

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
PRIEST: Fr. Peter Soper, The Priest's House, More Park, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 843302
 e mail: westmalling@rcaos.org.uk Website: www.westmallingrc.org.uk

St. Thomas More Pre-School, St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre, Lucks Hill, West Malling, ME19 6HN Tel: 01732 874559

Third Sunday Of Lent (A)
A LENT OF INCREASED PRAYER, LOVE & SELF-CONTROL FOR OUR PARISH
15th March 2020

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE Please see the Archbishop's Decree and other advised measures that were sent out on email this week - hard copies available in porch.

FUTURE OF THE PARISH Please see statement from Elaine and the Future Parish Group in this newsletter. We give thanks that now our Church and Pre-School have been saved.

THIS WEEKEND We continue Lent with the theme of the 'living water of faith' and ask for faith and dedication to our prayer, love and self-control to bring this to us and make ourselves strong in our present challenges, and during the week we have Lent Penitentials in St. Simon Stock School and for Key Stage 1 in the School, Stations of the Cross, the Kings Hill & Mereworth Lent Area Mass and Adoration on Friday and a new 'pink' prayer sheet at Mass.

DURING THE WEEK There are meetings for the 1st Communion Children, Baby & Toddler Group, Youth Leaders, and St. Patrick's Mass in School on Tuesday and St. Joseph's Mass in Church on Friday. Also there is the 24 Hours with the Lord at Maidstone on Friday - please see poster.

NEXT WEEKEND We celebrate mid-Lent and Mother's Day when we take a 'breather' in our Lent with rose vestments and flowers in Church - and honour and pray for our mothers on earth and in heaven.

ARCHBISHOP PETER SMITH, our former Archbishop, sadly died last Friday and we offer him and his family and our Diocese all our love and prayers and support at this time.

SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE for Lindsay Corette who very sadly died suddenly and unexpectedly during the week - and we offer Fiona, Ethan, Liam, Emily & Kirsty all our love and support and prayers at this time.

PRAYERS PLEASE for Tony Brewer, Meg and family following his funeral last Tuesday - also Adrian Atmore, Peter Avery, and all facing illness and challenges at this time - again with our love and prayers and support.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING - especially with the agricultural sectors around Kent - please see the special note about a training day about this here in Bishop's House on Saturday 28th March on page 3 of this newsletter. We have been asked to host this and provide tea and coffee - if you could help with this can you let the office know.

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Lent)	14	5pm	Tony Brewer RIP (Parish)
SUNDAY Third Sunday of Lent (A)	15	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Lent Liturgy) Archbishop Peter Smith RIP The Parishioners
MONDAY (Lent)	16	9.30am	Communion Service
TUESDAY St. Patrick	17	9.30am 7.30pm	St. Patrick's Day Mass in School (Lent Penitentials at St. Simon Stock School) Stations of the Cross (Dee Avery)
WEDNESDAY (Lent)	18	9.30am 8pm	(With Yr. 5 from School) Tony Brewer RIP & Meg (Steph, Ian & family) (Key Stage 1 Penitentials in School) Kings Hill & Mereworth Lent Area House Mass - see overleaf
THURSDAY St. Joseph	19	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Lent)	20	9.30am 6-8pm	(Mass of St. Joseph) Michelle Grillo RIP (25th Anniv.) Adoration - everyone welcome to join team even for 10 minutes 12 midnight to 2am - West Malling at 24 Hours for the Lord at Maidstone
SATURDAY (Lent)	21	2.30pm 5pm	Baptisms - George Patrick & Jack Patterson Norman Neale RIP
SUNDAY Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) Mothering Sunday	22	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Lent Liturgy) Jurek (George) Makuch RIP (Anniv.) The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Peter and Dee Avery; Mary Wilmoth; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Margaret Edwards; the Orlando Family; Ross, Philip, Niki & Freya; Betty Hatton; John Stevens; Meg Brewer; Natalie Walker; Jean Clifford; Adrian Atmore; Marie-Yvette Dennis; carers of the sick; our housebound and all at Maidstone Hospital, Hospice and local Nursing Homes. Please pray for all affected by cutbacks, illnesses and other challenges in our country and world.

RECENTLY DEAD: Lindsay Corette; Archbishop Peter Smith; Fr. Henry Reynolds; Tony Brewer; Carol Blackmore; Bruce Costin; Fr. John Castelli; Ann McCormack; Colm Hillan; also Fr. John Garrett; Enzo Argento; Anthony Gobel (cousin) (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Vera Devlin; Nellie Harkin; Eunice Nichols; Jurek (George) Makuch; Michelle Grillo; Lucretia Kaigh; William Smith; Alison Micallef; Harold Leslie Hopson; Teodora Scalera; John Carroll; Leonard Love; Brendin O'Doherty; Hubert Madge; Harold Taylor.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 15	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 16	5-6pm	First Communion Children's Class in Church
TUESDAY 17	1.30pm to 3pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
	8pm	Youth Leaders meet in Priest's House
WEDNESDAY 18	8pm	Kings Hill & Mereworth Area House Mass - see below
SUNDAY 22	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your offerings which amounted to £340.11. (Standing Orders average £355 per week). The second collection for CAFOD raised £379.44.

