**Newsletter for the week commencing 19th May 2024**

**PENTECOST SUNDAY (B)**

**Entrance antiphon: The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia.**

**First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11**

**Psalm 103 Response: Send forth your spirit, O Lord, and renew the face of the earth.**

**Second Reading:  The first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 12: 3-7, 12-13**

**SEQUENCE**

**Acclamation:  Alleluia, alleluia! Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Alleluia!**

**Gospel: John 20: 19-23**

**Communion antiphon:  They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke of the marvels of God, alleluia.**

**Father Behr writes:**

Dear Parishioners

**Pentecost.**

There are many names/titles for God the Holy Spirit in scripture.

Our Lord Jesus calls the Holy Spirit the Advocate and the Paraclete.

In the Nicene Creed we profess that the Holy Spirit is the One who proceeds from the Father and the Son who has spoken through the prophets.

The Holy Spirit is the spirit who brings truth, clarity and gives the gift of divine wisdom.

We should ask for the help of the Holy Spirit every day to guide us and strengthen us on our journey through life.

**Prayer of St. Gertrude.**

Honour and glory be unto Thee, O most sweet, most consoling, most mild, most meek, most kind, most merciful, most gracious Holy Spirit. Thou most sweet Comforter of pious souls, fill our hearts with Thy sevenfold graces and Gifts. Amen.

**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**: Anne Wardlaw, Teresa Hall, Harold Farris, Mary Iglinski, John Nesbitt, Graham Cunliffe, Katherine Hyland, Elvira Lydon, Arthur Hesmer and John Browne.

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| **This week’s services (18th – 25th May),**  **Feasts and Mass intentions during the week.** | |
| **Saturday 18th May**  St John I, Pope & Martyr | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm 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 |
| **Monday 20th May**  **Mary, Mother of the Church** | 10am Mass *Breege Dolan* |
| **Tuesday 21st May**  St Christopher of Magallanes | 10am Mass *Donor’s Intention* |
| **Wednesday 22nd May**  St Rita of Cascia | 10am Mass  *Holy Souls (Margaret)* |
| **Thursday 23rd May**  Our Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest | 9am-10am Adoration  10am Mass - *for Priests* |
| **Friday 24th May**  Feria | 10am Mass *Private Intention (Christine)*  10.30 – 11.30am Adoration |
| **Saturday 25th May**  St Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church | No public Mass am  10.30 -11am Confession  6pm Vigil Mass*People of the Parish***Reader: Pat** |
| **Sunday 26th May**  **THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (B)** | 10am Mass *Adoration of the Most Holy Trinity***Reader: Collette**  12 Midday Traditional Latin Mass |
| **Flowers: for 25th/26th May – Sandra** | |
| **Cleaning for 25th/26th May: Liz and David** | |

**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 Liturgy.** 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, June 2nd**.**

**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.

**Pastoral Reflection on Gender:**

**The English and Welsh bishops** have issued a **pastoral reflection on gender** which is worth reading and passing on to those who have questions about the issues.  [**https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-issue-pastoral-reflection-on-gender/**](https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-issue-pastoral-reflection-on-gender/)

**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 Fayre on 23 June- for details see [thefriars.org.uk/Whats+On/Events/Summer Fayre/](https://www.thefriars.org.uk/Whats+On/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/>

**A Year of Encounter – Message from CAFOD.**

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>

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

This church opened on the 29thApril 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 6.00 pm, it is Saint Andrew's turn to lead the evening worship in Saint Andrew's

**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](mailto:confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk)

**What is the Alma Mater Fund?**

The Alma Mater Fund provides financial grants to pregnant students facing difficulties at universities across the UK, in order to support them in pursuing their academic and personal goals. Through the work of the initiative, the Alma Mater Fund coordinator can also direct students to further sources of support and advice.  To support this initiative, visit: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/alma-mater-fund>

***“It is troubling to see how simple and convenient it has become for some to deny the existence of a human life as a solution to problems that can and must be solved for both the mother and her unborn child.”*** **Pope Francis: *25 Sep. 2020 - Speech to the United Nations***