. It is anticipated that this work would be completed by mid-March, with a very high dependency on the weather.



Please contact the Parish office, if you would like to get involved with gardening work and helping with continued maintenance when the hard landscaping work has completed.

Thank you to all Parishioners who have donated generously towards this Project and continue to help with the maintenance. We hope for your continued support both financial and with gardening skills and your prayers to make this Project a Success.

Continue to pray for peace in our lives, our community and across the world. **Join us on 17th March.**

A Day With Mary

Further information on A Day With Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at www adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com



Evangelisation Pillar

Parish Overseas Project Update and Feast of St. Oscar Romero Supporting the Divine Providence Hospital, El Salvador In collaboration with Archbishop Romero Trust

The JPIC group working with the Archbishop Romero Trust on the Parish Overseas Project have supported the Divine Providence Hospital in El Salvador over the last 2 years.

The hospital provides palliative care to the community in San Salvador. Our Diocese of Southwark have a close link with the Sisters of the Carmelite Community who run the Hospital and a strong devotion to St. Oscar Romero who lived at the hospital grounds.

As a Parish in delivering this project, we have supported the funding for procurement of an equipment sterilisation unit (Autoclave) costing circa GBP6800/- through the Archbishop Romero Trust and towards other requirements including installation of Solar panels to support reduction in energy bills and use of solar energy.

The JPIC Group thank all Parishioners for your generosity and support for the Parish Project through the various donations, collections and events in support of the Parish project.



Archbishop John Wilson and Sister Transito with 'Petts Wood Autoclave'

On Saturday, 16th March 2024, the 6pm Mass will be led by the JPIC group on the Theme of Justice and will be celebrated by Canon Michael Branch – Dean of St George's Cathedral, Southwark. During the mass there will be a presentation of the cheque for the amount collected towards procurement of the equipment sterilisation unit to Julian Filochowski - Chair of Archbishop Romero Trust.

24th March 2024 is the Feast of Saint Oscar and commemoration of the 44th anniversary of Saint Oscar's martyrdom. The Archbishop Romero Trust have organised a programme of events across the country. Further details can be found on the Romero News.

Some key dates from Romero Week Events:

- **Saturday 16th March - 11.00am, National Ecumenical Service at St Martin in the Fields, London**
- **Wednesday 20th March - 12.30pm, Mass and Romero School Awards at St George's Cathedral, Southwark**

We also encourage Parishioners, to watch the documentary on Romero's life – 'Righting the Wrong' and a film about the Jesuits slaughtered in 1989, 'What Lucia Saw', both of which can be accessed from <http://www.romerotrusted.org.uk/videos>.



Evangelisation Pillar



The current needs are for:

- Squash
- Cooking Sauces
- Tinned vegetables
- Angel Delight, Sponge pudding, jelly
- UHT Milk

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
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

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.

Bromley Foodbank Appeal

Once again the parishioners of St James' came up trumps when the Bromley Foodbank launched a desperate appeal for help as the demand for their services was outstripping the supply. In a joint initiative between the **Brownies, Girl Guides, Rangers and members of the parish JPIC group**, we arranged a special collection on Thursday 22 nd February. **Parishioners** brought much needed supplies to the Community Centre where they were sorted and bagged by the wonderful girls in our uniform groups ably led by Suzanne.

It was a tremendous response from our always generous parish and Bromley Foodbank had to send a van to collect all the items!

Thank you parishioners, and Suzanne and her team of helpers and Roger Wright for their co-ordination of the collection.

You donated a whopping **444 kilograms** of goods!

'I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat' Matt



How are we doing two weeks into Lent - a time of fasting, giving and praying?

Traditionally people give up sweets, chocolate, cake or biscuits, but you can give up anything! The idea is that the money you would normally spend on these treats can be saved up and given to a charitable cause. Identifying a charity you really want to support is a good starting point! The Bromley Foodbank are reporting on the increased support they are giving to locals. They say the need is far greater than the amount of actual food being donated.

Is this something you can help with?



Communication Pillar

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity Family

On behalf of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity (GOSH Charity), we would like to thank St James the Great RC Church for donating gifts to the children at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

The gifts you have donated have been distributed across the wards and different areas in the hospital, by the hospital's Play team.

Every day, around 750 seriously ill children and young people are seen at Great Ormond Street Hospital from all over the UK. Despite the greatest challenges a child can face, the hospital is a place where being sick does not always mean being sad. And it's a place where you'll find – today and every day – some of the bravest people you could ever meet.

The gifts you have donated mean so much to the seriously ill children and young people who are cared for at GOSH, throughout the year but particularly during the holiday season. For those children who can't go home for Christmas, receiving a gift in the hospital makes their time with us a little bit easier and gives them joy during some of the hardest times of their lives.

Thank you again for your wonderful support of Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Kind regards,

Megan Duckworth - Event Coordinator



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.delquercio@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

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 altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org.

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.

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.



Communication Pillar

21st Century Religious Films

For those of us of a certain age, the “religious film” conjures up the image of biblical epics like *The Ten Commandments* (1956), with Charlton Heston as Moses parting the Red Sea. While films of that type have long been out of fashion, Christian-themed films have continued to appear ever since, and I should like to recommend some examples from the 21st century, all available on DVD and streaming.

Top of the list has to be Terrence Malick’s *The Tree of Life* (2011), which opens with a quotation from the Book of Job: “Where were you when I laid the foundations of the Earth? When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” Brad Pitt is the strict father, and Jessica Chastain the saintly mother, of three boys, one of whom dies young. Looking back many years later, the eldest brother still agonises over why it had to happen, and a kind of answer is given in an extraordinary 17-minute flashback right to the creation of the universe. “God moves in mysterious ways”, we might say. Malick is an interesting director, a virtual recluse who never gives interviews and is rarely seen in public; he made two films in the 1970s and then disappeared for 20 years (apparently teaching philosophy in Paris). *The Tree of Life* is his masterpiece.

My next recommendation is Martin Scorsese’s *Silence* (2016), from the novel by the Japanese writer Shusaku Endo, itself based on fact. It tells of two 17th century Jesuit missionaries entering Japan where Christianity is forbidden and where a former colleague is said to have apostatised. The film (parts of which are not for the squeamish) raises important moral questions like: can it be justified to publicly renounce your faith in order to save the lives of others?

The very moving *Of Gods and Men* (2010), by French director Xavier Beauvois, tells the true story of a group of monks in Algeria in the 1990s who were victims of a terrorist group; one survived to tell the tale. The monks had excellent relations with the local Muslims, who were also seen as enemies by the terrorists.

I particularly like Pawel Pawlikowski’s *Ida* (2013), about a postulant nun in 1962 Poland who discovers from her aunt that her real parents were Jews killed in the war. She travels to the village where they lived, to find out how they died, and is confronted with the question of whether to continue her vocation. Beautifully shot in the style of black-and-white 1960s films.

Article by Alan Pavin

the teachings of the Church.

Our parish has a rich history of spiritual and pastoral activities, such as liturgies, sacraments, devotions, catechesis, missions, retreats, and social events. We have also been involved in various charitable and social justice initiatives, such as supporting the poor, the homeless, the sick, the elderly, the disadvantaged and have promoted the common good and the dignity of every human person.

As we celebrate our 85th anniversary, we thank God for all the gifts and blessings he has bestowed upon our parish. We also thank all the members and benefactors of our parish, past and present, who have contributed to its growth and development. We remember with gratitude and pray for all those who have gone before us.

We also look forward to the future with hope and enthusiasm, as we continue to live out our parish vision and mission. We commit ourselves to deepen our faith, to strengthen our unity, to share our gifts, and to serve our neighbours. We invite all people of good will to join us in our journey of faith and service, as we strive to be a sign and instrument of God’s kingdom in the world.

We also invite you to support our many celebratory events that will take place throughout the year. These events will showcase the diversity and vitality of our parish community. You can find more details and updates on our parish website, Newsletter, and social media. We hope you will join us in celebrating our 85th anniversary and making it a memorable and meaningful year for our parish.

