



**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

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# Lenten Programme at St James's 2024

**Sunday 25th February**

Stations of the Cross - 3.00pm

**Sunday 3rd March**

Stations of the Cross - 3.00pm

**Wednesday 13th March**

Film on Pope Francis Travels - 7.30pm

**Saturday 16th March**

Br Lawrence – The Practice of the  
Presence of God - 10.00am - 2.00pm

**Sunday 17th March**

Stations of the Cross - 3.00pm

**Sunday 24th March**

Stations of the Cross - 3.00pm

**Sunday 24th March**

Stations of the Cross FHC - 4.30pm

**Tuesday 26th March**

Lenten Reconciliation Service - 7.30pm

**Thursday 28th March**

Maundy Thursday - 7.30pm

**Friday 29th March**

**GOOD FRIDAY**

Stations of the Cross (Children) -  
10.00am

Walk of Witness - 11.00am

Good Friday Service - 3.00pm

Prayer around the Cross - 8.00pm

**Saturday 30th March**

**EASTER VIGIL**

Swieconka – Blessing of the Easter  
Baskets - 11.30am

Easter Vigil Service - 8.00pm

**Sunday 31st March**

**EASTER SUNDAY**

Mass - 9.15am

(followed by Easter Egg Hunt)

Mass - 11.00am





# 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

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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:

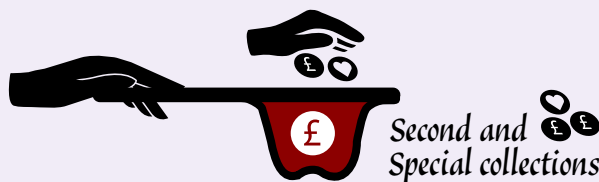
#### Natwest Orpington

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www adaywithmary.org) or email [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto: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?

### GIVE IN LENT

### HELP SUPPORT YOUR FOOD BANK WITH FOOD THIS LENT

In the 6 weeks of Lent, the food bank will provide emergency food parcels for local people and families facing hardship.

The amount of help needed is outstripping the donations we're receiving. Please donate an item or two from our shopping list, if you can.

#### SHOPPING LIST TOP TEN ITEMS

- Tinned Vegetables
- UHT Milk
- Cooking Sauces
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Hot & Cold Meats
- Tinned Potatoes
- Coffee
- Desserts (e.g. Angel Delight)
- Squash & Juice
- Washing Up Liquid
- Toilet Rolls

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To find out how to donate food visit  
[Bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk](http://Bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk)

Registered Charity in England & Wales (1167961). Registered Charity in Scotland (1167961).





## 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.delguercio@stjamespettswood.org](mailto: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

**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](mailto: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](mailto:paulatpalace@hotmail.com)  
or  
Ken Evans  
[kenevans224@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

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### 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!

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### 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  
Catholic Church in Pett's Wood

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

The poster features a grid of 12 small illustrations depicting the Stations of the Cross. At the bottom, it says "ST JAMES' COMMUNITY CENTRE" and "Please scan and register to attend - thank you > > > >". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

FAITH IN ACTION  
Event

ST JAMES' the GREAT  
Catholic Church in Pett's Wood

**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 CYMYOUTH 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!











## 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](http://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](http://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/>

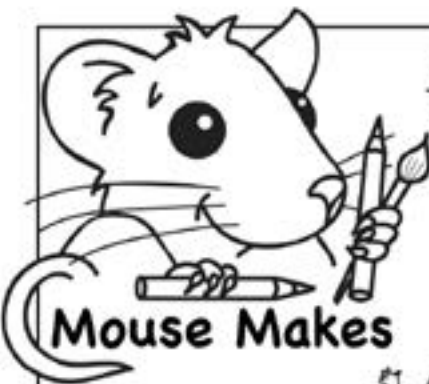
**Youth Days (10-14)** - [www.tinyurl.com/scysyouthday](http://www.tinyurl.com/scysyouthday)

**Worship & Wisdom Evenings (16-35)** - [www.tinyurl.com/scysworship](http://www.tinyurl.com/scysworship)

**Youth Retreat Days (13-17)** - [www.tinyurl.com/scysretreat](http://www.tinyurl.com/scysretreat)



**Catholic Young London Network** - [www.tinyurl.com/scylnetwork](http://www.tinyurl.com/scylnetwork)





## Mouse Makes



"I am the **resurrection** and the **life**.  
The one who believes in me will live  
even though they die."  
*John 1:25*



READ the Bible  
passages to find  
the answers to the  
crossword clues



*Matthew 21:1-11*

1. Which city did Jesus ride into?
2. What did he ride on?
3. What did the crowd shout?
4. What did clothes did they put down?
7. What did they cut down to spread on the road?




