

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 01227 265763
Safeguarding Representative:	Mr John Flower	whitstablesg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk 07738 370528
Gift Aid Co-Ordinator:	Mr David Wiles	whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk 07710 868595
Health & Safety Representative:	Mrs Lesley Wiles	whitstablehands@rcaos.org.uk 07594 485503
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	

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD: (Yr B) Mass Book page 80 **24th March 2024**

<p>SATURDAY 23rd Mar: <i>Confessions: 11.30 to 12:00 noon & 5.15pm to 5.45 pm</i> 6.00 pm: Denis Walker, RIP (D Mulcahy)</p> <p>SUNDAY 24th Mar: PALM SUNDAY 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 10.30 am: Ken & Maureen Games (Friends) 4.00 pm: <i>Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Retiring collection this weekend for Easter flowers.</i></p> <p>TUESDAY 26th Mar: 12.30 pm: Mary Hone, RIP (S Eatock) 7.00 pm: <i>Lent Reflection Group in the Hall</i></p> <p>WEDNESDAY 27th Mar: No Mass today in the parish. <i>Archbishop John invites everyone to join him at the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass at 11.30am (please be seated by 11am). Canon Philip will be attending the Chrism Mass.</i></p>	<p>MAUNDY THURSDAY 28th Mar: 8.00 pm: Mass of the Lord's Supper Henry & Ann Rau, RIP (A Willey)</p> <p>GOOD FRIDAY 29th Mar: Day of Fasting 9.30 am: Ecumenical Walk of Witness 10.00 am: Stations of the Cross 3.00 pm: Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord <i>(Papal collection today for the Holy Places)</i></p> <p>HOLY SATURDAY 30th Mar: 9.00 am: <i>Church Cleaning and Flowers</i> <i>Confessions: 11.00 to 12:00 noon & 5.00 pm to 5.45pm</i> 8.30 pm: Easter Vigil (nb: No Mass at 6pm) Canon Philips Ministry & Intentions (Parish)</p> <p>EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORDS RESURRECTION: 31st Mar: 8.30 am: Dec'd members Locke family (A Locke) 10.30 am: All Our Parishioners</p>
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HOLY WEEK: This special time in the liturgical year focuses our attention on the culmination of the earthly ministry of Jesus as he freely fulfils the will of the Father, as well strengthening his disciples (and the whole Church to be) for future ministry. We are invited to renew our relationship with Jesus Christ, our Saviour, as we engage with his passion, death and resurrection, particularly through the particular liturgies of this Holy Week to come. Having marked Palm Sunday, I would encourage you to join in all main services of the Triduum (the three days), the Thursday 8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Friday 3pm Solemn service of the Lord's Passion, and the Saturday 8.30pm Easter Vigil – three liturgies forming a journey of faith and love.

Wishing you, your families & friends, a blessed journey through Holy week. *Canon Philip*

MAUNDY THURSDAY: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER – 28th Mar, 8.00 pm: In this Mass we commemorate the institution of the Eucharist and the Lord's call to loving service. The Mass includes the Reception of the Holy Oils, Washing of Feet, Procession to the Altar of Repose & Watching until midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY - CELEBRATION OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD – 29th Mar, 3pm: This day, marking Our Lord's death, is a "day of fasting and abstinence", we are commended to find extra time for prayer. The Solemn 3pm Liturgy includes the Passion according to St John, the Solemn Intercessions, veneration of the Cross and the distribution of Holy Communion. By ancient tradition no Mass is celebrated on this day. During this Service there is the **Papal collection** for the Holy Places. The conflict in the Holy Land, has affected so many people, some homeless, some starving, others injured or have lost loved ones. We are invited to show our support and give generously.

GOOD FRIDAY ECUMENICAL WALK OF WITNESS: starting at 9.30am near Swalecliffe Skatepark, then walk via Tankerton Slopes towards the Harbour, then on to St Alphege's church. Canon Philip will be leading the prayers when the procession arrives at the Harbour. Please consider joining our fellow Christians for the Walk of Witness, or coming to the Harbour or other stops on the route.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Parishioners will lead Stations in church on Good Friday at 10 am, while Canon Philip and others of the parish are on the Walk of Witness.

HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL – 30th Mar, 8.30 pm: on this day the Church waits at the Lord's tomb in prayer & fasting awaiting the Resurrection. *"The Church abstains from the Sacrifice of the Mass on this day"* so there will be no Mass at 6pm. The setting of the sun marks the start of the season of Easter, and the Mass of the Easter Vigil at 8.30 pm begins with the blessing of the Easter Fire, the lighting of the new Paschal Candle and then procession into church. After the extended Liturgy of the Word, there is the blessing of Holy Water and the renewal of our baptismal promises; this liturgy is our first Easter Proclamation of the Risen Lord. You are encouraged to bring your baptismal candle (if you still have it) to this Vigil Mass.

