**Newsletter for the week commencing 12th May 2024**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 1: 15-17,20-26**

**Psalm 102 Response: The Lord has set his sway in heaven.**

**Second Reading:  the first letter of St John 4: 11-16**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia! I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.  Alleluia!**

**Communion antiphon:  Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

**THE ROSARY – A MYSTICAL AND PRACTICAL PRAYER.**

**WHAT IS THE ROSARY?**

The Rosary comprises 20 mysteries that encompass the life of Jesus from his conception (the Annunciation) to the ultimate glory of his Saints. The most glorious among the Saints is his mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, who said yes to Almighty God’s plan to recover paradise for humanity, to recover for each one of us a place in eternity, in the paradise from which we were cut off, because of the fall of our originating parents, Adam and Eve.

There are four themes for the mysteries of the Rosary:

i. the joyful, which recall the early stage of Jesus’s life.

ii. the luminous – they deal with Jesus’ public life, from his baptism in the River Jordan to his institution of the Holy Eucharist at the Last Supper.

iii. the sorrowful mysteries, help us meditate on the Passionof Jesus Christ, from the agony he suffered in the Garden of Gethsemane to his torture and death on the Cross.

iv. the glorious mysteries help us call to mind God’s glory, genius, and triumph. They take us from the Resurrection, through Pentecost to the coronation of the Blessed Virgin Mary amidst the glory of the Saints.

The Saints are the holiest women and men and children who were and are and are yet to be born. It is they who in their earthly life and with tremendous love and faith ardently desire and prove themselves to be God’s greatest friends. They are his humblest servants who bring the actions spoken of in the Beatitudes to their brothers and sisters, serving the poor, the downtrodden and lifting and strengthening faith in Jesus Christ, without whose grace, Gospel, and sacraments the world would fall into chaos and despair.

**HOW DO YOU SAY THE ROSARY?**

Each decade of the rosary consists of one Our Father, ten Hail Marys and one Glory Be. In its most simple way the Rosary is designed to be said using our ten fingers. There is also the loop of beads, which we also call the Rosary, or rosary beads, on which five mysteries can be completed (five times ten).

**THE MONTH OF MAY, OUR LADY, AND THE ROSARY.**

The Rosary is a mystical prayer that connects us to Jesus’ life. It was through Mary that Jesus entered the material plane. The last line of the Hail Mary, ‘Holy Mary mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death’ is deep and profound. Jesus entered the material plane and connected it to the heavenly one by asking God for pardon for the wrongdoings of humans.

By meditating on the life of Jesus, his passion, and his resurrection, and asking Mary to pray for us at the moment, we leave the material plane, we focus our thoughts on the heavenly home God so yearns for us to share with him. And with the Our Father we shore this up for we must ask for forgiveness and make a heartfelt effort to forgive those who have wronged us.

The month of May, with October, is a month with an accent on the praying of the Rosary. The Rosary is not easy for some, but it is a very practical prayer that, as we said, encompasses Jesus’ life as well as Pentecost, the Assumption of Mary, and the future when God will massively reward those who served him and served their neighbours with works and words of charity, pardon, goodwill, justice, and love.

This May, with faith in the power of prayer, let’s share a little in the work of the Saints and offer a decade of the Rosary or even one set of the mysteries. Through the intercession of Mary, let’s entrust to the Creator of all that is visible and invisible our hopes and dreams. Let us also especially ask Our Lady’s intercession for the downtrodden, the hungry, the broken hearted, for any and all who are in tremendous need of Our Lord Jesus’ healing help and love.

**Fr Behr**

**Your Prayers are asked for:**

**Those recently deceased:**

**Those ill or infirm:** PaulLane, Mara McDermot, June Munton, Ailish Cantwell (Jones), Sylwia Dorosz, Joe Adams, Ellie Lawrence, Patricia Hook, Josie Payne, Pat Holland and all those who are unwell and in need of our prayers.

**Those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time**: Jim Newman, John Smith, Sarah Norris, Eleanor Lynes, Jane Goodman, Sophie Larson, Adrian Wyles, Jennifer Jorden, Doris Woodman, Henry Dowding and Percival Goulding.

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| **This week’s services (11th – 18th May), Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** |
| **Saturday 11th May**Feria | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*Private Intention (Caterina)***Reader: Peter** |
| **Sunday 12th May****SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)** | 10am Mass *People of the Parish***Reader: Suzanne**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Monday 13th May**Our Lady of Fatima | 10am Mass *In Grateful Thanks for the Month of May* |
| **Tuesday 14th May**St Matthias, Apostle | 10am Mass *Donor’s Intention* |
| **Wednesday 15th May**St John Stone, Priest & Martyr | 10am Service of the Word and Holy Communion |
| **Thursday 16th May**St Simon Stock, Priest | 9am-10am Adoration10am Mass *Bahram Francis Rafat Intentions* |
| **Friday 17th May**Feria | 10am Mass *In Reparation for Abortion*10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 18th May**St John I, Pope & Martyr | No public Mass am10.30 -11am Confession6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: Lorraine** |
| **Sunday 19th May****PENTECOST SUNDAY (B)** | 10am Mass *Rani, Special Intention***Reader: Rachel**12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass  |
| **Flowers: for 18th – 19th May - Kathy** |

**Confession:**

Fr Behr is available for Confession every Saturday from 10.30am - 11am. He is also happy to visit those who are not able to come to church.

