

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE, WHITSTABLE CT5 2EY
with St. Joseph's, Chestfield CT5 3LD

www.rcourladywhitstable.org.uk



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Parish Office:	15a Castle Road, Whitstable. CT5 2DY	01227 272758
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Parish Priest:	Rev. Canon Philip Glandfield	whitstablepp@rcaos.org.uk
<i>Emeritus Parish Deacon:</i>	<i>Rev. Deacon Dan Mulcahy</i>	
Parish Secretary:	Mrs Bernadette Martin: Tues./Wed./Fri. 9 am to 4.30 pm	
Parish Social Centre:	15a, Castle Road, Whitstable. CT5 2DY	
Enquiries & Bookings	Mr David & Mrs Lesley Wiles:	lesleysh@aol.com 01227 265763
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SVP Group:	Mrs Joanna Waller	07842 550998
Parish School:	St Mary's School, Northwood Road	01227 272692
Parish Website:	www.rcourladywhitstable.org.uk	
Notices for the Bulletin:	To be submitted please by 7.30 pm on Wednesday	

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT: (Yr B) Mass Book page 71

25th February 2024

<p>SATURDAY 24th Feb: <i>Confessions: 11.30 to 12.00 noon - 5.15pm to 5.45 pm</i> 6.00 pm: Fr Pat Maloney, RIP (J Austin)</p> <p>SUNDAY 25th Feb: 2nd SUNDAY OF LENT 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 10.30 am: Marie Kennedy, RIP (M Dengate) 4.00 pm: <i>Stations of the Cross</i> led by SVP</p> <p>TUESDAY 27th Feb: (St Gregory of Narek) 12.30 pm: John & Joanna Rowe, RIP (M Rowe) 7.00 pm: <i>Lent Reflections in the hall</i></p> <p>WEDNESDAY 28th Feb: 10.00 am: Laure Rose Foreman - Welfare & Thanksgiving (C Bedells)</p>	<p>THURSDAY 29th Feb: 10.00 am: David Maher <i>NB: no Adoration today</i> 11:15 am: Funeral service: Kevin Dickinson RIP</p> <p>FRIDAY 1st Mar: St David, Patron of Wales 7.00 am: Peace in our World (Parish) 10.00 am: Joseph Flannery, RIP (M Flannery) 2.55 pm: <i>Rosary, by friends of St Mary's School</i></p> <p>SATURDAY 2nd Mar: (St Nicholas Owen) <i>Confessions: 11.30 to 12.00 noon - 5.15pm to 5.45 pm</i> 6.00 pm: Sean Stringer, RIP (M Stringer)</p> <p>SUNDAY 3rd Mar: 3rd SUNDAY OF LENT 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 10.30 am: Jenny Sommerset's Intentions (J Melis) 4.00 pm: <i>Stations of the Cross</i></p>
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CAFOD LENT FAST DAY: This Lenten event took place last Friday, and we were encouraged to eat less and donate the 'savings' the work of CAFOD. The appeal this year is help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Please contribute to the retiring collection, or take an envelope and return it next week. Alternatively, you can donate online at cafod.org.uk – We pray that our sisters & brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Wishing you, your families & friends, a blessed Lenten week. *Canon Philip*

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES: A reflection day run by the Family Life Team of the Diocese, called 'Building a Better Marriage', is going to take place in the parish on Saturday 13th April (9.30 to 4.30pm). An opportunity for married couples to explore (privately) their relationship more deeply, to gain insights into communication and also their vocation to married life. Aimed at all married couples, whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between. It seeks to help make marriages even better! A couple from our parish attended one of these events and found it very fruitful. To register interest, email the parish office whitstable@rcaos.org.uk or pass on a note of your details. There is no charge to attend and refreshments will be provided... just bring a packed lunch!