SECURITY Anyone going into the Church alone must notify the Parish Office **even if they have their own Church key** and lock themselves in for safety reasons. They must also notify the Office when they leave.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION The next children's lesson is on **Monday 16th March from 5-6pm**. (Fruit of the Vine - discuss chapter.) (**We have taken down photos of last year's first communicants and they will be left on the table in the porch for parents to collect.**)

FIRST COMMUNION PRAYER CARDS Please take a card and pray for the child whose name is on it as they prepare for their First Communion. The cards are in a box on the table in the porch. Thank you.

MOTHER'S PRAYER GROUP The next meeting will be on Monday 23rd March at 7.30pm in the Church Porch. If you would be interested in attending please contact Steph Blackburn on 07977 458970 or email steph@bbits.co.uk.

ATTENTION ALL MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS Along with the beginning of Lent also come the 'MISSIO Today' magazines and our collectors will be contacting all Red Box holders to carry out the Spring collection in the near future. Following the Extraordinary Month of Mission in October 2019, the magazine tells us some of the work your contributions help in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the World.

DONATE8 has new appeals for help for *welcomers before mass*, *church cleaners*, and *flower arrangers*. If you can spare some time to help please fill in a card in the church porch and post in the box or email the office with your details. Many thanks.

**** **Save The Date** ****
SCHOOL & PARISH SUMMER FAYRE
Saturday 13th June 2020
Let's all get together and make it our best one yet!

SOCIAL JUSTICE From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of Pope Francis. The next such meeting will be from 2pm to 4pm on Sunday March 15th at the Area Bishop's House ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school, entered via the driveway starting opposite Station Road North). All are welcome!

A PILGRIMAGE DAY INTRODUCING THE SAINTS AT ST BENEDICT'S CENTRE will take place on 23rd March from 9.30am to 3pm with Sister Mary John. Cost is £20 to include refreshments plus bring a packed lunch and a change of footwear in case the ground is soggy or damp! See poster on noticeboard for full details of the event.

THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE DOWRY OF MARY will take place on 29th March. In preparation for this we are invited to pray the Angelus every day before or after our parish Mass and personally during the day. We are also invited, over the intervening days, to begin a personal consecration to Jesus through Mary.

'CONTEMPLATING THE WORD WITH MARY' - **England as the "Dowry of Mary"** Saturday 21st March 2020, The Friars, Aylesford, 10am to 4pm. Please book direct with the Friars. Tel: 01622 717272.

JOB OPPORTUNITY AT THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD KENT, ME20 7BX, Tel: 01622 717272. **Lay Sacristan** responsible for the day to day running and maintenance of the Shrine and Chapels. 5 days per week to include weekends. 9am to 5pm. £11.00 per hour. For a full job description and application form please contact Clare Abbotson, Prior's PA, cabbotson@thefriars.org.uk. Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 30th March 2020.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE have a Volunteer Twilight Event on Tuesday 21st April from 5-30-7.30pm. They also have a Barn Dance & Supper on Saturday 25th April at Grove Green Community Centre. See noticeboard for details of both events.

A DAY WITH MARY will be held at The English Martyrs, Strood, Kent on Saturday 28th March. See noticeboard for full details.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS For safeguarding reasons all children under 10 must be escorted to the toilet during Mass. Could we also remind parishioners that the doors inside Church must be accessible at all times and that prams or other items must not block them. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING Fiona's group week beginning 16th March.

CHURCH FLOWERS *Lent - No Flowers.*

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

LENT HOUSE MASSES 2020

Kings Hill & Mereworth Wednesday 18th March at 8pm. 109 Discovery Drive, Kings Hill ME19 4DS. Mary Lockyear 01732 875752.

Larkfield, Ditton, East Malling & Teston Wednesday 25th March at 8pm. 2 Barrie Drive, Larkfield ME20 6UG. Eileen Scholes 01732 846844.

West Malling, Offham, Addington, Leybourne & Villages Wednesday 1st April at 8pm. 9 The Links, Addington ME19 5RX. Bernadette & Jim Burke 01732 873392.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Third Sunday of Lent (Exodus 17:3-7, 2 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8, John 4:5-15, 19-26, 39-42)

Find our 'living water'

Jesus' message to the woman at the well reminds us of His first miracle at Cana where He changed water into wine. Today, He promises us "living water where we will never be thirsty again ... a spring inside ... welling up to eternal life". When His grace is poured into us, into our marriages, it can overflow, strengthening us, reaching out to others.

