

GOUDHURST & HAWKHURST PARISH Newsletter

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Fourth Sunday of Lent Year A

22nd March 2020

Mass Times:

Saturday: 5.30pm Sacred Heart Church, Goudhurst

Sunday: 8.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst & 10.30am Sacred Heart Church

Tuesday to Friday: 9.30am Sacred Heart Church, Goudhurst

Adoration: Wednesdays 8.30am to 9.30am & Saturday morning 11am to 12pm followed by reconciliation

Holy Days of Obligation: 9.30am & 8.00pm at Goudhurst, 11.00am at Hawkhurst

Anniversaries: Robert Holmes, Malcolm Joseph Butt, Tim Gower, Tom Faulkner, Margaret Body, Sue Ring, Margaret Banfield, Terence Burton, Sheila Boyce, and Anthony Richards. May they live in God's light forever.

Please pray for the sick in the parish: Bernadette Strange, Helen Fletcher, Nuala Manwaring, Cynthia Raza, and Eileen Collett.

Pope's Prayer Intention for MARCH: Catholics in China

We pray that the Church in China may persevere in its faithfulness to the Gospel and grow in unity.

Coronavirus - The latest instructions from the Diocese ***NO MASSES AT EITHER CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE***

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic, so many aspects of our lives must change. This includes the ways in which we publicly express our faith. It is very clear that, following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, save lives and support the NHS, at this time we must not gather for public acts of worship in our churches. This will begin from Friday evening, 20th March 2020, until further notice. Our churches will remain open. They are not closing. They will be a focal point of prayer, where you will find solace and strength. In visiting our churches at this time, we will observe with great care the practices of hygiene and the guidance on social distancing. However, **the celebration of Mass, Sunday by Sunday and day by day, will take place without a public congregation.** Knowing that the Mass is being celebrated; joining in spiritually in that celebration; watching the live-streaming of the Mass; following its prayers at home; making an act of spiritual communion: this is how we share in the Sacrifice of Christ in these days. These are the ways in which we will sanctify Sunday, and indeed every day. We want everyone to understand that in these emergency circumstances, and for as long as they last, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed. This is, without doubt, the teaching of the Church (Catechism of the Catholic Church 2181). This pandemic is the 'serious reason' why this obligation does not apply at this time.

Food Bank "The Community Cupboard" supported by Churches Together provide food and basic toiletries in the short term for those experiencing financial difficulties. They are still in urgent need of donations, especially at this difficult time. Please could you drop off any items for the food bank at St Mary's, Goudhurst – there is a box under the table in the entrance of St Mary's and Christ Church, Kilndown for donations. More information can be found here: www.gkchurch.org.uk/connect

Stations of the Cross & Adoration during Lent will be suspended until further notice. However, the church will remain open if you wish to come and pray. Please call in at the Presbytery for a key. We are currently in the process of setting up a rota to enable the church to be open at certain times. We will share details as soon as we can.

Lenten Course Our Lenten course is now cancelled for the moment, we will let you know if it will start again.

Churches Together Lent Lunches These are now cancelled.

Day of Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers The next half day of Recollection for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers in the Maidstone Deanery will be on **Saturday 25th April** at St Andrew's in Tenterden, TN30 6LL from **1-4pm**. It will be led by Mgr. Matthew Dickens who is Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Easter Lilies There is a form at the back of the church for people to buy a lily in memory of a loved one at Easter.

Heart of Kenya Damian Deeney was running in the Hastings half Marathon in aid of Heart of Kenya but this has now been cancelled. It will be rescheduled at a later date.

Pray and 'do not worry' These words, from Paul's letter to the Philippians, are especially helpful to us all at the moment. They don't mean, 'do not take the situation extremely seriously', they mean, know that God has not abandoned you; keep in touch with Him; share your fears with the One who knows and loves you. Paul wrote, "Do not worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus." *Seek first the kingdom of God and all things will be given to you.*

Thoughts from Fr Vic "He is the uncreated light, without which, I would not be I". Use this to meditate on this week!

Parish Collections

Last Weekend

Total: £358.55

Gift Aided: £291.00

LEPRA: £471.21

Thank you for your support

Announcements

April 2nd Collections:

10th Holy Places (Good Friday)

26th St George's Cathedral

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Please see the Website and Facebook page for more information