World Day of Prayer - 1 March 24: The World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical day of prayer led by Christian women on the first Friday in March. The materials this year have been prepared by Christian women in Palestine on the theme "*I beg you, bear with one another in love*". An ecumenical service is taking place at All Saints Hall at 12 noon, on Friday 1st, All are welcome to take part in this 45-minute service. "*We will be praying for both Palestinian and Jewish people at this, for the Middle East and all parts of the world where there is conflict.*"

ST PATRICK'S DAY EVENT: St Patrick's Day Event on Saturday 16th March. Please come to the meeting after 10.30 am Mass this weekend if you can help, or register an interest via the parish office.

POPE FRANCIS' MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: For the Martyrs of our day, Witnesses to Christ. Let us pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world might inspire the Church with their courage and missionary drive.

CLERGY SUPPORT FUND: Thank you to all who contributed to the 2nd collection last weekend, towards the fund which enables the Diocese to support retired and sick priests. There are still some of the special envelopes at the back of the church if you missed the collection. Those contributing to this fund make supporting our clergy in retirement possible. To donate online visit www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan the QR code. You can also donate via telephone during office hours (Mon-Fri) **020 7960 2504**. Please continue to keep all Priests in your prayers.



PARISH GARDENING - SAVE THE DATES: 13 March, 8 April, 21 May, 3 July, 15 Aug, 27 Sept and 9 Nov; (start times to be set nearer the day). For those who love gardening, this is an opportunity to get together, enjoy some extra gardening and help the parish. It would be wonderful to welcome more parishioners to the gatherings. The gardeners usually meet for a couple of hours and finish with refreshments in the hall.

CARITAS SOUTHWARK: 1-Year Anniversary Mass, Saturday 16 March, 12.30pm, St George's Cathedral. All are warmly invited to join Caritas Archdiocese of Southwark in this Mass of celebration and a gathering afterwards in Amigo Hall. Archbishop John Wilson will be the principal celebrant at the Mass.

SVP: The SVP would be grateful for donations of small Easter eggs for the children of the families they assist. *"We are always very grateful for any donations you can give towards our beneficiaries and thank you in advance for your continued support and generosity"*. They are also short of the following in-date items: coffee, tea, long-life milk, cereals, tinned tomatoes, tinned fruit & vegetables, jam, tinned fish & meats, and baked beans

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: takes place during the first part of the 10.30am Mass, providing the children their own Liturgy of the Word. Their next sessions are on 3rd & 10th March.

YOUTH GROUP meets alternate Saturdays in the Social Centre, 6.30pm-8.30pm. Lots of activities including games, music, craft & prayer. Open to all in Year 6 or above. The next sessions are 9th & 23rd Mar.

SUNDAY MASS TEA & COFFEE: All welcome to the hall after 10.30am Mass for refreshments & chat. The 'hosts' today are Helen & Stephen Mathews & Jan Petts, & next week Mary Rowe and friends.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Valerie Jones who died last Sunday; Valerie was a former organist, used to coordinate the parish choir in our church and volunteered in several other ways including the RCIA programme. We pass on our prayers and condolences to her family and friends.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Teresa Vousden, Mabel Ross, John Dalton, George Catt, Violet Grantham, Leopoldine Mayer, Lillian Rothwell, Susan O'Leary, Teresa Harris, Patricia Clifford, Rosanna Kelly, Dave Holgate, Claude Herbert, Ida Broadbridge, 'Vincie' Collis, Leo Waters, Patrick O'Brien, John Devine, Dorothy Faulkner, Cyril Regan, Maria O'Connor, Joseph Flannery, Mary Lilley, Paul Sola, Val Stirrup and Catherine Drury.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual Light Shine upon them;

may their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen

SICK: Your prayers are asked for: Frances Alderson, Claire Christie, Duncan Forrester, Suzie Fowler, Katherine Harris, Madeleine Kavanagh, Amanda Maclean, Julia Atkins, Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Oscar O'Sullivan, Dominic Punch, Maureen Smiley, Pauline Summers, Nicholas Watson, Margaret Webb, Leah Sheehan, Roman Sheehan, Colin Henson, Sid Russell, David Rose, Nickola Salvatore, Reita Mugford, Roger Johns, Jack Murphy, David Black, Teresa Way, Nigel Bates, James Shepherd, Tina Bezer & Maureen Games. We pray also for all in hospital, nursing or hospice care, together with all who assist them.