**Children’s Liturrgy:** Children’s Liturgy at the 10am Mass is on the first Sunday of every month. All children who have not made their First Holy Communion are welcome to attend.  The next lesson with Lorraine is on Sunday 2nd June**.**

**Southwark Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage:**

Archbishop John warmly invites you to join him as he leads the Southwark Archdiocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, from 23rd to 30th August 2024. Details of this can be found on the Archdiocesan website: [rcaos.org.uk](http://rcaos.org.uk). Experience the unique spirituality of Lourdes, along with people from parishes around the Archdiocese.

**Aylesford Priory – Summer Fair:**

Summer Fayre on 23 June- for details see [thefriars.org.uk/Whats+On/Events/Summer Fayre/](https://www.thefriars.org.uk/Whats%2BOn/Events/Summer%20Fayre/)

**Assisted Suicide:**

Our Archbishop, John Wilson, has issued a pastoral message on assisted suicide. Archbishop writes “We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to bring about their death. We cannot approve of any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide. Rather, we need to support individuals, families, and those who work in healthcare, so that the fundamental value of life is not eroded.”  More details see <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/archbishop-wilson-every-human-life-is-to-be-cherished/>

**CAFOD - A Year of Encounter:**

With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [**cafod.org.uk/encounter**](http://cafod.org.uk/encounter)for more information, including online sessions on Thursday 25th April and Saturday 4th May to learn more.

**CAFOD Appeal for Sudan:**

“As violence persists into its second year, the humanitarian situation deteriorates rapidly, with 25 million Sudanese in need of immediate assistance. Famine looms ominously, threatening to become the worst crisis in living memory.”

Telley Sadia, CAFOD’s Country Representative for Sudan

To donate visit the website

<https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal>.

**May is the Month of Mary:**

During the month of May we have a wonderful opportunity to grow in our devotion and love for Our Lady.

During May we will pray the Holy Rosary on Monday after Mass and on Friday during Adoration.

On Tuesday mornings after Mass we have refreshments followed by a film.

**CHRISTIAN AID BIG BREAKFAST:**

Please join us for breakfast on Saturday May 18th at 08:30 at Saint Andrew's Parish Centre

 £10 for a full breakfast (Vegetarian option available). All profits to Christian Aid.

Thank you to the small number of parishioners, who have indicated they will be attending and/or assisting setting up/serving and clearing up. We could do with a lot more support if we are to make any money for Christian Aid and be able to serve our guests. **Please let Jolyon know this weekend.**

**PLEASE TRY AND SUPPORT THIS EVENT IF YOU CAN**

**Tenterden Methodist Church (High Street):**

This church opened on the 29th April 1885, but sadly will be closing this year. A farewell service will be held at 3pm on Sunday 19th May 2024 to which all Christians in the Town and Area are cordially invited. It would be good to show them our support at this sad time.

Notwithstanding this closure date, there will be an organ recital in the Methodist Church on their special War Memorial Organ at 3pm on Sunday 26th May followed by refreshments (1 hour)

**Sunday Evening Worship Together:**

On Sunday 26th May at 6pm, it is Saint Andrew's turn to lead the evening worship in Saint Andrew's

**Abortion:** Please take action to oppose the decriminalisation of abortion by writing to your MP asking them to vote against two proposed amendments. For the issues see  <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/take-action-on-proposed-abortion-law-change/>

**Maidstone Deanery Confirmation Programme 2024:**

Applications are invited from young people in **Year 9 or above,** to join our 2024 Deanery Confirmation programme, who live in the parishes of Maidstone Deanery (St Francis’, Maidstone/ St Peter’s, Bearsted/ Holy Family, Park Wood, /St Thomas More, West Malling/ St Theodore’s Cranbrook/  St Andrew’s, Tenterden / Sacred Heart, Goudhurst ).

The programme will run on mainly Sunday evenings at St Francis’ Church, Maidstone, beginning in June, a break throughout the summer holiday, continuing through September - October, with the **Confirmation Mass scheduled for Saturday 19th October, 3pm.** (Venue TBC).

Applicants must be Catholics, who have made their First Holy Communion.

Applications must come from the candidate themselves.

Applicants will commit to attending all of the sessions.

Applicants must also be willing to participate fully in all aspects of the programme.

To request an application form, which also gives details of dates and times of sessions, please email:

confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk