

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

www.rcourladywhitstable.org.uk



Parish email address:	whitstable@rcaos.org.uk	
Parish Office:	15a Castle Road, Whitstable. CT5 2DY	01227 272758
	<i>For the duty priest, for urgent emergency sick calls only: 07599 908633</i>	
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
Safeguarding Representative:	Mr John Flower	whitstablesg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
Gift Aid Co-Ordinator:	Mr David Wiles	whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk
Health & Safety Representative:	Mrs Lesley Wiles	whitstablehands@rcaos.org.uk
SVP Group:	Mrs Joanna Waller	01227 265763
Parish School:	St Mary's School, Northwood Road	07738 370528
Parish Website:	www.rcourladywhitstable.org.uk	07710 868595
Notices for the Bulletin:	To be submitted please by 7.30 pm on Wednesday	07594 485503
		07842 550998
		01227 272692

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: LAETARE SUNDAY (Yr B) Mass Book page 76

10th March 2024

<p>SATURDAY 9th Mar: <i>Confessions: 11.30 to 12.00 noon - 5.15pm to 5.45 pm</i> 6.00 pm: Headley Davis (K & P Popple)</p> <p>SUNDAY 10th Mar: 4th SUNDAY OF LENT: Laetare Sunday: Mothering Sunday 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners <i>Breakfast after Mass (all mothers especially invited)</i> 10.30 am: Ann & Sandy Richmond (C Richmond) <i>Refreshments & cooked rolls after Mass</i> 4.00 pm: <i>Stations of the Cross - SVP</i></p> <p>TUESDAY 12th Mar: <i>No Mass today</i> 7.00 pm: <i>Lent Reflections in the hall</i></p> <p>WEDNESDAY 13th Mar: <i>No Mass today</i></p>	<p>THURSDAY 14th Mar: <i>No Mass & Adoration today</i></p> <p>FRIDAY 15th Mar: <i>No Masses today</i></p> <p>SATURDAY 16th Mar: <i>Confessions: 5.15pm to 5.45 pm</i> 6.00 pm: Well-being & recovery of Fr Mark White (P Hareron) 7.00 pm: <i>St Patricks Quiz Night in the hall</i></p> <p>SUNDAY 17th Mar: 5th SUNDAY OF LENT: 8.30 am: Fr Pat Maloney, RIP (D Riddell) 10.30 am: All Our Parishioners <i>Tea & Coffee after Mass</i> 4.00 pm: <i>Stations of the Cross – Mercy Associates</i></p>
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MOTHERING SUNDAY with BREAKFAST & REFRESHMENTS: I wish all mothers, grandmothers & anyone providing motherly care blessed weekend as we mark Mothering Sunday. All are welcome to the croissant breakfast after 8.30am Mass & refreshments & cooked rolls after the 10.30 Mass.

THIS WEEK: You may have noticed that there are no weekday Mass this week, that is because I am away (11th to 15th March). Every few years the Archbishop organises a clergy reflection week at a former Seminary in Merville, France. So that all the clergy don't all go away at the same time three separate sessions are held. The Parish Office will be open as usual during the week (Tue, Wed & Fri); while I am away in an emergency you can contact Herne Bay or Canterbury Parish (*only one of their priests will be at the spring gathering*).

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

ST PATRICK'S DAY QUIZ NIGHT: Only a week to go to this parish event! Next Saturday 16th March 7 pm for 7.30 pm in the Parish Social Centre. Buy tickets after all Masses this weekend. Donations for raffle prizes would be gratefully received, please pass them to Susan Eatock or drop them to the Parish Office.

PARISH GARDENING: This Wednesday 13 March 9.30 am to 11.30 am. For those who love gardening, an opportunity to get together & help the parish. New volunteers most welcome!! The gardeners meet for a couple of hours & finish with refreshments in the hall. If you would like to donate plants, bulbs or shrubs please bring them into the office. For new comers, gardeners usually bring their own gardening tools. Further dates 8 April, 21 May, 8 July, 28 Aug, 1 Oct & 9 Nov

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 (but blessed) day!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: As Holy Week is only a short while away, please make note of the special Masses and services that are on the horizon:

24th March **Palm Sunday:** Palms will be blessed and distributed at all weekend Masses
 28th March **Maundy Thursday:** 8 pm: **Mass of the Lord's Supper** then Watching at the Altar of Repose
 29th March **Good Friday:** 9.30 am Walk of Witness (starting near the Skate Park)
 10 am Stations of the Cross
 3 pm **Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord**
 30th March **Holy Saturday:** 8.30 pm **Easter Vigil** (*nb: No Mass at 6pm*)
 31st March **Easter Sunday:** Masses as on Sunday 8.30 am and 10.30 am

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 this Sunday 10th March & then 7th, 14th & 21st April, 5th & 12th May. Our Children's Liturgy volunteer leader, Mrs Theresa Rowstone, would like to invite parishioners to meet with her after 10.30 Mass on 14th April in the hall, especially for any interested to find out more about the group & to be part of the Liturgy group. The aim of the meeting is to think about new ideas and to plan ahead for more specific children's events. For information email: theresa.rowstone@live.co.uk

POOR PARISH COLLECTION: Next weekend there will be a 2nd collection to enable the Archbishop to make grants so some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

SVP: would be grateful for donations of small Easter eggs for families they assist. They are short of items: coffee, tea, long-life milk, cereals, tinned tomatoes, fruit & vegetables, jam, tinned fish & meats, & baked beans.

'BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE': Please sign up! A gathering on Saturday 13th April (9.30 to 4.30pm), designed to be an opportunity for married couples to explore (privately) their relationship more deeply, to gain insights into communication and also their vocation to married life. This is a free opportunity open to all married couples, any couple from 'Just Married' to 'how many years!'. Drop the parish an email to let us know you might be interested whitstable@rcaos.org.uk or pass me a note of your details.

SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE: All invited after 10.30am Mass for refreshments & chat. The 'hosts' today are SVP (with the cooked roll chef in attendance). Next week Olwen Smille, Ivan Waller & Sarah Hinchcliffe.

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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: As previously mentioned, Valerie Jones died recently; her Funeral Mass will take place 9.30 am on 22nd March, followed by cremation at Faversham Crematorium. After this there will be a buffet lunch at Chestfield Barn; the family would like to invite parishioners who knew Valerie to attend the funeral & lunch afterwards. To help with catering please email debbie.porro@btinternet.com by 12th March

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Jim Clarke, Kevin Downs, Peter Dooley, Charles Newman, Teresa Osborn, Kathleen Micgray, Gordon Garsed, Gertrude Macauley, John Askew, Mary Picot, Mary Clohosy, Arnold Haines, David Ashford, Margaret Healey, Peggy Hallet, Sheila Whittle, Teresa Ryan, Robert Weller, Sybil Baartman, Rose Williams, Michael Harris, James Lucy, Olive Powell, Ted Churhley, Kathleen Holness-Hodds, Joseph McDonald, Norah Lane, Bernard Howell, George Francis, John Pattmore and Rose Mann.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon them; may they 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, Barbara Glanville & Rita Gilbert. We pray also for all in hospital or unwell.

Collections	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Total
2 nd & 3 rd March 2024	£282.10	£298.85	£580.95
Standing Order and other regular giving: Weekly average for February 2024*	£471.15	£24.92	£496.08

Thank you for your continued support of the parish.

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

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

POPE FRANCIS' MARCH PRAYER INTENTION: 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.

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.*

'BUILDING A BETTER MARRIAGE': Last year Carol & Pete, the couple who are the Kent part of the Marriage and Family Life Team, offered to run this course in our Parish. I thought that this would be a wonderful opportunity for married couples from here and other parishes. The reflection day will take place on Saturday 13th April (9.30 to 4.30pm), and is designed to be an opportunity for married couples to explore (privately) their relationship more deeply, to gain insights into communication and also their vocation to married life. Please do consider making use of this free (yes... no cost!) opportunity which is open to all married couples, any couple from 'Just Married' to "how many years!". Drop the parish an email to let us know you might be interested whitstable@rcaos.org.uk or pass me a note of your details.

PARISH RAMBLE – Dates for your Diary: Last year the parish arranged an August Ramble, which proved very popular! So here are two dates for 2024: **Monday 27th May** (Bank holiday weekend) towards Seasalter Marshes along the beachfront and **Monday 26th August** (Bank holiday weekend) Blean Woods. Come along and join in, enjoying gentle parish outdoor event. A chance to wander outdoors, an opportunity to get together with family and friends, to enjoy the beauty of nature either walking or cycling. More details nearer the time.

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

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.

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

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** Wednesdays 8pm – 9:30pm (started Wed 28th February). 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

YOUNG ADULT EVENTS: St George's Cathedral hosts a monthly Young Adult Mass at 6:00 pm on the first Sunday of every month, followed by a social gathering (for those aged 18+). There are also weekly events and socials on Thursday evenings. Details can be found on the [RCAOS website](#), Facebook, and Instagram @stgeorgesya.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: provides peer support for Separated, Divorced, and Widowed persons, so as to facilitate the grief resolution process, and enable those wounded by grief to rediscover love for themselves, others, and God. Facilitated by trained peer ministers, grief resolution programmes take place in nine countries on three continents, including here in the south of England. Next meeting is on the weekend 12-14 April 2024. Poster at the back of the church.

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.

FLAME 2025: Flame is the largest Catholic youth event in the UK, featuring guest speakers, award-winning musicians, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, and much more! The event is open to those from school year 9 to university age. The Archdiocese has purchased a block booking. Group Leaders from schools, parishes, and universities can book at www.tinyurl.com/flame25. The early-bird price is £29, which is payable by 1 August 2024.

- To receive regular updates on youth and young adult activities, please sign up to our Youth Network at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork
- For details of other youth days, youth retreats, training, & other events, visit www.tinyurl.com/scysevents
- Please direct any enquiries to youth@rcaos.org.uk.

Events taking place outside the Diocese

HCPT SUMMER PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAY TO LOURDES: Friday 24th -31st May. £960 includes flights, transfers in France, full board in Hosanna House. Own travel arrangements £645. Contact Annie Judge for more details 01227700553, mob 07866515797, email anniejudge@hotmail.com

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 23-30 August 2024. Coordinated by the Catholic Association Pilgrimage. For more details contact@catholicassociation.co.uk

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*).

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*).

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.

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.

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

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.

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: Fr Richard Calcutt MHM</i>
Fr Tim Forbes-Turner,	Fr Jack Pledger,	<i>whose mother lived in the parish.</i>
Fr Barry Grant,	Fr Maurice Pledger,	<i>possibly also: Fr Tony Hughes?</i>

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.