Collections	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Total
17 th & 18 th February 2024	£312.70	£268.74	£581.44
Clergy Support Fund	£124.00	£276.75	£400.75
Standing Order and other regular giving: Weekly average for January 2024*	£471.15	£24.92	£496.08

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

Retiring collection this weekend to contribute to Cafod Lent Fast Day

*This is the calculated 'weekly equivalent' of contributions received direct to the Parish account from parishioners for January.

ONLINE NEWSLETTER EXTRA...

Some items that we receive or find won't fit on two sides of A4 but we can still share them with you here on the e-edition of the newsletter on the website. This may be information we have been asked to share, but that may not be of immediate import to the parish; it might be interesting information, like the details below concerning the theme of this weekend. Additionally, some items can be repeated.

NEW TO THE PARISH? If you have moved to the parish since 2019 (when the last parish census took place) please let us know via email. We can email our 'new parishioner form' and add you onto our parish database; information provided only used for Church purposes.

Weekly Parish Email: Canon Philip sends an email each week to let parishioners know the Newsletter is on the website. If you would like to be added to the list please email whitstable@rcaos.org.uk

PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM: The rector of the Walsingham shrine, has written to parishes inviting group pilgrimages in 2024. It has been suggested that we might take a group, possibly on Wednesday 29th May 2024 (during the half term holiday). Interested? Let us know and pencil it in the diary. The trip from Whitstable to Walsingham takes about 3½ hours, so it would be an early start & a long day!

BREAKFAST AFTER SUNDAY 8.30 MASS a chance to mingle, munch and natter! Volunteers arrange croissants, plus tea and coffee. Further dates are in the Parish diary: 10th March (Laetare & Mothering Sunday, all mothers especially invited) & then, a little after Easter, on 14th April.

AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS PODCAST: The focus of this month's podcast (from the Bishops' Conference) is very much on the three pillars of the season - prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Click on this link www.cbcew.org.uk/podcast/prayer-fasting-almsgiving-episode-20/ to listen. In addition the following link www.cbcew.org.uk/we-dare-to-say/ takes you to a Lent Course on the Lord's Prayer entitled 'We Dare to Say'

REQUESTING A MASS: Please Note: Here in our Parish many people offer Masses, and at times we have a fairly lengthy list of intentions. For weekend Masses please try to put in your request a few of months in advance to avoid disappointment of missing a requested date.

CHARITY KNITTER... would be grateful for any donations of DK Wool for making knee-rugs etc for housebound. Please put wool in the small basket at back of the church. *Thank you.*

PILATES CLASSES: A session to strengthen your mind and body. Starting soon on Thursday's, at 8.30 am for 45 mins, in the Hall. A discounted fee of £8 per session. Email bodylovespilates@gmail.com for [details](#).

Events taking place in or with the Diocese

DIOCESAN MASS IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: 13th JULY: If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year the Archbishop would like to invite you to join him for Mass at St George's Cathedral. To receive an invite, get in touch as soon as possible, no later than May 31st, providing the following: your names in the format 'John & Mary Smith', your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating. Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk - Please note spaces are limited. As the title of your email please use your parish location: Whitstable, Our Lady Immaculate Church.

PASSING ON THE FAITH: How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages? Four online sessions for **parents** starting Wednesday 28th February, 8pm – 9:30pm. And for **grandparents**, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18th April, 7:30–9pm. To join or for information email Lisette: mflse@rcaos.org.uk

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE is pleased to announce that it is holding several Youth Days for 10 - 14-year-olds across the Diocese during 2024. The next gathering is Saturday 9th March, to be held at Richard Challoner School, New Malden (SW London). Each event will start at 11 am and finish about 6 pm - lunch and dinner will be included; there is a charge of £5 per child or £8 per family payable on the day. During the day there will be a range of opportunities, from learning more about the Catholic faith through catechesis and Adoration, to fun with friends through crafts and sport. All are welcome.

