

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
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First Sunday Of Lent (A) 1st March 2020

CORONAVIRUS ADVICE The Bishops have advised us to sanitise our hands before coming to Mass and to ask anyone with cold or flu symptoms to refrain from receiving Communion on the tongue or from the chalice to help contain the spread of the coronavirus.

FUTURE OF THE PARISH Please see attached statement from the Parish Future Group on page 3 of this newsletter. Our thanks to the Group for all their hard work.

THIS WEEKEND is the first weekend of Lent when we begin our journey up the Lenten Ladder and have our prayer sheets and candles and self-denial envelopes for the CAFOD Fast Day on Friday 6th March. There will also be a collection during the notices for the poorer families of the Diocese to enable the Archbishop to help them. We then, during next week, begin our Lent Area House Masses (please see full list overleaf), together with Stations of the Cross which begin this Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

DURING THE WEEK There are meetings for the 1st Communion Children; Baby & Toddler Group; Friendship Group; West Malling, Offham, Addington, Leybourne & Villages Area Groups; and the Gardening Club - also an important meeting for the 1st Communion Parents on the Eucharist.

PRAYERS PLEASE for Ann McCormack and her family as they prepare for her funeral tomorrow (Monday), Enzo Argento and the Orlando family as they prepare for his funeral on Friday (details of both of these below), and Tony Brewer and Meg and family as they prepare for his funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium on Tuesday 10th March at 10.15am - also Eileen Lobeck and her family following her funeral last Friday, and Norman Neale and Bruce Costin RIP and their families - and we offer them all our love and prayers and support at this time - also to all facing illnesses and challenges at this time.

NEXT WEEKEND We continue Lent and during the week start our Lent Area House Masses (details overleaf) and penitentials in the school.

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 4 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 Weekday)	29	5pm	Pauline O'Toole RIP (Dee & Peter)
SUNDAY First Sunday of Lent (A)	1 Mar	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Lent Liturgy) The Parishioners Eileen Lobeck RIP (Family)
MONDAY (Lent)	2	9.30am 12 noon	Communion Service Funeral Service for Ann McCormack RIP in Church followed by service at Aylesford Cemetery
TUESDAY (Lent)	3	9.30am 7.30pm	Welfare of the Diamond Family Stations of the Cross (Dee Avery)
WEDNESDAY (Lent)	4	9.30am	St. David's Day Mass in <u>School</u>
THURSDAY (Lent)	5	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY Women's World Day of Prayer CAFOD Lent Fast Day	6	9.30am 12.30pm 6-8pm	Keggy Diamond RIP Funeral Mass for Enzo Argento at Corpus Christi, Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge followed by service at Tonbridge Cemetery Adoration - everyone welcome to join team even for 10 minutes
SATURDAY (Lent)	7	5pm	Norman Neale RIP
SUNDAY Second Sunday of Lent (A)	8	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Lent Liturgy) The Parishioners The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; Peter and Dee Avery; Mary Wilmot; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Os-tridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Margaret Edwards; the Orlando Family; Ross, Philip, Niki & Freya; Betty Hatton; John Stevens; Meg Brewer; Joan Johnson; Abbey & Oily Blackmore; 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: Tony Brewer; Carol Blackmore; Bruce Costin; Fr. John Castelli; Ann McCormack; Colm Hillan; Fr. John Garrett; Enzo Argento; Anthony Gobel (cousin); Norman Neale; also Pauline O'Toole; Eileen Lobeck; May Piddock (month's mind). Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: David Dadswell; Dennis Boxell; Sheila Martin; Monica Walker; Hannah Gleeson; Jean Large; Mark Hamill; Teresa Norris; Velma Smith; Patrick Kelly; Gerald Hemming; Nellie Morrissey; Ayleen Sharp; Laureen McIntosh.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 1 MARCH	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 2	5-6pm	First Communion Children's Class in Church
TUESDAY 3	1.30pm to 3pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
WEDNESDAY 4	12.45pm 7.30pm for 8pm	Friendship Group meet at Jenny's for a Soup Lunch First Communion Parents' Meeting in Church on the 'Eucharist'
FRIDAY 6	7pm for 7.30pm	West Malling, Offham, Addington, Leybourne & Villages Area Group Meeting at The Bull, West Malling
SATURDAY 7	10am to 12pm	Gardening Club
SUNDAY 8	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your offerings which amounted to £389.14. (Standing Orders average £355 per week).

