

ST. THOMAS MORE CHURCH, LUCKS HILL, WEST MALLING
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BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A)

12th January 2020

IMPORTANT PARISH MEETING ON THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH - THURSDAY 16th JANUARY (this week) at 7.30pm IN THE CHURCH. Please read the attached statements from the Diocese and the Invitation/Agenda for this meeting attached to this newsletter and come with ideas for us to take to the Diocese. Many, many thanks to all those who organised and signed the petition and who have shown support in many ways. This meeting is the next step so please support us in it - thank you.

THIS WEEKEND - CANDLEMAS JOURNEY & SPUC WHITE FLOWER APPEAL This weekend we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and end the Christmas season, and begin our journey to Candlemas, joining with Mary & Joseph taking the light of the First Christmas to the Jewish people in the Temple of Jerusalem and the Wise Men taking that light back to their countries and people, to bring the light of this Christmas to root it in the temple of our hearts and Parish and Church on this Candlemas weekend (1st/2nd February). Please take the candle that will be blessed today and the special Candlemas Journey Prayer Sheet to use at home in prayer on these days. This year, again, we make the journey in a special way for our Parish.

We also have the SPUC White Flower Appeal - see special note overleaf. Cards and white flower stickers, and a basket for donations in the porch.

DURING THE WEEK There is the special Parish meeting above - also meetings for the First Communion children, Mother's Prayer Group, Baby & Toddler Group, Children's Liturgy organisers, and the Youth Group - details overleaf.

NEXT WEEKEND We continue our Candlemas journey and also celebrate Peace Sunday - see special notice overleaf and collect an envelope for next weekend's collection from the back of the church. We also begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with prayers and services at West Malling Baptist Church on Saturday 1.30-4.30pm, and St. James, East Malling on Sunday at 9.45am. There is also the Snodland United Service at All Saints, Snodland (where I will be preaching!) on Sunday at 3pm, and our own service here on Monday 20th at 7pm, for which I ask your support.

PRAYERS PLEASE FOR CHRISTOPHER HASKINS and his family as they prepare for his funeral Mass at Aylesford Priory this Thursday (17th) at 12 noon and we offer them all our love, support and prayers.

CONGRATULATIONS to Betty Callaghan and Betty Hatton who celebrated their 91st and 98th Birthdays respectively last weekend - and our love and prayers.

MASSES & SERVICES

SATURDAY (Epiphany Octave)	11	5pm	(Children's Liturgy) Philomena Mulcahy RIP
SUNDAY Baptism of the Lord Beginning of Candlemas Journey	12	10am 5.30pm	The Parishioners Matilda & Paul Perera RIP
MONDAY (Candlemas Journey)	13	9.30am	Communion Service
TUESDAY (Candlemas Journey)	14	9.30am	(With Yr. R) Fr. Jim Kirby RIP
WEDNESDAY (Candlemas Journey)	15	9.30am	Keggy Diamond RIP
THURSDAY (Candlemas Journey)	16	9.30am	Communion Service
FRIDAY (Candlemas Journey) St. Anthony, Abbot	17	9.30am	Welfare of the Diamond Family
SATURDAY (Candlemas Journey) Church Unity Octave	18	5pm	Neville & Beno Perera Thanksgiving
SUNDAY (Candlemas Journey) Peace Day 2nd Sunday of the Year Unity Octave	19	10am 3pm 5.30pm	(Children's Liturgy) The Parishioners Snodland Unite with service at All Saints, Snodland The Parishioners

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: Saturday 4.30pm to 4.45pm

PLEASE PRAY FOR: Betty Ward; Moira Stevens; May Piddock; Peter and Dee Avery; Pauline O'Toole; Mary Wilmot; Fiona Evans; Roy & Heather Lewis; Frank Ostridge; Jacky Seeds; Archie & Arrison Sullivan; Diane McSharry; Leo McSharry; Oliver Young; Craig Richards; John Stevens; Louis Fissenden; 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: Luke Sullivan; Baby Francis Blackmore; Bert McLelland; Mary Gallagher; Marie Casey; David Formosa; Ewa Wszolek; Dagmar Müller; Tony Fullwood; Christopher Haskins. Please keep in your prayers all who have died in conflict throughout the world especially the innocent civilians.