**St James the Great
85th Anniversary Golf Day**

**Friday 5th July 2024
at Langley Park Golf Course**
Cost: £80

**Breakfast Roll and Coffee on arrival
and a One Course Meal**

**Prizes for:
Winner
Longest Drive
Nearest the Pin**

**To book contact:
Paul Cosgrave
paulatpalace@hotmail.com
or
Ken Evans
kenevans224@gmail.com**

85th anniversary of our parish

This year marks the 85th anniversary of our parish, a milestone that deserves to be celebrated with joy and gratitude. Since its foundation in 1939, our parish has been a vibrant community of faith and service, witnessing to the love of Christ and





Communication Pillar



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

Volunteer opportunities

There are 3 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 Group.

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 Scout Leader

Are you passionate about helping young 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 is 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 new skills, meet new 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

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



Social Pillar

St James Social Club

The St James Social Club is responsible for the running and licensing of the bar in the Community Centre. The **AGM** will be held on Sunday 17 March at 12 noon in the Community Centre. Items on the agenda will be as follows:

- 1 Minutes of the last AGM
- 2 Election of the Committee for 2024/2025
- 3 Financial Report
- 4 Any other business

All are welcome to attend.

With many thanks again, Owen

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 20th March**. We will be 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

- 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!

March dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesdays 6th and 13th March

Tuesdays 19th and 26th March

Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Book Club

Please consider joining us at our friendly, informal Book Group. We meet on the following Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Wednesday 20th March - All My Mothers, Joanna Glen

Wednesday 8th May - Midnight Library, Matt Haig

Wednesday 12th June - book tbc

Wednesday 10th July - book tbc

We look forward to welcoming you.

St. Patrick's Film Night on Saturday 16th March in the Parish Hall. Free to attend.

On the evening of Saturday 16th March (St Patrick's weekend) there will be some music, entertainment and a screening of 'The Quiet Man' in the Parish Hall from 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm.

This is a free event, sponsored by The Knights of St Columba. Everyone is welcome to attend, although we are limited to a maximum of about 100 people.

To get your free tickets, please write your name on the ticket list in the porch. (maximum 2 people per ticket please) and take your tickets with our compliments.

St Patrick's Film Night

St James the Great Parish Hall

Saturday 16th March 2024 ~ doors open 7.30 pm

A full evening of entertainment !



Irish Dancing

Live Music & Sing-a-long

Irish quiz - win a bottle of Potcheen !

Prize raffle !



an episode of 'Father Ted' ~ classic Irish comedy

followed by our main feature ~



The Quiet Man

This classic Irish film stars John Wayne as a retired boxer, who returns to his family roots in Ireland, and falls in love with the town beauty (Maureen O'Hara) who happens to be the sister of the local bully. Chaos ensues, and of course, love wins the day, but only after one of the biggest knock-about fight scenes ever filmed! Filmed entirely on location in Ireland, and featuring many of the actual local characters, this film is a true delight to watch.

This is a free screening, sponsored by The Knights of St. Columba.

Spaces are limited to 100 people.

There is a ticket list in the church entrance.

Write your name on the list and collect your free tickets!

Please note that we will be asking for voluntary donations towards our costs and fundraising.

Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.





Social Pillar

Film Nights in March and April

Thank you very much to everyone who came to our February Film Night. You raised a very generous £110 which will contribute to the cost of a number of LED candles for the Church.

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

During the World War 2 Blitz in 1940, a young talented scriptwriter, Cathrin Cole, joins the Ministry of Information & is thrust into the production of a major propaganda film. The aim is to celebrate Britain's resilience & thereby to shore up the morale & 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 outcome is based on a misapprehension.

The story then becomes the basis for a fictional film causing Cathrin & her colleagues, against many challenges, to come up with an acceptable script.

Donations raised will be converted into £5 Tesco vouchers for the Foodbank to provide extra support for during the Easter School Holiday period.

On **Saturday 13 April** we will be showing "A United Kingdom" (2016) starring Rosamund Pike & David Oyelowo - running time 106 minutes.

The film features the real-life romance of Prince (soon to become King) Seretse Khama of Botswana & Ruth Williams, a white, middle-class, London office worker. Their marriage in 1948 sparks outrage in both their families as well as political turmoil & an international crisis.

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!

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League (CWL)

The March meeting of the CWL will be held on Wednesday 20th March at 1pm.

Liana will be coming along to give a talk entitled '42 years of wildlife in the French and British diplomatic service'.

All are welcome to come along and hear the stories behind this intriguing title.

Plant Sale

Please pot up your extra plants and seedlings ready for our Annual Plant Sale at the end of May.

PACT

We will soon be giving more information about the backpacks we will be putting together to give prisoners as they leave prison.



Social Pillar



QUIZ

NIGHT

FUNDRAISER

by the Young People of
Confirmation Cohort 2024

+RAFFLE

SATURDAY 9TH MARCH

7PM ONWARDS

QUIZ, FOOD, BAR, MUSIC

TICKETS £10 Adults £5 Child £25 Family

Text/Telephone **LOLLY 07541 759163**
or Register by QR Code >>>>>>>>



**Please join us in raising essential
money in aid of BLG MIND and
Make A Wish Foundation.**





Youth Matters

Upcoming Youth Events

Saturday 9th March 2.00pm - 6.00pm - Confirmation 2024 Charity Fundraiser, Community Centre

Sunday 24th March 3.00pm - 4.00pm - Palm Sunday: The Passion of Christ

Thursday 28th March 7.00pm - 8.30pm - Easter Triduum: The Mass of the Lord's Supper, Church

Friday 29th March 10.00pm - 11.30am - Children's Liturgy: Good Friday Stations of the Cross - Community Centre (children and families welcome)

Friday 29th March 3.00pm - 4.00pm - Easter Triduum: Good Friday Service

Saturday 30th March 7.00pm - 8.30pm - Easter Triduum: Easter Vigil Mass

Sundat 31st March 10:15pm - 12.30pm - Easter Egg Quiz Hunt - Community Centre (children and families welcome)

ST JAMES' the GREAT
United Church in All Words

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD
GOOD FRIDAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS
10.00 - 11.30AM**

ST JAMES' COMMUNITY CENTRE

Please scan and register to attend - thank you >>>>

A faith in action event

ST JAMES' the GREAT
United Church in All Words

HOT CROSS BUNS, TEA & COFFEE ON THE HOUSE EVERYONE WELCOME!

EASTER

QUIZ HUNT
FOLLOW THE TRAIL OF CLUES & SOLVE THE EASTER MYSTERY

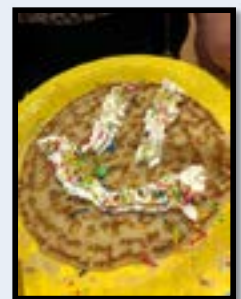
EASTER SUNDAY 10:15-12:30
ST JAMES' COMMUNITY CENTRE
VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION £5
PROCEEDS TO THE CYM YOUTH FUND

PLEASE HELP BY DONATING EGGS & DROP THEM TO THE PARISH OFFICE. *Thank you!*

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night - £123 raised for future youth events!

Thank you to all the adult and young volunteers who made the Pancake Night such a success!

33 young people, and some older pancake fans too, enjoyed a steady flow of over 100 pancakes with toppings galore. Some returned for fourth and fifth helpings creating new personal bests! After pancakes and a round of hot choc with whippy cream and marshmallows, we shared a short reflective liturgy in which some very thoughtful Lenten prayers were written, the Alleluia was packed away, and a closing spontaneous prayer was said. Wishing you all a happy Lent!





WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR LENT?

JESUS **DESERT** **40 DAYS**

FASTING

Starts Ash Wednesday
Ends the night before Easter Sunday (Holy Saturday)

Let's use these 40 days wisely! (5 weeks in all!)

WHAT IS LENT ABOUT ?

