



Sacred Heart Goudhurst & Saint Barnabas Hawkhurst Parish Newsletter

02 May 2021, Fifth Sunday of Easter, 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

Trudy Bradford, Mary Mooney, Ralph Ryan, Violet Ames, Thomas Robertson, Rose Myles, Nina Pearce, Leslie Strange, Margaret Strange and Amanda Tiernan

Pray for the Sick

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

Pope Francis

Prayer of Intention for May, The World of Finance:
Let us pray that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers.

*Lord may we always seek to further true communion among those made in the image of Jesus. May we value the dignity of every man and woman above all things. May those in power desire to serve wisely those in need, and always strive to act justly on their behalf. Amen. **Father Vic***

New Icon

A new month brings a new icon, as you will see at the top of this page. This month the icon is called *The Virgin of Tenderness*. It portrays the bond of intimacy between the Mother of God and her son Jesus. Their cheeks meet in loving embrace, and their eyes in a gaze of mutual compassion. The icon depicts the Virgin Mary mourning the passion of her son which has been made known to her by Simeon. Leonid Ouspensky (*The Meaning of Icons*) marvellously describes the working of grace in the soul of the Virgin at this moment: "In all the variety of human feelings those connected with motherhood are the most intense, far more than any others they are connected not only with inner but also with physical life. In the icons of tenderness, the motherly caress of the Mother of God is indissolubly connected with her tormenting pain for her son. The compassion she feels for Him becomes transformed into motherly compassion for all creatures for whom He voluntarily sacrifices Himself. Contact with the Deity transforms motherly tenderness into all-embracing love and grief for the whole of creation."

Music at Mass

10:20 Prelude	Ad Coeman Agni Providi	Monks and Choir Downside
	Cantique de Jean Racine	Monks and Choir Downside
	Laeta Dies Magni Ducis	Monks and Choir Downside
10:30 Opening Hymn	Lord of All Hopefulness	
Communion	A New Commandment	Tallis Scholars
	Ubi Caritas	Taize
Retiring	All People That on Earth do Dwell	

The Meaning of Life

In the Monty Python film, *The Meaning of Life*, there is a scene where a British soldier fighting the Zulu is asleep in his tent when during the night one of his legs is bitten off by a tiger. Explaining to another soldier what happened he says "Complete mystery to me, woke up just now one sock too many" There is no doubt that the pandemic tiger has been at work in the tent that is our society. However with the success of the vaccination programme in the UK talk is now of the future and building back better.

The strength of any building is in the sureness of its foundation, and there is no better base to build upon than the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Dignity and solidarity, the common good and the option for the poor, peace, care for creation and the dignity of work and participation. And who will be the builder? - YOU. In your life, in your family, in your parish and in your community you, strengthened by your Faith, in the joy of the Risen Lord and having one sock too many will build back better.

The Month of Mary

May is a very special month in the Catholic calendar as it marks the month of Mary. The tradition dates all the way back to the ancient Greeks who dedicated the month of May to Artemis, the goddess of fecundity, and the Romans who claimed May to honour Flora the goddess of bloom and blossoms. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of their own home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration.

Pope Francis has also asked for us to take special time this month to say the Rosary. Also called the Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Rosary is one of the most excellent prayers to the Mother of God, centred on the contemplation of the salvific events of Christ's life and their close association with the Virgin Mother.

Within the Parish there is a Rosary Group which meets regularly both to pray and share other interesting experiences. If you would like to contact the group to join or for more information, get in touch. **Palmyra Willis**

Bishops' Conference

Bishop Paul McAleenan, the Church's Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, has welcomed the publication of a new report by Catholic organisation Jesuit Refugee Service UK arguing for a radically new 'human-centred' approach to asylum.

Titled *Being Human in the Asylum System*, the report draws on principles of Catholic Social Teaching and concludes that new government proposals to reform the asylum system will "deepen hostility to refugees" and "threaten the fabric of society".

"Engaged in daily encounters with refugees the Jesuit Refugee Service speaks from a position of knowledge and authority. Driven by the principle to share what belongs in justice, for our common dignity, the report is uncompromising. Justice cannot be compromised, people's welfare must be prioritised. Visit jrsuk.net for more information.

Let us Pray

Lord God, life of those who believe in you, glory of the humble and happiness of the saints, listen kindly to our prayer. We long for what you promise, fill us from your abundance.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Contact

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