*Matthew 26:17-29*

15. What feast did Jesus celebrate?
12. Who did he celebrate it with?
11. What did Jesus break to eat?



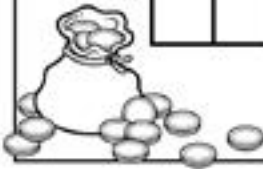

*Matthew 26:36-75*

6. What did Jesus go to do at Gethsemane?
18. Who denied Jesus?






*Matthew 26:14-16*

- 8d. Who betrayed Jesus?
10. How many silver pieces was he paid?




*Matthew 27:27-61*

17. What was Jesus' crown made of?
9. What was Jesus crucified on?
14. Who's tomb was Jesus buried in?
13. What did they wrap Jesus' body in?
16. What did they roll in front of the tomb?



*Matthew 28:1-10*

5. Who descended from heaven?
19. What had happened to Jesus?
- 8a. Mary was full of fear and ...?



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w	u	n	j	e	r	u	s	a	l	e	m	h	o
o	f	p	g	v	v	h	a	p	v	x	f	a	r
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m	z	j	e	s	u	s	x	l	t	u	s	w	c

everyone

sacrifice

thieves

stalls

Jerusalem

visitors

problem

God

den

priests

Hosanna

shekels

drove

upsetting

killed

Jesus

place

crowds

prayer

worship

special

secretly

animals

Temple



# Bible Bite

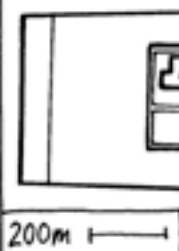
A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Mt 21:12-16, Mk 11:15-18, Lk 19:45-48

When Jesus reached Jerusalem he went to the Temple, built as a place where everyone could worship God, but with restrictions...

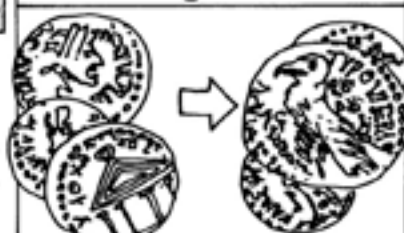
Plan of the Temple

Restrictions



only priests  
only Jewish men  
only Jews  
every one

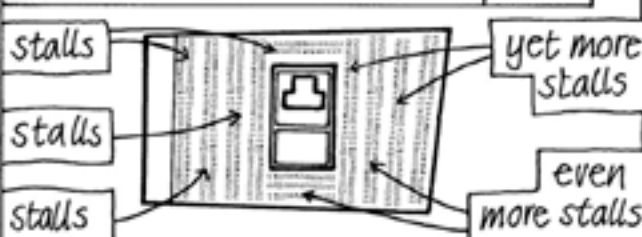
Visitors had to change their money to shekels



They had to buy special animals to sacrifice...



and the stalls filled the only place that non-Jews could come to worship God



The chief priests had no problem with this...



but it made Jesus very angry...



so he drove them out



This should be a place of prayer but you have made it into a den of thieves \*

\*Isaiah 56:7, Jeremiah 7:11

Hosanna!



He is upsetting everything.

We must have him killed

But the crowds love him - we must do it secretly



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

## March Calendar 2024

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	2 10am to 2pm <b>Faith in Action Launch</b> 4pm - 6pm <b>First Holy Communion</b>	3
4 6.30pm to 8.30pm <b>Confirmation</b>	5 2pm <b>Memory cafe</b> 7pm - 7.45pm <b>Firm Believers</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	6 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b>	7 4.30pm to 9pm <b>Girlguiding Meetings</b> 7pm <b>Prayer Meeting in church</b>	8 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	9	10 11am <b>Uniformed Group Church Parade.</b>
11 6.30pm to 8.30pm <b>Confirmation</b>	12 2pm <b>Memory cafe</b> 7pm - 7.45pm <b>Firm Believers</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	13 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b>	14 4.30pm to 9pm <b>Girlguiding Meetings</b> 7pm <b>Prayer Meeting in church</b>	15 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	16 10am - 2pm <b>Workshop on the practice of the presence of God</b> 4pm - 6pm <b>First Holy Communion</b> 7.30pm <b>St Patricks Night</b>	17
18 6.30pm to 8.30pm <b>Confirmation</b>	19 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b> 7pm - 7.45pm <b>Firm Believers</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	20 11.45am <b>Wednesday Lunches</b> 7pm to 9pm <b>Book Club</b>	21 4.30pm to 9pm <b>Girlguiding Meetings</b> 7pm <b>Prayer Meeting in church</b>	22 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	23 9.45am <b>Dad and Me</b> 1.30pm - 6pm <b>Faith In Action in church</b> 4pm - 6pm <b>First Holy Communion</b> 7pm <b>Film Night</b>	24
25 6.30pm to 8.30pm <b>Confirmation</b>	26 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b> 7pm - 7.45pm <b>Firm Believers</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	27 7.45pm <b>JPIC Meeting</b>	28 4.30pm to 9pm <b>Girlguiding Meetings</b> 7pm <b>Prayer Meeting in church</b>	29 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	30	31