GRIEF IN LOSS & HOPE IN CHRIST RETREAT: Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March, The Friars Aylesford Led by Fr Ged Walsh O. Carm, Barbara Salamonczyk & Liz Taylor. A retreat tailored for anyone who has experienced a bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. We grieve, remember, hope and give thanks for our loved ones in the light of the Resurrection. Cost: £230 single / £210 shared. To book please email retreat@thefriars.org.uk or phone: 01622 717272

Events taking place outside the Diocese

DAY WITH MARY 2024: Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) are available at www adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com. Poster on the notice board at the back church.

Volunteers welcome for roles in the parish...

Canon Philip writes: I am sure many of you help in many different ways of outreach; may God bless you for all that you do! However, it would be wonderful to see even more parishioners getting involved in various parish ministries and activities. There are so many things that happen to keep the Parish flourishing, and we need volunteers (existing **and new**) to keep everything going. Rather than give a long list here, there is a sheet (in church) listing (most) of the various roles, ministries & tasks of our volunteers.

“God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts.

Use them well to serve one another” 1 Peter 4:10.

Including:

CHURCH FLOWERS: Our flower arrangers look after the church flowers once a week on a rota: our thanks for all they do! If you would like to support the purchase of flowers, there is a labelled wall box for donations at the back of the church. Donations will be used for flowers for special liturgical occasions. Also, if anyone would like to volunteer to help with the flowers please contact the parish office (*guidance will be provided*).

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: They assist by helping to distribute the Sacred Host or the Precious Blood. This will often be during Mass but may also be taking Holy Communion to those in the wider parish community who are housebound due to health, age or disability. Thank you for those already carrying out this ministry. If you know a parishioner who might be able help with this work (or if you might like to offer) please let Canon Philip know. There is some preparation, first in the parish (including safeguarding clearance) and then a commissioning at the Cathedral.

CHURCH CLEANING: Volunteers give time, an hour or two, once every five weeks. The grateful thanks of all parishioners go to the ‘experienced’ cleaners as well as new team members.

READING AT MASS: If you would like to join the teams of readers at our weekend Masses, speak to Canon Philip and also contact the parish office via whitstable@rcaos.org.uk

BIDDING PRAYER Writers: Volunteers kindly help by writing bidding prayers for weekend Masses. Some new members have joined the rota and so the workload is now spread out further, but we would still be very grateful if more people would join the rota. Please contact the office if you are interested (guidance given).

SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE: Volunteers help to ‘host’, (on a rota basis) the T&C’s after 10.30am Mass. If you are interested in helping or want to know more, contact Sarah Hinchliffe after Sunday 10.30 Mass, or by email sarahhinchliffe1610@gmail.com, or phone 07788 671213.

Additionally, a different group of volunteers arrange an “occasional breakfast” after the 8.30am Mass; they too would welcome any offers of help – contact the Parish Office.

Items from past newsletters

MESSAGE FROM DEACON DAN: “Thank you for such a wonderful Sunday Mass and celebration (28th Jan). Could mention be made in the newsletter of my appreciation for the lovely Parish card and most generous gift, also for the lovely Mass cards. All gratefully appreciated. The celebration in The Social Centre was most enjoyable. A memorable day.” *Dcn Dan Mulcahy.*

CAFOD Southwark: The Church relies on people getting involved. Our parish, our community, our world needs you. Could your New Year’s resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church? Which aspects of church brings you life or joy? Could you give a bit of time to help those parts flourish?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support are provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with southwark@cafod.org.uk Or could you take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk

ORDINATIONS, of parishioners or people associated with Whitstable: Fr Chris Benynon, a priest of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton (retired), visited the parish as he is an ‘old boy’ of the parish. In the course of a conversation he was asked how many priests had come from the parish, and he thought, including himself, about fifteen. This is an impressive number and Canon Philip would like to draw a list up of all Ordinations with connections to Whitstable. If you can supplement the list below please get in touch:

Bishop Michael Evans,	Fr Hatchard (<i>Christian name?</i>)	Fr John Slater
Mgr Pat Wall,	Fr Bruce Keller,	Deacon Dan Mulcahy
Fr Chris Benynon,	Fr Anthony Pile	<i>also:</i> Fr Richard Calcutt MHM
Fr Tim Forbes-Turner,	Fr Jack Pledger,	<i>whose mother lived in the parish.</i>
Fr Barry Grant,	Fr Maurice Pledger,	<i>possibly also:</i> Fr Tony Hughes?

Long Term Parish Items – for information

PARISHIONERS IN HOSPITAL: It is important to let Canon Philip and the Parish know if you or any parishioner is admitted to Hospital, or due for a stay in hospital. Due to Data Protection rules most hospitals will not pass on information about religious practice... sometimes even to an official chaplain. If you would like a visit from a priest in hospital you need to specifically ask the staff to arrange this for you. In some circumstances it may be appropriate to receive the Sacrament of the Sick before going into hospital. Please get in touch if you would like to receive this Sacrament, often appropriate before significant surgery.

PARISH GIFT AID: Early in 2023 Canon Philip spoke about Gift Aid at the end of weekend Masses; it is perhaps difficult to believe, but the UK Government is willing to give charities extra money when tax payers make donations! And this is also ***at no extra cost to you.*** If you are not part of the scheme you are asked to consider joining. For every £1 an income tax payer donates an extra 25p could be received by the parish via the scheme. All it takes is a signature and for the parish to have a record of donations. Information about donation is NOT sent to HMRC and we do not need any tax reference details. Please contact David Wiles our gift aid coordinator if you would like to enrol or for more details, whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk

A LEGACY IN YOUR WILL: If you are kind enough to be considering making a legacy donation through your will to the parish please contact Canon Philip or the Parish Office. The Parish community is very grateful and acknowledges such kind donations which can help develop the Parish, assist with its running and support the practice of our Catholic Faith for future generations. *Thank you*

RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION: The option for Holy Communion to be received under both kinds resumed here in the parish over the summer. When possible, the Precious Blood will be distributed at all weekend Masses. The practice of ‘*intinction*’ is not recommended in our country, and is not an option in the parish. Please note that the Vatican states “*The communicant must not be permitted to intinct the host...*”, also noting that “*...special care should be taken to ensure that the host is consumed by the communicant in the presence of the minister...*”. Please assist the ministers by consuming the Host immediately.

REQUESTING MASS FOR A PARTICULAR INTENTION: A laudable Catholic custom is to have a Mass said for a specific intention. All Masses, of course, are offered to the glory of God and for the salvation of the whole world, but often there is also a specific intention; here in the Parish the intentions are usually printed in the newsletter. Anyone may request a Mass to be said for their particular intention and these can be offered for a variety of intentions. We often see Masses offered for the welfare of an individual or family, or for the repose of a soul; It is customary, when requesting a Mass, to make an offering as a way of being especially associated with that Mass. However, it is not necessary to make an offering. The suggested donation is £10; some give less, some give more, some give nothing. Please never feel that you cannot have a Mass said for your intentions due to lack of funds. A Mass costs nothing – except, of course, the life-saving death and resurrection of Jesus. Mass Intention envelopes and forms are available by the entrance of the church.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE: The Parish has a Book of Remembrance in the church, found in the display case in the St Mary’s Transept. If you would like names of your loved ones displayed in it then please complete our parish form, available at the back of the church, or contact the parish office for a form. These are gathered and the book updated by a parish volunteer from time to time.