



Sacred Heart Goudhurst & Saint Barnabas Hawkhurst Parish Newsletter

Sunday 4 April 2021, Easter Sunday, Year B

Mass Times

Thursday 8:00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, Goudhurst
Saturday 8:00 pm Vigil Mass, Goudhurst
Sunday 8:30 am Hawkhurst, 10:30 am Goudhurst

Book as usual through thechurchisopen@gmail.com

Please be considerate to others at this busy time of year and keep a social distance, wear a mask and keep safe.

Easter Offering

The Offering at this time of year is for Father Vic, let us keep him in our thoughts and prayers as he prepares for, and looks forward to his well deserved retirement.

Anniversaries

Thomas Brongor, Ivy King, Bill Turner, Barbara Johnson, Kathleen Mary Steddy, P J Smyth, Tom Sibree

Pray for the Sick

Bernadette Strange, Helen Fletcher, Cynthia Raza, Eileen Collett

Bishops' Conference

During Holy Week, Bishop Declan Lang, chair of the Bishops' International Affairs department, has issued a reminder that the Christians living in the lands of Christ should be held in prayer.

Starved of pilgrim visitors to the Holy sites, and facing the daily realities of conflict and occupation, the Christians, as Pope Francis puts it, are suffering "the economic inequalities and regional tensions that threaten the stability of these lands."

Bishop Lang is asking Christians to reaffirm their commitment to justice and peace in Middle East. He also calls on our leaders to "increase their support for peacebuilding, humanitarian relief, and the protection of human dignity, while forsaking narrow political or economic interests, including the sale of arms which only fuel conflict."

Pope Francis

Prayer of Intention for April, Fundamental Rights:

We pray for those who risk their lives while fighting for fundamental rights under dictatorships, authoritarian regimes and even in democracies in crisis

*Lord may we treasure the freedom you have given us. We pray that you strengthen our convictions and grant us the courage to act on them. May we give voice to those who are unable to speak for themselves. **Father Vic***

Catholic Voices

Catholic Voices will be hosting an online conference titled "Sharing the Church's Story" on April 17th 2021. You will hear a variety of speakers share simple, powerful tips and workshops so that everyone can share the Church's story with charity, clarity, and confidence. For more information or to sign up, email: info@catholicvoices.org.uk

To Be a Pilgrim

In lockdown many of us have got used to, and enjoy, our daily walk from our homes to get some fresh air, sunlight and perspective, and to stop staring at our screens. Wherever you are there are simple, effective ways to turn your walk into a pilgrimage. See britishpilgrimage.org

First thing to do is set a destination – there are many apps that show you your nearest holy place and to experience the joy of discovering a one near you that you never knew existed -the mixture of surprise and elation is unique.

Second, set your intention – structure your walk around a purpose unique to you, determined by your heart and activated by your feet. All of us usually have at least one question we want answering, something we want to bring into our lives.

Thirdly, and finally, your daily pilgrimage is about actually walking, being ever-present to all around you, and getting to know the land in greater detail, charging your intention as you walk. If you are with others, perhaps ask for a few minutes' silent walking. **Stephanie Gallier**

In the News

The BBC is literally preaching to the converted by restricting most of its religious programming to the Sunday Songs of Praise God slot, a bishop has complained. Dr. Hartley, Bishop of Ripon, said the corporation had a duty to explore the big questions in life in its spiritual output with drama and documentaries. *Its all very well having more content than ever before, but if most of it fails to get beyond the God slot what's the point?*

The bishop said that the BBC needed to rethink religious output rather than congratulating itself on airing more services. *Programming should not play to stereotype or focus unduly on particular things like ritual because that's what the BBC thinks religious people do.* Dramas touching on religious themes could help believers and non-believers understand each other, an example being Channel 4's *It's a Sin* raising awareness of the 1980's Aids pandemic. **The Times**

Father Vic's retirement

As parishioners will be aware, Father Vic will be retiring in the coming months once he is able to confirm and move into his new accommodation. He had thought it would be possible to retire around Easter time, but delays with the accommodation have required a postponement. Once Father Vic receives confirmation we will be able to consult on how to mark his retirement. Father Vic's stepping down raises the question of leadership of the parish once he has retired. The Parish Council has made a strong case to the Archbishop for a permanent replacement, and the Archdiocese is actively looking for someone suitable. If this is not possible in the short term we have requested a temporary replacement to give us time to explore further. Meanwhile we have a number of neighbouring priests who have kindly agreed to help out and say masses. We will continue to keep you informed as the position evolves. **Edward Hutt**

Let us pray

Let us pray to the Saviour of all men. By dying he destroyed our death and by rising he restored our life. Sanctify the people whom you redeemed by your blood.

Unite the faithful to your passion in times of trouble and distress, let the power of your salvation shine forth in their lives. **Father Vic**

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