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 2nd March from 5-6pm**. (Glory to God & The Word of the Lord - recap on Glory to God chapter and discuss The Word of the Lord.) The next parents' meeting is on **Wednesday 4th March with refreshments from 7.30pm and the meeting commencing at 8pm**. (Eucharist - important that all parents attend to help you and your child prepare for this Sacrament.) **(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.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP will be meeting at Jenny's for a Soup Lunch on Wednesday 4th March at 12.45pm

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.

ANNUAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER This year the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 6th March has been prepared by the Christian Women of Zimbabwe and the title is Rise! Take your mat and walk. There will be two services at 10am and 8pm both at the West Malling Baptist Church with refreshments served 30 minutes before each service. This promises to be a beautiful Ecumenical service and there is a poster at the back of the church advertising it. All are welcome.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MALLING Holy Trinity Church Larkfield Quiz Night on Saturday 7th March at Larkfield Scout Hut, opposite the church. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start. Maximum team size 6 people. £5 per person.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE See noticeboard for details of their Karting Event at Buckmore Park on Thursday 7th May 2020.

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.

GARDENING CLUB meet on Saturday 7th March from 10am to 12 noon.

CHURCH CLEANING Steph's group week beginning 2nd March.

CHURCH FLOWERS Lent - No Flowers.

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

LENT HOUSE MASSES 2020

Snodland & Halling Wednesday 11th March at 8pm. 33 High Street, Snodland ME6 5AG. Eileen Calkin 01634 240069.

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.

AREA GROUP MEETINGS

West Malling, Offham, Addington, Leybourne & Villages meet on Friday 6th March at 7 for 7.30pm at The Bull, High Street, West Malling for a fish and chip supper (dessert extra if required). **RSVP** Bernadette Burke 01732 873392

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

First Sunday of Lent (Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19, Matthew 4:1-11)

Avoid independence

Today, both Eve and Jesus are tempted to become independent, to turn away from the love of God. In marriage, we can think we have a right to fulfil our own desires without considering our partner, but we need to share these deepest hopes and dreams, and be prepared to hear the impact on our loved one and our relationship.

**** Save The Date ****

SCHOOL & PARISH SUMMER FAYRE

Saturday 13th June 2020

Let's all get together and make it our best one yet!

Parish Future Group update.

Please see the open statement from the Parish Future Group to Archbishop John Wilson and the Diocese of Southwark. Also, a clarifying note regarding the pre-school and Father Peter's accommodation.

The parish of St. Thomas More, West Malling would like to make the following statement.

On the 20th February 2020, Archbishop John Wilson and officers of the Diocese of Southwark, attended a meeting with members of the Parish Future Group of St. Thomas More Parish and Father Peter Soper, parish priest.

Firstly, we would like to acknowledge the issues and circumstances that led to the proposal to sell the site here at West Malling. This was the result of a regrettable breakdown and failure of communications within our parish.

At the meeting it was established and agreed that the church within its grounds would be retained by the parish. Further discussions are ongoing regarding The Hermitage, stable block and the remainder of the site.

We would like to publicly record our grateful thanks to the Archbishop and the diocese for the constructive manner in which they have approached this meeting.

We now look forward to building our community and working in collaboration with the diocese to our mutual benefit.

For and on behalf of the Parish Future Group of St. Thomas More, West Malling.

Clarifying statement.

We are aware that this is a very difficult time for both parents and staff of the pre-school regards to the continued uncertainty. To be clear, we will retain a pre-school in our parish, it's location however, is to be determined. Our clear aim and mandate is to have the pre-school remain within the stable block and we are working hard to expedite matters to a conclusion. We ask for your patience and understanding while we endeavour to meet this aim. We are also active in acquiring new accommodation and office facilities for Father Peter, within the area and have several properties to consider further. We want to reassure you that any accommodation considered would have the full approval of Father Peter.

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.