How can you do this in a fun but meaningful way?

Fast. Sacrifice or Living Simply

Pray more

Prepare your heart for Easter

Reflect: how can I help more?

Make time to Observe Holy Week

ACTIVITY 1

Holy water

Prayer card

An icon

Bible

Candle

Crucifix

Prepare your heart for Easter

Observe Holy Week

Put together your own mini family altar at home:

- make a small space
- arrange your items
- always light the candle with an adult

Pray more



2024 Year of Prayer - Can you be a Pilgrim of Prayer?

To mark this Year of Prayer as designated by Pope Francis, young people are being encouraged to #GivePrayerAGo.

This may mean starting to pray daily for some or simply more often, for others. Prayer is our way of welcoming Christ into our hearts. It will never make anything worse and can only make things better. But too often, we can all find it difficult to pray. We put up barriers between ourselves and Christ. Prayer makes you powerful, it is strength for the weak. That is why the illustrations of the campaign show enlarged hands. By opening our hearts to the Lord Jesus, we become strong.

How often have you said or thought: I'm too busy to pray or even that you don't know how or where to start? The biggest challenge is often just beginning. So together, let's Give Prayer A Go. Turn to Christ with your worries, hopes and thanks in prayer and watch how it transforms you. Prayer is strength for the weak. Prayer builds peace. Prayer is a gift from God. As Archbishop John Wilson said: "If we ask, we will be heard. If we seek, we will be found. If we knock, the Lord Jesus will open the door. Prayer builds peace."

Write your own prayers and share them with us! This is a wonderful way to deepen your prayer life. Giving you the chance to pray to the Lord Jesus, but also helping others too. You can write a prayer on anything – after having good day, being anxious at school, worrying about exams, or praying for a family member to get better.

Tips for writing prayers:

- Prayer is your way of speaking to Christ. So write what comes to your heart and share!
- If you're looking for inspiration on what to write, you could:
- give thanks to Christ for someone you love or something you are grateful for;
- praise Jesus for all He has done for you and others – let's adore and glorify Him together!
- share the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus, asking Him to help you and others in their lives;
- ask the Lord Jesus for support or help, put your worries and hopes on Him; or
- seek forgiveness and ask for His mercy.



Youth Matters

Praying together is a brilliant way to get involved.

For example, before dinner or before bed, why not pray as a family? Open your heart to Christ and let Him in. Or ask a friend to join you in prayer. Let us know how you're praying! It will help encourage others to follow in your steps too. Read more about #GivePrayerAGo: <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/faith/giveprayerago>



"Yours are the hands, yours are the feet.

Yours are the eyes, you are His body".

Teresa of Avila

Since 2017, the Catholic Youth Ministry Team of Bromley Deanery has been running enriching youth days, careers days and the national awards scheme, Faith in Action. The award, endorsed by the Bishops of England and Wales, enables young people to grow individually and together – growing faith-filled and purposeful lives, supported to help and serve others at home, in school, in the parish wider community. This provides young people with an alternative vision of 'success', a fuller understanding of what the Church is for and of the corporal works of mercy. The award is organised at deanery level and celebrated at diocesan level; it seeks to recognise and reward the efforts of young people doing good things for others as they explore how faith affects their everyday living.

At the end of last year, Archbishop John Wilson, retired Canon Tom McHugh and our Dean of Bromley, Fr Steve Wymer attended the Faith in Action Awards Ceremony at Bishop Challoner School, where Faith in Action has now rolled out successfully, as part of the curriculum in Years 6, 7 and 8. The programme has an annual cycle, with its launch in February and a big celebration in November marking all that our young people have achieved over the course of the year. It is open to young people of all faiths and is under-pinned by five key elements, which are all equally important to the award: Service across four levels, Spiritual Growth & Development, four in-person Reflective Sessions covering different themes, Personal Reflections recorded in any media of the candidate's choice, and a Final Piece expressing their past year's experience, for submission in October. Personal reflections enable the participant to contemplate and express their involvement in this guided and structured programme: what they like about the programme, the impact of their service and how it makes them feel as they grow and develop in their faith and sense of belonging.

More importantly, it is an opportunity to strengthen their relationship with God, and to identify with sources of inspiration provided through gospel readings, saints and church stories shared in-session. Visiting guest speakers and engaging arts and craft activities help to fill the enriching reflective sessions, in a setting where everyone feels supported as they explore faith and make new friends. In between each session, there are opportunities to take inspiration and to live in the light of the gospel word, in practical and tangible ways, often fundraising independently or as part of a group whilst growing their leadership skills. In 2023, participants collectively performed 1300hrs of service in various settings and managed collectively, to raise over £1800 for their respective, chosen charities. We are delighted for the Gold level award recipients, who were praised and congratulated by Archbishop John, at the awards ceremony. Most of them have participated in Faith in Action for six or more years, on a journey of growth and self-discovery, learning how the pillars of Catholic social teaching can guide, inform and shape their daily lives of mission and discipleship.

Following this year's launch of Faith in Action here at St James the Great, we hope to continue to draw young people from across the deanery, into this rewarding programme. Please keep the programme and its youth ministry volunteers who help to roll out each session, in your prayers.



Youth Matters



If you missed Launch Day but you're still thinking of joining, it's not too late! Young people aged 9-18 of St James Parish, St James Primary and surrounding schools - you are warmly invited to **'Come & See' at Reflective Session One St James' Church (not Community Centre) 23rd March 2.30 - 6.00pm**

Meet the FIA team and get a taste of what we get up to, before signing up. We really look forward to greeting you there!

Lolly Bell, Youth Pillar Lead, St James the Great.

Southwark CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the recent Synodal process within our Archdiocese, the resounding theme emerges - our concern for the future of young people and their departure after they reach Confirmation age. In response to this call, I would like to share details of some events and activities to assist our youth (under 18) and young adults (18-35) in their faith journey.

We intend to develop and increase our activities according to demand and your feedback. Please sign up to our youth network below to receive regular updates - www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork

Pope Francis has called for our young people to be "living stones in the Church." Most importantly, let us continue to pray that our collective efforts give me a systems to do this, so they may be filled with the joy of the Lord and bear fruit that will last. Yours sincerely in Christ



The Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

Southwark Catholic Youth Service

www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/southwark-catholic-youth-service

Opportunities for Young People in 2024

<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service/events-2024/>

Youth Days (10-14) - www.tinyurl.com/scysyouthday

Worship & Wisdom Evenings (16-35) - www.tinyurl.com/scysworship

Youth Retreat Days (13-17) - www.tinyurl.com/scysretreat

Catholic Young London Network - www.tinyurl.com/scylnetwork



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **April 2024**

Social Pillar

- St James Golf Day

Pastoral Care Pillar

- Memory Cafe

Evangelisation Pillar

- Day of Prayer

Communication Pillar

- Catenian Association

FOLLOW US & FIND OUT MORE

 [@stjamespettswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjamespettswood)

 01689 827100

 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 <https://stjamespettswood.weebly.com>



Pastoral Care Pillar

As a follow up to last month's article on the Memory Cafe we all enjoyed our exercise session on the 5th March. Our tutor, Ann, is from MyTime active and does sessions regularly for those living with Dementia and their Carers.



On Sunday 12th May the 11.00 am Mass is dedicated to Dementia Awareness Week.

For your information

If you are deaf or have hearing loss, you might be able to access public transport support services and initiatives for disabled people.

You and your travelling companion could get a third-off rail travel, and you might be eligible for free or discounted travel on local public transport.

You can get a Disabled Person's Railcard if you live in England, Scotland or Wales and are registered as deaf with your local authority or use hearing aids.

The card costs £20 for one year or £54 for three years, but you'll get one third off most adult rail fares at any time of the day for travel on the National Rail network in Great Britain.