St. Joseph (2 Sam 7:4-5, 12-14, 16 Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22 Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24 [or Luke 2:41-51])

I will be with you always

Today we hear of hurt - Joseph's (Matthew) and Mary's (Luke). Whenever we are hurt, it is important to recall that Jesus said 'I will be with you always'. For example, in times of difficulty, when we are struggling to make decisions, but see things differently, He is there, giving us the strength and courage to listen lovingly to each other.

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP is an international initiative of the Catholic Bishops throughout the world working in partnership with the police and other agencies to bring an end to human trafficking - a form of modern-day slavery. It is a fact that human trafficking exists in every country, and probably in some form in every city and town - and, sad to say, that Kent area is highlighted as one of the many '**Hot Spots**' in the UK. It is hard for us to comprehend that people are being tricked, deceived and traded in our part of the world. The Bishops Conference of England & Wales, through the Santa Marta Group, seeks to create awareness of the trafficking situation and abuses that go on within the agricultural sectors around Kent, but they need the help of some volunteers from our parish to achieve their aim. The Santa Marta Group is, therefore, appealing for volunteers to be trained to assist in creating awareness of the problem of modern-day slavery in our parishes. The volunteers will be commissioned to go to parishes to help promote the campaign against the abuses in the agricultural sector. The training will take place in areas of Kent on two different dates. Please feel free to attend any of the dates. The first will be on Saturday 28th March 2020 at The Hermitage, More Park, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6HN from 10.00am to 2.30pm and the second will be on Saturday 4th April 2020 at St. Thomas of Canterbury Hall (**entry in Canterbury Lane**), Canterbury Lane, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2HJ, from 10.00am to 2.30pm. You are invited to attend any of the two training sessions. Please bring a packed lunch. The training programme is also opened to all interested parishioners. If you are interested to be a Volunteer in this project, please speak to your parish clergy. All are invited to the training programme - thank you.

FUTURE OF THE PARISH UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting on Monday evening to discuss the future of the Preschool. However 30 minutes before the meeting started I received an email from the Diocese.

I enclose the quote from this email for you all to see.

Archbishop's Council met earlier today to discuss matters at St Thomas More and the Hermitage. It was decided that, in order to provide sufficient time for everyone to consider the options and make plans, the Hermitage will not be marketed until Spring 2021. This allows for proper consideration of the Parish ambition to retain the Stable Block / Nursery and provides a period of certainty for the Nursery.

The attendees were very pleased that the sale of the site had been postponed and that the Preschool could stay in the Stable block until end of the school year 2021.

This does now give us time to further discuss the Stable block and for the Preschool and School discuss further their future plans. Please trust in our group that we will continue to do as much as possible to safeguard our Church, the site and use of the Stable block. We must now as a Parish look to how we can use the Stable block as small groups on a regular basis with co operation from the Pre school to help us.

ADORATION IN THE PARISH OF ST THOMAS MORE WEST MALLING

As you will remember from last year, we offered an opportunity for everyone to spend some quiet time with the Lord in Adoration. It was decided that the best response was for a Friday evening between 6pm and 8pm. We have 2 teams and have also had a few people join the team for a few minutes on a regular basis. To encourage you in Lent I asked for comments from our team of how taking time out from their busy lives to spend time in Adoration.

- ***I had a very set view on what Adoration was before I started spending an hour each Friday in church, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. I now clearly see it as an opportunity to spend an hour with the Lord. This could be in conversation, just listening or just being there. There is no pressure. On occasions, I leave as I came in but, on many occasions, I leave a slightly different person. The chance to step away from everything for an hour is a gift we seldom have, or use. I would recommend to anyone that you give the experience a go. What have you got to lose?'***
- ***Friday evenings set me up for the week and it has made a huge difference to my life. I am more empathetic and tolerant towards others. It is the realisation that we are so deeply loved that ensures we love back freely, knowing others are deeply loved by our Lord that we must try harder to meet him in loving others we meet.***
- ***You can still love somebody and dislike their habits. We do this in relation to our children, but do not always convey those emotions to others.***
- ***Adoration is a way of opening the door to our Lord and when you do, you change and want him even closer to you. It is as simple as that.***
- ***One gentleman told me how before he moved from his Parish the priest gave him a very special bible/prayer book. He had had no time to explore this wonderful gift, he now brings it to Adoration time and has given himself time to quietly read and contemplate.***

I hope this may encourage you to join our team – if you could spare 30 minutes between 6pm and 8pm on a Friday evening. Or if you and a group of friends feel you could create a new team on a different day or time. We will try our very best within certain restrictions to accommodate you.

If you are interested in taking part or have some ideas, please contact the Parish office by email.

