



Sacred Heart Goudhurst & Saint Barnabas Hawkhurst Parish Newsletter

18 July 2021, Sixteenth Sunday, Year B

Mass Times

Saturday 17:30 Goudhurst
Sunday 08:30 Hawkhurst 10:30 Goudhurst

Book as usual through: thechurchisopen@gmail.com

Please be considerate to others: wear a mask, social distance, keep safe

Anniversaries

Bill Elliott, Florence Stacey, William Bennett, David John Dee, Pat Day, Joanna McClean, Ros Reardon. Mirabelle Kelly, Nick Rourke, Penny Scott-Watson, Helena Lesniewska, Christian Le Bourlier, and Monica Scrowston.

Pray for the Sick

Bernadette Strange, Helen Fletcher, Cynthia Raza, Eileen Collett, and Elaine Martin.

Pope Francis

Prayer of Intention for July, Social Friendship:

We pray that in social, economic and political situations of conflict, we may be courageous and passionate architects of dialogue and friendship.

Lord may we be firm in all that involves any encounters and relationships with others. May we grow in our awareness of your presence when we all seek justice and truth and all that contributes to a more human world where everyone's dignity is respected. Amen

Its Only a Game

In a year where England competed in the final of the Euros (no don't switch off!) and with the Olympics, Ashes Series and Lions Tour to come it is good to remember the words of Pope Francis. "Its is important that sport remains a game. Only by remaining a game will it do good for the body and spirit." Sport, which has been called the world's most important triviality, can also be seen as a gift from God, an opportunity for worship and at the same time an opportunity to love one's neighbour in the midst of competition. As a recent Vatican publication suggests, we can see in sport an opportunity for the celebration of not only the liturgy but also in the life of the community. **The Times, London**

Save the Date

The date for Father Vic's retirement party has been fixed for Saturday 11th September from midday onwards. The event will take place in the Presbytery garden at Goudhurst. Its intended to be an informal event and information on catering and other logistics will follow in due course. However in order to freshen up the garden for the occasion the team have asked if any parishioners with perennials or small shrubs would consider splitting or donating them to add that final flourish for the day.

Organ Grinder?

As we contemplate a return to (near) normal worship, including singing, it is appropriate to begin the search for a new organist at Goudhurst. If you or anyone you know would be interested in the role, or would like more information then please contact the parish office. Full professional training and ongoing support will be provided. goudhurst@rcaos.org.uk

Covid Update

Monday 19th July is the implementation date for Step 4 of the Covid Route Map and we had hoped to publish details of what the changes mean in practice in our churches. However because the guidance from Government was light touch or confusing (you choose) the diocese has only just released its guidance document. We will be working to publish in next week's newsletter how we can achieve the balance between freedom and protecting the vulnerable. There will be discernible positive change but some key restrictions will remain.

Sunday 25th July will be Father Vic's last Masses at Hawkhurst (08:30) and Goudhurst (10:30) so we are aiming to re-arrange both churches to facilitate as many people as possible to be able to attend.

Amoris Laetitia

The Joy of Love Family Year is an initiative of Pope Francis which began on 19 March 2021 and ends on 26 June 2022. There is much interest today on finding out information on ancestors and using DNA techniques to trace your extended family. Who do you think you are?

Most people who want to know more about their family history speak to relatives, read family records and archives. They want to know who they are, where they come from and to discover family secrets. They want to uncover the collective family memory and to connect their own lives with that of relatives past and present. Our identity and roots give us a profound sense of meaning and context so it's no surprise that searching one's family history is such a popular activity around the world.

Here is an activity to get you thinking about who you are in relation to your Bible family tree. All you need is a Bible or Bible app and your imagination. First read this text slowly and prayerfully, then highlight any words or phrases that you find interesting, inspiring or puzzling.

*Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." **Mark 3:31-35***

Sit quietly with this text as you meditate further for 5 minutes. Ask God to guide your heart then reflect on the following questions:

- Is there anybody in Scripture you would like to appear in your Bible family tree?
- Who are they? What are their characteristics, passions or personalities?
- Does any of their story remind you of yours?
- Might they provide inspiration and hope in good times and bad?

Let us Pray

God of my story and all our stories, You created us in your own image - and wrote us into being. The Bible tells us your story so that we may praise you throughout our lives. Amen

Contact

The Presbytery, Beresford Road, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1DN
Father Vic McClean, tel: 01580 211 268, email: goudhurst@rcaos.org.uk