If you're travelling with another adult, they'll also get one third off their rail fare, so you can save money for a friend or family member too. The following website will give further information <https://www.disabledpersons-railcard.co.uk/>

If you are deaf you may be eligible to a Blue Badge depending on your circumstances. Again here is the website for further information <https://www.dvla-contact-number.co.uk/can-deaf-people-get-a-blue-badge/>

If you have lost a family member or friend this year and you would like to remember them at either the Mass for Bereaved Parents their Families & their Friends or the November Memorial Service please contact the Parish Office. It is not necessary to contact us if the funeral took place at St James.

Our small team of nine would really welcome new members. If you would like to know more about our role in

the parish please approach Fr David or team member.

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

Sunday 7th April 11am - **World Autism Acceptance Week**

Sunday 12th May 11am - **Dementia Awareness Week Mass**

Sunday 7th 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**



Pastoral Care Pillar

Beginning Experience Weekend coming up on 12-14th April 2024

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss.

The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again

This next programme will be held on 12-14 April 2024; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884 315, or email besouthofengland@gmail.com



*A weekend away
for a lifetime of change*

following separation, divorce or death
of your spouse/partner,
to help you move
from the darkness of grief
into the light of a new beginning.

The next weekend is 12-14 April 2024
at Sion Community,
Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX



For more information contact
Maura: 07795-498445
or Mary: 020 8647 4760
email: besouthofengland@gmail.com



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the March Winners

- £100 - Jackie Cosgrave. Number 10
- £50 - Irene Webb. Number 110
- £25 - Steve Weekly. Number 188
- £25 - John Norris. Number 72

200 Club Subscriptions

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

Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

For members paying by Standing Order no action is required.

Thank you all for your continued support

Ken Evans

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

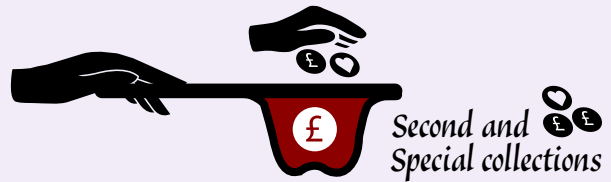
Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



Second collections in April

14th April - Maintenance/Building Fund

21st April - Priest' Training

28th April - Maintenance of Cathedral

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

Maintenance/Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/Surname

Priest Training - PT/Gift Aid Number/Surname

Maintenance of Cathedral - MOC/Gift Aid Number/Surname

Envelopes for the next financial year

Boxes of envelopes for the next financial year are now available for collection at the back of the church.

The boxes include 12 envelopes for the monthly Maintenance/Buildings Fund collections but if you do not have your envelope with you when you come to Mass there are spare envelopes available. If you no longer need the envelopes which have been ordered for you, please let the parish office know or put the envelopes into the box for unused envelopes.

The diocese has also provided multi-purpose envelopes, which can be used for Mass Intentions and any special collections, including the Christmas and Easter offerings. These envelopes are available from the welcomers at Mass. If you are a Gift Aider you do not need to write your name and address every time, provided that you show your Gift Aid number and tick the fund to which you are donating.

The Maintenance/Church Building fund is very important to the finances of the parish, partly because we have several projects due to be completed but also because donations to this fund do not attract the 30% levy which is used for the central expenses of the diocese. If you would like to make regular donations to this fund through a standing order, please contact the parish office or email gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.



Evangelisation Pillar

SAVE THE DATE!

25th – 27th October for a Parish Weekend Retreat – More details to follow.

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

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 **5th April**. 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

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".

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.

Provisional Timing for House Mass

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

8:05pm Start Mass

8:50pm Mass finish and social to follow.

Dates for 2024

Tuesday 14th May - Allocated

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.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than May 31, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

Day of Prayer – Petts Wood Churches Together

Following an uplifting and peaceful Day of Prayer with Petts Wood Churches Together last year, we've decided to have another one.

This one will take place in the Community Centre on Saturday 4th May from about 9.30am until about 4pm.

There will be more information and invitations for participants soon.

Meantime we would like to invite volunteers to sign up as welcomers, and to coordinate hospitality and refreshments, including hot drinks all day, a sandwich lunch with fruit midday, and perhaps tea and cakes in the mid-afternoon. (Any bakers out there?....)

Would you like to be a part of this hospitality team? If you would, please contact the Parish Office, to join the helpers list for the Day of Prayer, on 01689 827100, or by email to: pettswood@rcaos.org.uk. See you there and thank you!

Repair Cafe In Petts Wood

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

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: **27 April, 25 May, 29 June and 27 July**.

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.

Could you be the next happy customer?



Evangelisation Pillar



TO DONATE TO US ONLINE SCAN THE QR CODE



WANTED

OUR MOST NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

Tinned Cold Meats
Cooking Sauce
Tinned Fruit
Desserts-Jelly, Sponge Pudding etc
Tinned Custard

PLEASE DON'T GIVE US FROZEN OR CHILLED ITEMS AS WE DON'T HAVE THE CORRECT STORAGE FOR THEM, AND IT SPOILS BEFORE WE CAN DISTRIBUTE THEM.

23/03/24

TAKE A PHOTO OF THIS LIST WITH YOUR PHONE TO REFER TO WHILE YOU SHOP!

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF FOOD SUPPORT PLEASE CONTACT US ON 0800 9 20 23 24



The current needs are for:

- Tinned Cold Meat
- Cooking Sauces
- Tinned Fruit
- Angel Delight, Sponge pudding, jelly
- Tinned Custard

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
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

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.





Communication Pillar

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

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.delquercio@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

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 altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org.

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.

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.

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

St James' RC Primary School Vacancy

Please let the school office know if you are interested in being a Mid-day Supervisor at St James'. We do have vacancies at present and if you would like to consider this please let us know. We would be happy to answer any questions that you may have about the role.



Communication Pillar

In the March newsletter I recommended 4 films on Christian themes from the last 20 years.

Here are another 4, all available on DVD and for streaming.

Terrence Malick's *A Hidden Life* (2019) was made 8 years after *The Tree of Life* which I recommended last time. It tells the true story of Franz Jagerstatter, an Austrian farmer who refused to swear allegiance to the Nazis and was executed as a result. He was beatified by the Catholic Church in 2007. The film, shot mostly in South Tyrol, is full of the beautiful images of nature associated with Malick's films. Jagerstatter is shown as resisting all attempts by those in his village, including the clergy, to submit to Nazi demands. At nearly 3 hours long, the film requires patience, with a last hour or so that is not an easy watch, but is very rewarding.

Paul Schrader's *First Reformed* (2017) is a near-remake of a 1962 Swedish film called *Winter Light*. Ethan Hawke plays a minister whose church is preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary. But he is assailed from all sides by various problems: his own serious ill-health, a woman in his congregation with persistent romantic designs on him, and another woman whose husband is threatening suicide out of despair at the state of the world. By the end of the film, the congregation filling the church are waiting and wondering why the minister is so late in turning up. The film is basically a very well-acted psychological drama, with a quite bizarre ending.

Godland (2022), by the Icelandic director Hlynur Palmason, is about a Danish Lutheran priest in the 19th century sent to Iceland to establish a new church. Hindered by language difficulties and particularly the harsh conditions, he encounters much more than he bargained for. For many viewers the film's main attraction is the stunning Icelandic scenery, best seen on the big screen.

For something different, try Philip Groning's documentary *Into Great Silence* (2005), portraying the day-to-day lives of the Carthusian monks of the Grande Chartreuse, a monastery in the French Alps. There is no commentary, no added sound, very few spoken words, just the rhythm of daily life there. It took the monks 16 years to decide to allow the film to be made!

Alan Pavelin

.....

The Catenian Association - Rosary Group 'Rosaries for the World'

Once again, the Catenian Brothers of Blackheath and Chislehurst Circle have forwarded a package of Rosaries kindly donated by your parishioners and please once again thank everyone involved. I am sure I can find a good home for them.

I am currently packaging up some to send to Malawi and the priest there has a parish the size of Kent and gets around on a motor bike!

I received some photographs from the last package I sent

out there and have shared them below.



Your efforts are greatly appreciated and help us to spread Our Blessed Lady's message of love peace and hope to new people.