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD: Mass will be celebrated at the usual Sunday morning times: 8.30 am and 10.30 am. We celebrate the Triumph of the Resurrection of Our Lord, and once again renew our baptismal promises.

EASTER OFFERINGS: An 'Easter Offering' is a personal gift to Canon Philip. Easter Offering envelopes can be found at the back of the church. If you are a Gift Aider please use the envelope from your box & place it in the collection during Easter weekend; alternatively, you can also write your gift aid number on the special Easter envelope. If offering by cheque please make it payable "RCAS Whitstable". If offering electronically please reference donations as "Easter Offering".

EASTER CLEANING & FLOWERS: The church will be given a clean this Saturday 30th March between 9am & 11am to prepare for the Easter celebrations. Please come along and help. The flower arrangers will also be preparing the flowers on that day. There will be refreshments in the hall from 11 am onwards.

ST PATRICK'S DAY QUIZ: Thank you very much to those who coordinated, attended or supported the recent St Patricks Day quiz night. It was very enjoyable evening! It also raised over £300!!

SUNDAY TEA & COFFEE: All invited after 10.30am Mass for refreshments & chat. The 'hosts' today are Helen & Stephen Mathews & Jan Petts, no teas and coffee next Sunday (Easter).

RECENTLY DECEASED: Please pray for the repose of the soul of David Bryson who passed away last week. We pass on our deepest condolences and prayers to his wife Ann Bryson, family and friends.

We pray also for the repose of the soul of Father David Standley, a priest of our Diocese, who died on the 21st.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Denis McCourt, Maurice Offer, Jim Riddell, Molly Campbell, Terence Kelly, Kathleen Smith, Steve Baker, Ivar Sundet, Pedro Cayuela, Delma Coxe, Ivy Foster, Alexander Vernon, Joan Gregory, Peggy Nockles, Joseph Buckingham, Eileen Parker, Winifred Campbell, Cyril Williams, David Mathews, Luke O'Callaghan, Catherine Dobbyn, Patrick Noonan, Mary Webb, Mathew Cooper, Michael Dowden, Francis MacLean, Jane Sherman, David Adams, Frank Ashbee, Kathleen Deane-Bowers and Eileen Ashby

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: 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, 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 at this time, as well as those who care for them.

<i>Collections</i>	<i>Gift Aid</i>	<i>Non-Gift Aid</i>	<i>Total</i>
16 th & 17 th March 2024	£294.00	£274.36	£568.36
Poor Parish Collection	£117.70	£203.47	£321.17
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.

'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](#).

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.

PARISH GARDENING: A big thank you to all those parishioners who helped out with the recent Wedne gardening. The next one is on 8 April, then the future dates: 21 May, 8 July, 28 Aug, 1 Oct & 9 Nov.

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. Next session is 23rd Mar, then an Easter break.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY frequently takes place during the first part of the 10.30am Mass, providing the children their own Liturgy of the Word. They next meet Sunday 7th April, then 14th & 21st April, 5th & 12th May. Theresa Rowstone, the Children's Liturgy volunteer leader, 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

"Friends of Kent Churches": have sent a letter of thanks for our church's participation in the Ride and Stride. They have reminded us of the date of the 2024 event: Saturday 14th September. A chance for all of us to get involved in some way or another – if new, you can pair up with parishioners who have done it before!

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.

Events taking place in or with the Diocese

PASSING ON THE FAITH: How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages? There were online sessions for parents earlier in the year, but next month there will be four online sessions for **grandparents**, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, 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](https://www.rcaos.org.uk), 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.

“CREDO Ensemble” music concerts – Upcoming Concerts at St Thomas's Church, Canterbury:

- Saturday 27th April - **Come & Sing Faure's Requiem** - A Musical Workshop day, culminating in a concert performance. £30 (or £15 for students) for the workshop, running from 8:30am until the concert at 7:30pm all at St Thomas' Church. Entry to the Concert itself is free, with a retiring collection.
- Saturday 25th May - **Non Angli, Sed Angeli** - A Concert of words and music exploring St Augustine's mission to the English, as told by St. Bede the Venerable. £15 (or £5 for students) admission, 7:30pm, St Thomas' Church, Canterbury

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,
Mgr Pat Wall,
Fr Chris Benynon,
Fr Tim Forbes-Turner,
Fr Barry Grant,

Fr Hatchard (*Christian name?*)
Fr Bruce Keller,
Fr Anthony Pile
Fr Jack Pledger,
Fr Maurice Pledger,

Fr John Slater
Deacon Dan Mulcahy
also: Fr Richard Calcutt MHM
whose mother lived in the parish.
possibly also: 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.