ANNIVERSARIES: Avenna Fry; Elsbeth Douse; Antonio Falcone; Carol Copland; Sarah Love; Michael Stevens; Dorothy Savage; Cornelius Hegarty; Brian Murphy; Eileen Jordan; Mary Spaul; Frank Dunster; Bridget Payne; Ellen Smith; Anne Johnson; Ellen Underhill; Molly Forster.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 12	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
MONDAY 13	5-6pm 7.30pm	First Communion Children's Class in Church Mothers Prayer Group in Church Porch
TUESDAY 14	1.30pm to 3pm	Baby & Toddler Group in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre
WEDNESDAY 15	7.45 for 8pm	Children's Liturgy Organisers meet in Priest's House
THURSDAY 16	7.30pm	Parish Meeting on the Future of the Parish
FRIDAY 17	7-9pm	Youth Group meets in School
SUNDAY 19	10am	Children's Liturgy in the St. Thomas of Canterbury Centre

THANK YOU for your generous offerings this week. (Standing Orders average £355 per week).

100 CLUB Congratulations go to Fr. Peter (No. 5) for the January draw.

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 this **Monday 13th January 2020 from 5-6pm** (Celebrating our Rescue - discuss chapter and how we all need other people to help us and care for us, how we should all forgive). **(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 13th January 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.

JOB VACANCY: SHRINE SECRETARY AT THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD, KENT ME20 7BX Hours: Mon-Fri 9.30am - 2.30pm with some seasonal weekend work to cover pilgrimages. Rate of Pay: £11.50 per hour. For a full job description and application form please contact Clare Abbotson, Prior's PA, cabbotson@thefriars.org.uk, 01622 714148 or 01622 717272. The closing date for applications is Friday 17th January.

JOB VACANCY The governors of St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Primary School in Mortlake, London SW14 8HE are looking to recruit a Headteacher to take up post in September 2020. For more information, please see the school website - <https://www.st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk/>, or contact Evelyn Fernandes at admin@st-marymagdalens.richmond.sch.uk for an application pack.

FUNDRAISING VOLUNTEER ROLE Location: Finance Office, 59 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JE. Hours: ideally 2 days per week for 6 months - can be flexible. This role will involve tasks such as organising the legacy gifts files, inputting data onto a CRM database, mail-merging thank you letters, general administration, scanning and filing, helping to organise events, printing and mailing materials, etc. The role brings opportunities for someone to get a good idea on how a fundraising department works and its various component parts. If you would like to apply please send your CV with a cover note explaining you are interested in this role to Sarah Wood, HR Manager, via email: sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk.

FULLY ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. 16th March 2020. £599 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with breakfast and dinner. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email: knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. See noticeboard for poster with full itinerary.

MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES APRIL - OCTOBER 2020 7 night stay and airport shuttle service from Dubrovnik or Split for €266 per person sharing. Book any flight - any time and they provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call for further info and book the dates that suit you. Tel: 020 3239 8662 or email reservations@med-irishcentre.com. See noticeboard for poster and further 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 Wiesia's Group week beginning 13th January.

CHURCH FLOWERS Elaine's Group weeks beginning 10th and 17th January.

NOTICES Please see the Notice Board for more details.

SPUC 'WHITE FLOWER' APPEAL 2020 - the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this week-end. On 21 October 2019 the most extreme abortion regime in Europe was imposed on the people of Northern Ireland by the government at Westminster. Abortion will now be permitted for any reason up until at least 24 weeks, and even beyond that. The abortion lobby now wants to introduce this in England & Wales. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC defend unborn babies and their mothers from this new attack.

PEACE SUNDAY The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, they work with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice.

AREA GROUP MEETINGS

Kings Hill & Mereworth meet on Thursday 30th January at 8pm (Secret Santa - please bring a wrapped, new and unwanted Christmas present). Venue: 145 Discovery Drive, Kings Hill, ME19 4DS. **RSVP** Ray & Wendy Cassidy 01732 521261

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

The Baptism of the Lord (Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Acts 10:34-38, Matthew 3:13-17)

You are my chosen one

Today, Isaiah and Matthew talk of Jesus being 'the Chosen One' and 'the Beloved'. So often, we are aware of the times when our partner annoys us. We need to develop a sensitivity so that, when we are tempted to be critical, we remember that this is my 'chosen one' and look for ways to affirm our partner, our 'beloved'.