God Bless, Sincerely

Mike Bunting



Communication Pillar

Girlguiding - St James Girlguiding Units



We open up a world of possibilities to girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything.

It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Girlguiding group needs:
New leaders to help run three units -
2nd Petts Wood Brownies,
3rd Petts Wood Guides
Petts Wood Rangers.
For more information please email -
Suzanne Horner
pettswood@rcaos.org.uk



Register today



girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: Excepted from registration

3rd Petts Wood Scouts Group

Ellie makes all the difference. So could you.

Help young people in Petts Wood step up and dream big.

Interested? Contact Kate Charlesworth
#email: gsl3pwscouts@gmail.com

Scouts
3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

Dad and Me

Dad and Me

What is it?

A group of dads that meet monthly, with their kids – to chill out, chat with other dads, while their kids play!

Some details:

- For dads with kids aged 1-8
- Toys galore, incl. arts & crafts for the older kids
- “Bacon butties” all round, plus tea, coffee & biscuits (juice for the kids, vegan options available)
- Also an online network of dads – for sharing contacts, knowledge e.g. of tradesmen, schools. Over 70 strong currently, including dads from over 7 years ago!

What are the benefits?

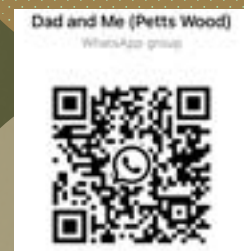
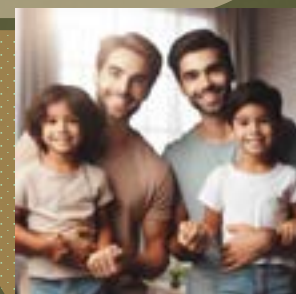
“Me time”, kids time and your partner get 2 hours free per month also!...WIN-WIN-WIN!

When and where?

10:15-12 Saturday mornings, once a month, at the Community Hall (next door)

How do I join?

Just join the Whatsapp group and get the latest on when the next ones are. David will kindly oblige.



Use this QR code and you're in!
(text me any issues...cheers, Jay)
07931 513598



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 17th April**. We will be 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

22nd 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!

March dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesdays 3rd and 10th April

Tuesdays 16th, 23rd and 30th April

Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Book Club

Please consider joining us at our friendly, informal Book Group. We meet on the following Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

Wednesday 8th May - Midnight Library, Matt Haig

Wednesday 12th June - book tbc

Wednesday 10th July - book tbc

We look forward to welcoming you.

A message from The Knights

The Knights of St Columba would like to thank all those who came to the St Patrick's Film Night on the 16th March. It was a fun evening with music, a raffle, an Irish themed quiz, followed by a screening of the classic film The Quiet Man. With your generous donations we raised £350 for The Knights of St Columba. We would like to thank everyone involved for their generosity and support.

Film Night

Thank you to everyone who attended the Film Night on 23 March. Your generous donations amounted to £70 & have been converted into £5 Tesco Vouchers for the Foodbank.

On **Saturday 13 April** we will be showing "A United Kingdom" (2016) starring Rosamund Pike & David Oyelowo - running time 106 minutes.

The film features the real-life romance of Prince, subsequently, King, Seretse Khama of Botswana & Ruth Williams, a white, middle-class, London office worker. Their marriage in 1948 sparked outrage in both their families as well as political turmoil & an international crisis.

On **Saturday, 11 May**, we will feature "Jackie" - running time 95 minutes. This 2016 film gives an intimate portrait of First Lady, Jackie Kennedy, during the days following her husband's assassination. Nathalie Portman received an Academy Award for her "the performance of a lifetime" in the starring role.

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!



Social Pillar

Parish Golf Day Invitation

You are cordially invited to join us for the St James the Great Parish Golf Day at Langley Park Golf Club on 5th July 2024, to celebrate the 85th anniversary of our Parish. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy a friendly and fun game of golf, as well as to support our parish community and mission.

The format will be an 18 hole Stableford competition, with tea/coffee, bacon roll on arrival and a late lunch at the end of the rounds. There will also be prizes for the longest drive, nearest the pin, and individual winner.

Tee times will be advised in due course once numbers are confirmed.

The cost of the event will be 850 per person, which includes green fees, Tea/Coffee and Bacon roll on arrival, lunch and a donation to the parish.

To book your place, please fill in the form below and return it by email to myself or Ken Evans by the 10th May 2024, along with your payment by Bank Transfer as shown on the application form.

Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to seeing you at the St James the Great Parish Golf Day and celebrating our parish anniversary with you!

Paul & Ken

**St James the Great
85th Anniversary Golf Day**

**Friday 5th July 2024
at Langley Park Golf Course**
Cost: £80

**Breakfast Roll and Coffee on arrival
and a One Course Meal**

**Prizes for:
Winner
Longest Drive
Nearest the Pin**

**To book contact:
Paul Cosgrave
paulatpalace@hotmail.com
or
Ken Evans
kenevans224@gmail.com**



**St James the Great
85th Anniversary Golf Day**

**Friday 5th July 2024
at Langley Park Golf Course**
Cost: £80



Name:	
Tel:	Handicap:
Address:	
Email Address:	
Please reserve the following Golf Day places:	@£80
Special Dietary Needs:	

Electronic Payment @ £80 each
Payable to: St James the Great Catholic Church
Account No: 13204297 Sort Code: 600814
Reference: *surname/golf day*

Requests for places must be recieved no later than: 5th June 2024

Please respond as soon as possible as places are limited and ensure forms are returned to: Paul Cosgrave - paulatpalace@hotmail.com or Ken Evans - kenevans224@gmail.com



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **May 2024**

Social Pillar

- Golf Day

Finance Pillar

- 200 Club

Evangelisation Pillar

- Day of Prayer

Communication Pillar

- Volunteering

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 [@stjamespettswood](https://www.facebook.com/stjamespettswood)

 01689 827100

 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 <https://stjamespettswood.weebly.com>



Pastoral Care Pillar

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love” Mother Teresa

As members of the Pastoral Care Team we are always pleased to hear of your joys, achievements and celebrations but also to support you in the losses and impact of death of those whom you love.

We endeavour to compliment your relationship with Fr David and feel privileged to be with you in any bereavement ceremony or funeral by preparing the Church and welcoming your families and friends, so they feel at home and valued in whatever way is appropriate.

Team News

Last month a new member joined our team, we are absolutely delighted to welcome Jane.



Hello. My name is Jane Blake. I joined the parish just after covid having followed Mass online during lockdown. My husband (Stephen) and I have two adult sons, Anthony and Ed. As a family we have experienced such a warm welcome from Father David and so many other parishioners. Even Ed, who is on the autistic spectrum and has learning difficulties enjoys a friendly reception whenever he feels able to attend Mass.

My background is as a research scientist but in recent years I have worked for a local charity which supports young people with special educational needs whilst also caring for my family.

The PCT at St James the Great supports so many people in the parish and I am honoured to be part of the team. I look forward to being involved and getting to support the parish in a meaningful way.

Jane Blake

Our door is always open to new members! If you are interested to learn more, with no commitment whatsoever, please have a word with any member of our Team or contact us via email to pastoral.team@stjamespettswood.org or the Parish Office pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

Autism Awareness Mass

We would like to thank everyone who came along to our Autism Awareness mass on Sunday 7th April, it was a very uplifting service. We feel it gave us all a special insight into the world of our Autistic parishioners and their families.

Special thanks go to the musicians and the choir for selecting and singing such beautiful hymns.

A big thank you also to Anthony Blake for reading such a beautiful verse and delivering it so movingly.

Last but certainly not least our grateful thanks to Fr David for supporting us in this very special mass, we couldn't do it without you, quite literally!

Mass for Bereaved Parents

If you have lost a family member or friend this year and you would like to remember them at either the Mass for Bereaved Parents their Families & their Friends or the November Memorial Service please contact the Parish Office. It is not necessary to contact us if the funeral took place at St James.

