

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

Seventh Sunday of the Year (A)
(Last Sunday before Lent)
DAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED
23rd February 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 Adrian will speak about the outcome of the meeting with the Archbishop last Thursday at all Masses.

THIS WEEKEND is the final weekend of the pre-school and school's holiday break and also the last Sunday before Lent. It is also a Day of Prayer for the Unemployed and we remember them and their families in our prayers and pray for new help and solutions.

LENT 2020 Lent begins this Ash Wednesday with Masses and Ashes (see below for times). It's a day of fast and abstinence - no meat and only one main meal and two snacks. The Youth Group also have their Lent Penitential and confessions in the school on Friday.

DURING THE WEEK There are also meetings for the 1st Communion Children, Parish Future Group, Mother's Prayer Group, Baby & Toddler Group, and Deanery Pastoral Council.

NEXT 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 on Tuesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

PRAYERS PLEASE for Eileen Lobeck and her family as they prepare for her funeral this Friday - also Enzo Argento and the Orlando family as they prepare for his funeral at Tonbridge on Friday 6th March - also Ann McCormack RIP and her family - and we offer them all our prayers and support at this time.

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (The Chair of St. Peter)	22	5pm	Harry Fellows RIP
SUNDAY Seventh Sunday of the Year (A) Day for the Unemployed	23	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy) The Parishioners The Parishioners
MONDAY (Weekday)	24	9.30am	Communion Service
TUESDAY Shrove Tuesday (St. Ethelbert)	25	9.30am	Keggy Diamond RIP
WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday	26	10am 8pm	School & Pre-School Mass in Church Parish Mass in Church
THURSDAY (Lent Weekday)	27	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Lent Weekday)	28	9.30am 1pm 6-8pm	Welfare (S.B.) Funeral of Eileen Lobeck RIP at Medway Crematorium Adoration - everyone welcome to join team even for 10 minutes
SATURDAY (Lent Weekday)	29	5pm	Pauline O'Toole RIP
SUNDAY First Sunday of Lent (A)	1 Mar	10am 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy) The Parishioners Eileen Lobeck RIP (Family)

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 Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Sheila Koster; Caroline Walker; Margaret Edwards; the Orlando Family; Ross, Philip, Niki & Freya; Betty Hatton; John Stevens; Tony Penfold; Tony & Meg Brewer; 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: Ann McCormack; Colm Hillan; Fr. John Garrett; Enzo Argento; Anthony Gobel (cousin); Norman Neale; 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: Charles O'Malia; Maisie Farrow; Margaret Banfield; Margaret Wilkinson; Marco Valencia; Eileen Bolton; Bridget Vernon; Meta McKeag; James Devlin; Cyril 'Bill' Smith; Anne Cotter; Lucienne Crawford; Martin Lyons; Alice Slater; Dorothy Beatty; David Dadswell; Dennis Boxell.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 23	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 24	5-6pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	First Communion Children's Class in Church Mother's Prayer Group in Church Porch Parish Future Group meeting in Priest's House
TUESDAY 25	1.30pm to 3pm 7.30pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre Deanery Pastoral Council at Tenterden
FRIDAY 28	7-9pm	Youth Group Lent Penitential in School
SUNDAY 1 MARCH	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your offerings which amounted to £365.38. (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 24th February from 5-6pm**. (Recap on Reconciliation and assess the books and class - discuss Glory to God in the Highest as discussed at parents meeting - check knowledge of prayers and general question time. **(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.

MOTHERS PRAYER GROUP The next meeting will be on Monday 24th February 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.

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

DONATE8 has new appeals for help for *welcomers before mass, church cleaners, flower arrangers* and also need a *team to move a shed*. 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.

HEART OF KENT HOSPICE See noticeboard for details of their Make A Will Month 2020.

MARY'S MEALS Please see noticeboard for an appeal to feed chronically hungry children in Turkana, northern Kenya.

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 Group 4 week beginning 24th February.

CHURCH FLOWERS Elaine's group week beginning 28th February.

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 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)

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Lev 19:1-2, 17-18, 1 Corinthians 3:16-23, Matthew 5:38-48)

Finding the joy in our sacramental relationship

The joy of courting couples is obvious for all to see. Over the years, excitement can lessen, our independent attitudes strengthen; competition and jealousy creep in. Today Jesus calls us to "... turn the other cheek ...". In confidence share, in trust listen, in faith forgive, so that our spouse will grow in self-worth and the sparkle of joy will reignite.

Ash Wednesday (Joel 2:12-18, 2 Corinthians 5:20-6.2, Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18)

Turn anew to each other

Our loving, compassionate, merciful and forgiving Father is always saying 'come back to me', 'repent and be reconciled to me and to each other'. In our marriage, issues or hurts can result in 'losing' each other. It's time to 'come back' to each other, be compassionate and forgiving ... and back to our loving Father in the Sacrament of Reconciliation!