Forthcoming Themed Masses

Sunday 12th May 11am -Dementia Awareness Week Mass

Sunday 7th 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



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the April Winners

£100 - Richwood Lim Number 91

£50 - Sisie Mataj Number 175

£25 - Jonathon Baker Number 138

£25 - Fin Robinson Number 73

200 Club Subscriptions

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

Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

For members paying by Standing Order no action is required.

Thank you all for your continued support

Ken Evans

The 200 Club continues to flourish and at present there are five vacancies available. Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to St James the Great 200 Club. Details are as follows:

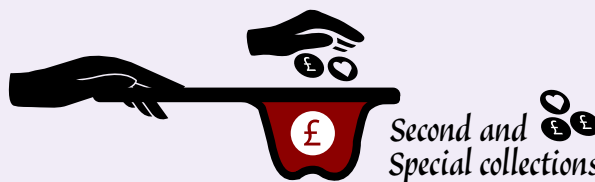
Natwest Orpington

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account Number 77878736

Account Name St JamesChurch 200 Club.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans telephone 01689 851793 or the Parish Office 01689 827100.



Second collections in May

26th May - Maintenance/Building Fund

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

Maintenance/Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/
Surname

Envelopes for the next financial year

Boxes of envelopes for the next financial year are now available for collection at the back of the church.

The boxes include 12 envelopes for the monthly Maintenance/Buildings Fund collections but if you do not have your envelope with you when you come to Mass there are spare envelopes available. If you no longer need the envelopes which have been ordered for you, please let the parish office know or put the envelopes into the box for unused envelopes.

The diocese has also provided multi-purpose envelopes, which can be used for Mass Intentions and any special collections, including the Christmas and Easter offerings. These envelopes are available from the welcomers at Mass. If you are a Gift Aider you do not need to write your name and address every time, provided that you show your Gift Aid number and tick the fund to which you are donating.

The Maintenance/Church Building fund is very important to the finances of the parish, partly because we have several projects due to be completed but also because donations to this fund do not attract the 30% levy which is used for the central expenses of the diocese. If you would like to make regular donations to this fund through a standing order, please contact the parish office or email gift.aid@stjamespettswood.org.

Thank you for your continued generosity to the parish.



Evangelisation Pillar

SAVE THE DATE!

25th – 27th October for a Parish Weekend Retreat – More details to follow.

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

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 **5th April**. 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

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".

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.

Provisional Timing for House Mass

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

8:05pm Start Mass

8:50pm Mass finish and social to follow.

Dates for 2024

Tuesday 14th May - Allocated

Tuesday 25th June - Allocated

Tuesday 23rd July

Tuesday 24th September

Tuesday 22nd October

Tuesday 19th November

Tuesday 10th December - Allocated

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.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than May 31, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at mflse@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Clapham, Beckenham.

Day of Prayer – Petts Wood Churches Together

Following an uplifting and peaceful Day of Prayer with Petts Wood Churches Together last year, we've decided to have another one.

This one will take place in the Community Centre on **Saturday 4th May** from about 9.30am until about 4pm.

There will be more information and invitations for participants soon.

Meantime we would like to invite volunteers to sign up as welcomers, and to coordinate hospitality and refreshments, including hot drinks all day, a sandwich lunch with fruit midday, and perhaps tea and cakes in the mid-afternoon. (Any bakers out there?....)

Would you like to be a part of this hospitality team? If you would, please contact the Parish Office, to join the helpers list for the Day of Prayer, on 01689 827100, or by email to: pettswood@rcaos.org.uk. See you there and thank you!

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 church.



Evangelisation Pillar

Petts Wood Repair Cafe

SPRING CLEANING AND FOUND SOMETHING THAT NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED?

Don't bin it - bring it to the Petts Wood Repair Café and get one broken item repaired by experts at the Repair Café.

For a donation of either cash or card bring one item such as an electrical or electronic item, clock, bicycle, toy, or clothing for repair. The Repair Café can also sharpen knives and tools. Enjoy coffee and cake while you wait but please bear with them if you have a wait as demand can be high.

The next dates are: **Saturday 25 May, Saturday 29 June and Saturday 27 July.** Timings are: 2.00 – 5.00pm in the Church Hall next to St Francis of Assisi Church, Greencourt Road, Petts Wood BR5 1QW. Contact: pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com

No Mow May

Say 'No to the Mow' Campaign this May (or all summer)

Leave some or all of your lawn uncut during May and join the "No Mow May" so that flowers are allowed to develop provide food for pollinators.

- Long grass:
- Provides food and shelter for many butterflies & moths
- Invertebrates and seeds flourish in long grass which provides food for the birds
- Undisturbed grassland is good for carbon capture and storage
- Wild lawns provide foraging opportunities and shelter for hedgehogs, toads, and frogs but check for hedgehogs before strimming or mowing
- Grassland insects which fly at night are food for bats!

If you have a garden let part of your lawn grow long all this summer or set the lawn mower cutting height to a high setting.

For more information: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wildplants-nature/nomowmay>

Heartfelt Thanks To Our Parish From Bromley Borough Foodbank

During lent our Parish including uniformed groups helped with collections and donation to the Foodbank. Below is a letter to Roger Wright – JPIC Lead for Foodbank support from the Foodbank team.

Dear Roger,

I hope this email finds you well and filled with the same warmth and compassion you extended to us during Lent.

I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for St James' (et al.) generous contributions to our Foodbank during the giving season. Your support has made an immense difference in the

lives of Bromley residents who are currently struggling to cover the cost of essentials.

Thanks to the collective efforts of 29 churches, including yours, we were able to gather a remarkable 1,816KG worth of food donations. This abundance of provisions enabled us to assemble 7-day food parcels, which were distributed to over 90 individuals facing food insecurity in our local community.

Your kindness and dedication to serving those in need is truly commendable. Your donations have not only provided essential support, but also brought hope and reassurance to many during these challenging times. Please share our sincere gratitude with all who contributed!

In addition to our heartfelt thanks, I am excited to share some news with you! We will be welcoming a new Church Engagement Volunteer to our team in mid-May. Their role will be to strengthen our relationship with the religious community and explore ways to provide a more comprehensive exchange between the Foodbank and Churches. They will be reaching out to you soon to hear your thoughts and ideas on how we can enhance our collaboration to better support the people we serve.

Once again, thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to making a positive impact in the lives of others. We are deeply grateful for your partnership and look forward to continuing our journey together as we work to create a more compassionate and supportive community for all.

With gratitude,

Ray (& the BBF Team)

Thank You to Our Parish, Girl Guides and Scouts for your help and generosity towards the Foodbank. Together we were able to contribute 1000Kg+ of the 1816kg food donations and also financial / voucher support, during Lent.



Evangelisation Pillar



The current needs are for:

- Tinned Cold Meat
- Cooking Sauces
- Tinned Fruit
- UHT Milk
- Jam
- Multi-surface wipes / sprays

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

Reference STJAMESPW

- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

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.



Communication Pillar

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

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.delquercio@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

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 altar.servers@stjamespettswood.org.

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.

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.

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



Communication Pillar

A message from Jamie Allen - Paul and Anita Rowland's Grandson.

I am running the London Marathon in memory of my wonderful Nanna, Anita Rowland, who we sadly lost in May last year. Nanna was an incredible lady who lived a wonderful life and set the perfect example for our growing family, whom she cherished. She taught us how to be kind of heart, to love deeply, to care truly and be the best version of ourselves that we can be. She was loved by everyone that she crossed paths with. She was my Nanna, but was also a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, and we all miss her more as each day passes.

Nanna had an underlying heart condition that contributed to her sudden and unexpected passing. In her honour, I am raising money for the British Heart Foundation, an incredible charity that is already close to my heart, having lost a beloved colleague to a sudden heart attack in 2021.

The British Heart Foundation's vision is a world without heart and circulatory diseases. A world without heartbreak. 76p of every £1 raised is spent on life saving research, translating to spending over £100 million on research projects each year into all heart and circulatory diseases and the things that cause them.

In order to donate, please follow the below link to my JustGiving page. <https://www.justgiving.com/page/jamie-allen-1706474775399>



Just an update to say that I completed the London marathon on Sunday! What an incredible experience, one that I will never forget, running in memory of my Nanna. I finished with a time of 3hrs42mins.



Thank You

We would like to thank 'The Companions Club' and Frank for the generous donation of £150 towards two kettles for the Community centre kitchen and the remainder towards future flowers for the sanctuary and church. We would also like to thank 'The Saturday Film Club' and Gaynor for their generous donation of £95.00 for the Pillar candles around the church. Hopefully you all saw them alight during the Easter period.

"READING GENESIS" by Alan Pavelin

The American writer Marilynne Robinson is best-known for her "Gilead" novels, four books centred around two elderly ministers and their families in 1950s Iowa. Published between 2004 and 2020, these novels (Gilead, Home, Lila, and Jack) can be read in any order, the same events being seen from different perspectives, namely the central character of each book.

Robinson, who is a lay preacher in her Congregational church, is immensely knowledgeable about Christian history and theology, as is evidenced in several books of essays she has produced. The one I have, The Givenness of Things, consists of 17 essays with titles like Grace, Servanthood, and Awakening.

Her latest book, which came out in March, is Reading Genesis, an extended meditation on the first book of the Old Testament. She is clearly bringing a novelist's eye to the material, and brings to life the famous stories in it, particularly those around Abraham and Joseph and their families. Her impressive knowledge of ancient Babylonian texts, with their story of a Great Flood, enables her to compare it with the Genesis version and conclude that, while the Babylonian deities acted to benefit themselves, our Abrahamic God acts for the benefit of His creation.

For anyone wanting a real insight into the Book of Genesis, and perhaps to read it in a new way, I thoroughly recommend Marilynne Robinson's book.



Communication Pillar

Girlguiding - St James Girlguiding Units



We open up a world of possibilities to girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they can do anything.

It's totally flexible, you can help as much or as little as you want.

Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Girlguiding group needs:
New leaders to help run three units -
2nd Petts Wood Brownies,
3rd Petts Wood Guides
Petts Wood Rangers.
For more information please email -
Suzanne Horner
pettswood@rcaos.org.uk



Register today



girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer

Registered charity number: Excepted from registration

3rd Petts Wood Scouts Group

Ellie makes all the difference. So could you.

Help young people in Petts Wood step up and dream big.

Interested? Contact Kate Charlesworth
#email: gsl3pwscouts@gmail.com

Scouts
3rd Petts Wood Scout Group

Dad and Me

Dad and Me

What is it?

A group of dads that meet monthly, with their kids – to chill out, chat with other dads, while their kids play!

Some details:

- For dads with kids aged 1-8
- Toys galore, incl. arts & crafts for the older kids
- “Bacon butties” all round, plus tea, coffee & biscuits (juice for the kids, vegan options available)
- Also an online network of dads – for sharing contacts, knowledge e.g. of tradesmen, schools. Over 70 strong currently, including dads from over 7 years ago!

What are the benefits?

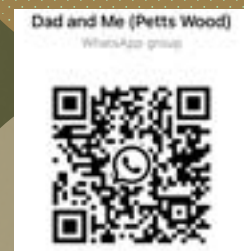
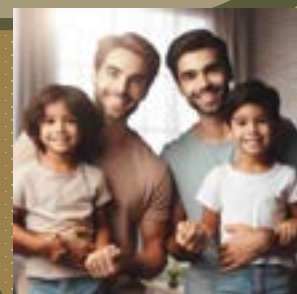
“Me time”, kids time and your partner get 2 hours free per month also!...WIN-WIN-WIN!

When and where?

10:15-12 Saturday mornings, once a month, at the Community Hall (next door)

How do I join?

Just join the Whatsapp group and get the latest on when the next ones are. David will kindly oblige.



Use this QR code and you're in!
(text me any issues...cheers, Jay)
07931 513598



Social Pillar

Wednesday Lunches

Our next Wednesday lunch will be on **Wednesday, 22nd May**. We will be 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

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!

Mays dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesdays 8th and 15th May

Tuesdays 21st and 28th May

Doors open 1.30pm. All welcome.

Book Club

Book Group continues to meet once a month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. We welcome anyone who wishes to join us - even if its just for one session....the more the merrier.

Our chosen books for the summer are:

1st May - Midnight Library by Matt Haig

12th June - No one saw a thing by Andrea Mara

10th July - Remarkably Bright Creatures by Shelby van Pelt

We will have a rest in August but will start back in September with some new, exciting reads!

Petts Wood CWL

Petts Wood Catholic Women's League will be holding their May meeting on Monday, 20th May at 7.30 in the Community Centre.

On Wednesday 22nd May, 2.30 - 4.30, we will be holding our annual afternoon tea and we invite ladies from the other Bromley CWL sections and local Petts Wood churches.

Ladies from our Parish are warmly invited to attend and

learn a little more about the CWL which is a National Catholic Women's organisation with links to international Catholic Women's Groups.

Annual Plant Sale

The CWL Plant Sale will be held after the **6pm Mass on Saturday 25th May** and on **Sunday 26th May after the 9.15 and 11am Masses.**

Please bring along any plants for sale to the Church Garden on Saturday 25th May.

Do come along to buy plants on the 25th and/or 26th. All money raised will go to charities supported by CWL.

We will share more information later in the year about PACT - our project to provide backpacks with essential items for prisoners as they leave prison.

Film Nights in May & June.

Thank you to everyone who joined us on 13 April to watch "A United Kingdom" & for your generous donations of £95 which will be used to buy something specific for the Church - details to follow.

Our film on Saturday, **11 May** will be "Jackie", which provides an intimate portrait of First Lady, Jackie Kennedy, during the days following her husband's assassination. Nathalie Portman received an Academy Award for her "performance of a lifetime" in the starring role. The running time is 95 minutes.

On Saturday, **15 June** we will be showing "Hidden Figures". The film focuses on a team of three female African-American mathematicians working for NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. Based on actual events, the women filled a vital role in calculating the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit, & ensuring his safe return. The running time is 127 minutes.

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!

A date for your diary!

St James The Great 'Anniversary' Flower Festival

to Celebrate 85 Years in Petts Wood

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th July 2024

It will be Parishioner Participation (not a competition!)

More information to follow



Social Pillar

Parish Golf Day Invitation

You are cordially invited to join us for the St James the Great Parish Golf Day at Langley Park Golf Club on 5th July 2024, to celebrate the 85th anniversary of our Parish. This will be a great opportunity to enjoy a friendly and fun game of golf, as well as to support our parish community and mission.

The format will be an 18 hole Stableford competition, with tea/coffee, bacon roll on arrival and a late lunch at the end of the rounds. There will also be prizes for the longest drive, nearest the pin, and individual winner.

Tee times will be advised in due course once numbers are confirmed.

The cost of the event will be £80 per person, which includes green fees, Tea/Coffee and Bacon roll on arrival, lunch and a donation to the parish.

To book your place, please fill in the form below and return it by email to myself or Ken Evans by the 10th May 2024, along with your payment by Bank Transfer as shown on the application form.

Places are limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.

We look forward to seeing you at the St James the Great Parish Golf Day and celebrating our parish anniversary with you!

Paul & Ken

**St James the Great
85th Anniversary Golf Day**

**Friday 5th July 2024
at Langley Park Golf Course**
Cost: £80

**Breakfast Roll and Coffee on arrival
and a One Course Meal**

**Prizes for:
Winner
Longest Drive
Nearest the Pin**

**To book contact:
Paul Cosgrave
paulatpalace@hotmail.com
or
Ken Evans
kenevans224@gmail.com**



**St James the Great
85th Anniversary Golf Day**

**Friday 5th July 2024
at Langley Park Golf Course**
Cost: £80



Name:	
Tel:	Handicap:
Address:	
Email Address:	
Please reserve the following Golf Day places:	@£80
Special Dietary Needs:	

Electronic Payment @ £80 each
Payable to: St James the Great Catholic Church
Account No: 13204297 Sort Code: 600814
Reference: *surname/golf day*

Requests for places must be recieved no later than: 5th June 2024

Please respond as soon as possible as places are limited and ensure forms are returned to: Paul Cosgrave - paulatpalace@hotmail.com or Ken Evans - kenevans224@gmail.com



Happy Eastertide from youth pillar!

Thank you to all our much valued parish volunteers who make it possible for the various sacramental preparation programmes, uniformed groups, youth group and youth events to be rolled out regularly and in most cases, each week. This year, in addition to First Holy Communion and Confirmation Prep, we have Faith in Action (FIA) running in the community centre for 25 children aged 10-14. This is an established deanery programme with its second hub in Beckenham, catering for 50 young people, in all, aged 10-17.

Help Needed

Anticipating bigger numbers next year, we are looking for new volunteers to join the Time-Share Helpers Group (register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ws338ea>), as well as four extra adults to join the core FIA team which, aside from the four reflective sessions and one awards ceremony. No experience in youth work is necessary but an interest in supporting young people to grow and develop their faith is essential. The parish office will process your DBS if you don't already hold one. Please email LollyBell@rcaos.org.uk to express your interest, thank you.

Easter At St James

Fantastic turn outs for Shrove Tuesday Pancake Night, Good Friday Stations of The Cross and Easter Sunday Egg Hunt Quiz - again, all powered by parish volunteers and FIA candidates! Thank you for your support - all proceeds, after costs are for the Deanery Youth Fund bringing fun and

engaging events to all.

Sacramental Preparation

Confirmation has attracted 22 young people, who are now nearing the end of their preparation. In March, the Confirmands successfully planned and hosted a packed Quiz Evening & Ploughman's Dinner fundraiser, raising £546 for Make A Wish Foundation UK and BLG Mind. It's fantastic to see young people getting involved and we want to thank all their parents and catechists for their marvellous support and encouragement. At the start of May, they'll be attending a Retreat Weekend at Aylesford Priory before celebrating their Confirmation Mass, at the very start of Pentecost, on 21st May.

First Holy Communion

Our wonderful First Holy Communion children also look forward to receiving Jesus for the very first time next month. Please keep all our young people who are completing their sacramental preparations, and their catechists, in your prayers.

Music Ministry and Fellowship

Looking ahead, young musicians and singers are warmly invited to join the new St James' Youth Choir every 3rd Saturday in the month, 6pm Mass with fellowship and fun in the community centre, afterwards. A f you play an instrument and/or sing and you're interested in being a part of something new, please email pettswood@rcaos.org.uk with your name and contact details. More info, next month!

Heads Up! St James Got Talent!

This year's Parish Garden Party (Sunday 14th July) will be an extra special celebration of our 85th Parish Anniversary and 60th Anniversary of St James' Church. We want to make this extra special, celebrating with an afternoon talent show, so if you're into song and dance, playing an instrument, performing magic, poetry or prose and fancy delighting the audience, please start practicing and look out next month, for the early July rehearsal date.

Walkers & Runners

Our Annual Fun Run (or Walk) will also take place on Sunday 14th July after the 11am Mass at Jubilee Park. Father David is mentally in training, working on achieving a personal best...how about you? Why not make work up to it, starting your training and rallying the support of friends and relatives, to get sponsored, now? Let us know how you get on!

A happy month of May to everyone - the Month of Mary. And good luck to all our young people in assessments and exam season at school. We will be praying for you!

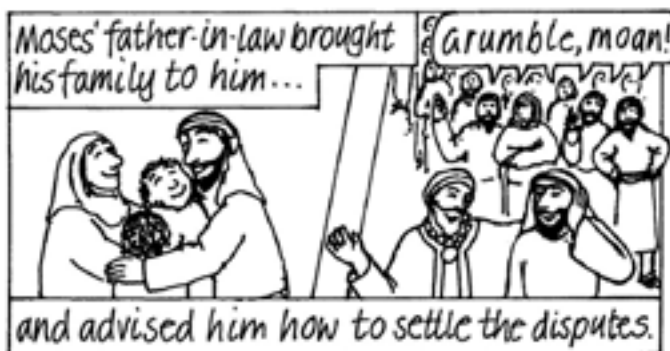
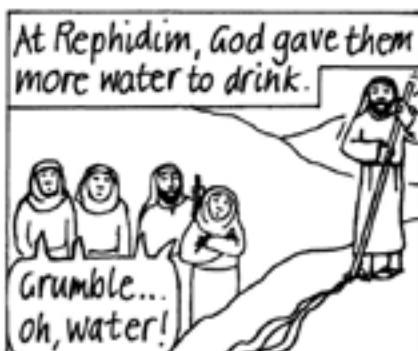


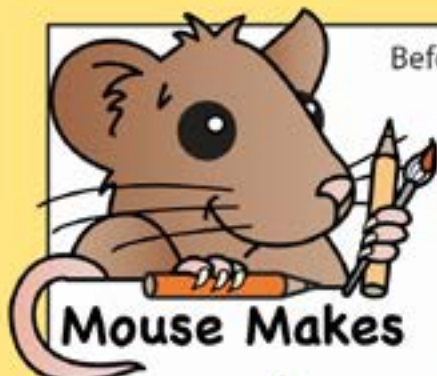
Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Exodus chapters 15:22 to 19:2

God had rescued the Hebrews from Egypt, and was leading them to their new land. But after 3 days....





Before Jesus ascended to heaven he told his disciples
 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit
 has come upon you, and you will be my
 witness in Jerusalem and in all Judea
 and Samaria, and to the end of the earth"...

...When the day of Pentecost arrived,
 they were all together in one place,
 and they were all filled
 with the Holy Spirit."



READ the story
 of Pentecost
 in Acts 1-2
 Look up the Bible
 verses to find
 the answers to the
 crossword clues.

How many
 words can you
 make from
 the letters of:
 DAY OF
 PENTECOST



- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 After Jesus ascended into heaven, which city did the Apostles return to? Acts 1:12 | 8 What rushing sound came from heaven? Acts 2:2 |
| 5a What did the Apostles devote themselves to? Acts 1:14 | 2 What appeared? Tongues of ...? Acts 2:3 |
| 6 Who was chosen to replace Judas? Acts 1:26 | 4 What were the disciples filled with? Acts 2:4 |
| 5d Which special day was it? Acts 2:1 | 9 What did they start speaking in? Acts 2:4 |
| | 3 Who spoke to the crowd? Acts 2:14 |
| | 7 Who had prophesied this? Acts 2:16 |



	2				1	4		6
9					3	8		
				4				3
	6		2					
	5						4	
					9		7	
6				2				
		3	9					1
8		1	5				9	

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1 7pm Book Club	2 Polling Station	3 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	4 Day Of Prayer	5
6	7 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	8 1.30pm Companion Club	9 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding Meetings	10 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	11 9am -1pm Faith In Action 4pm -6pm First Holy Communion 7pm Film Night	12
13 6.30pm to 8.30pm Confirmation	14 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	15 1.30pm Companion Club 8pm Catenians	16 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding Meetings	17 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	18 10am - 1pm Journey In Faith 4pm -6pm First Holy Communion	19
20 7.30pm to 9.30pm CWL Meeting 6.30pm to 8.30pm Confirmation	21 1.30pm Companion Club 8.30pm Confirmation Celebration	22 11.45am Wednesday Lunches 2.30-4.30pm CWL Afternoon Tea Party 7.45pm JPIC Meeting	23	24 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	25 9.45am Dad and Me After Mass CWL Plant Stall	26 After Mass CWL Plant Stall
27 7.30pm to 10pm Knights Meeting	28 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Film Believers 8pm Table Tennis	29	30	31 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings		