

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	Mrs Lesley Wiles:	lesleysh@aol.com 01227 265763
Safeguarding Representative:	Mr John Flower	whitstablesg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk 07738 370528
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SVP Group:	Mrs Jane Hill	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	

THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS: (Yr C) Mass Book page 191 **14th September 2025**
EDUCATION SUNDAY

<p>SATURDAY: 13th Sept: Confessions: 11.30 am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.45 pm 6.00 pm: David Wiles, RIP (J Melis)</p> <p>SUNDAY 14th Sept: Exaltation of the Holy Cross 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 10.30 am: Tom O'Sullivan, RIP (J O'Sullivan) <i>Tea & coffee refreshments after Mass</i></p> <p>TUESDAY: 16th Sept St Cornelius & St Cyprian 12.30 pm: Lesley Wiles Intention</p> <p>WEDNESDAY: 17th Sept: St Robert Bellarmine 1.00 pm: Welfare of Diamond Family <i>(Please note change of Mass time)</i></p> <p>THURSDAY: 18th Sept: St Edith of Kemsing 10.00 am: Teresa Johnstone, RIP (Rose Family) <i>Followed by Adoration and Benediction</i></p>	<p>FRIDAY 19th Sept: St Theodore of Canterbury 10.00 am: Sid Russell, RIP (C Russell)</p> <p>SATURDAY: 20th Sept: Sts Andrew Kim Taegon 10.40 am: Rosary & Paul Chong & Companions 11.00 am: For the Intentions of Pope Leo <i>Followed by Adoration and Benediction</i> Confessions: 11.30 am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.45 pm 6.00 pm: Angela Grennan, RIP (V Grennan)</p> <p>SUNDAY 21st Sept: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Mission) 8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 9.15 am: Confirmation Group 10.30 am: Vince & Jan Peilow – In Thanksgiving 40th Wedding Anniversary <i>Tea & coffee refreshments after Mass</i></p>
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THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS is a day when we reflect on the Cross upon which Jesus was crucified – the key to our salvation and redemption. The cruelty of the Cross is not what is exalted, but the Love that God manifested to humanity by accepting death on the Cross: “Who, though in the form of God, emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. This is the glory of the Cross of Jesus!” (Pope Francis)

Prayer: “Lord Jesus Christ, by your Cross, you have redeemed the world. Grant that we may always remember the sacrifice you made for us and live according to your teachings. May the cross be a sign of hope, love, and salvation for all. Help us to carry our own crosses with faith and courage, following your example. Amen”.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: It was good to meet with some of our young parishioners last week to chat about Confirmation. Bishop Paul will visit the Parish on 12th December for a 6.30pm Mass, to confer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The first session will be next Sunday morning at 9.15am in the Social Centre. Please email the Parish if you were not at the intro talk last week and would like to join the programme.

Wishing you and your families a blessed fortnight. Canon Philip

EDUCATION SUNDAY: There is a second collection this weekend to support the work of the Catholic Education Service (CES) who act on behalf of the Catholic Bishops Conference to support Catholic Education. They have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh governments, sharing aims of high academic standards for all, and increased parental choice. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools, with over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England and Wales educating 800,000+ students.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY is next weekend, when the Church in our country focuses on proclaiming the Gospel in our own land. This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary: 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, “**I believe...**” This is the theme for Evangelii Gaudium Sunday 2025. There is a second collection to support the national evangelisation work of the Bishops of England and Wales.

AUTUMN WINE & WISDOM QUIZ: Saturday 20th September 7 pm... so only one week to go. If you haven't purchased your tickets.... now is the time. An evening of fun with quiz & raffle prizes. Teams of eight; or join any table on the day. Bring your own refreshments & drinks. Tickets £5 per person, available this weekend after Mass or via the Parish Office.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: Next Children's Liturgy takes place next Sunday 21st Sept and then 5th Oct. Please consider if you, or someone else, might join a team with Theresa to help build up the Children's Liturgy.

HARVEST FESTIVAL: Harvest time will soon be upon us. On the weekend of 28th September, you are invited to decorate the church with your kind harvest donations of tinned food items etc. Your offerings will be donated to local struggling families in our community through the SVP's foodbank. Thank you.

GARDENING GROUP: Next gatherings: Tuesday 30th September 10am & Saturday 15th November 12noon. Do come along and give a hand to help keep the church grounds looking clean and tidy. Sessions are usually about two hours long, followed by a sit down with refreshments and nibbles; a great way to get involved.

WEDNESDAY TEA CLUB: meet most Wednesdays (*September to July*) 2pm to 4pm in the church hall. £1 entry gets you a raffle ticket, refreshments and cakes, plus frequent bingo, games, music, and lots more!!!!

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

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.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Bridget Ranson, Olive Waters, Michael Carney, Keith Collins, Charles Evans, Stanley Williams, Sarah George, Emma Dickson, Nicholas Henman, Sydney Clinker, Joan Carroll, Patricia Goddard, Eileen Schreinger, Charlie Thompson, Ann Neal, William Ball, Gladys Pattmore, Sue Mott, Danny Gallagher, Denis Buckley, Rosemary Butcher, Mark Flynn, Joan Terry, Bernard Johns, David Lord, Kathleen Maher and Michael Smith.

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, Amanda Maclean, Diarmuid O'Sullivan, Oscar O'Sullivan, Dominic Punch, Pauline Summers, Nicholas Watson, Margaret Webb, Leah Sheehan, Roman Sheehan, Colin Henson, David Rose, Catherine Richardson, Reita Mugford, Jack Murphy, Gillian & David Black, Teresa Way, Nigel Bates, James Shepherd, Tina Bezer, Margaret Morgan, Gillian Lampard, Neil Lawson, Mikhael Brown, Pamela Bavington-Brown, Shelia Slater, Les Hill, Graham Hill, Paul Regan, Christopher McDonnell, Terry & Ellie Kemp, Marian Ahern, Alanna Grant, Julliete Beaumont, Ian Swabey & Karenza Craven. Please pray for all who are sick, their carers, and all who work in the medical sector.

Collections	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Total
6 th & 7 th September 2025	£337.50	£240.95	£578.45
Standing Order and other regular giving: Weekly average for July 2025*	£381.38	£75.23	£456.62

Thank you for your continued support of the parish collection.

Second collection this weekend, on Education Sunday.

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

The Catholic Parish of Our Lady Immaculate, Whitstable, is part of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark CIO Registered Incorporated Charity No.: 1173050

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 can be information we have been asked to share, but that may not be of immediate import to the parish; it might be interesting information, or it may be items that can be useful to look up. Additionally, some items can be repeated.

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

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.

SAVE THE DATES: Please make a note of the dates of these future Parish events on your calendar or in your diary (even if it is in pencil). More details as events draw near:

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP: Saturday 22nd November 2 to 4 pm

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Saturday 29th November from 11 am to 2 pm

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION: Saturday 24th January 2026

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY: With the School holidays on the horizon the next time the Pupils from St Mary's will come along to lead the rosary will be Friday October 3rd at 9.30am. Prayers are offered particularly for the children and staff of the school, & their families.

2025 JUBILEE YEAR: "PILGRIMS OF HOPE": Pope Francis opened the Holy Door at St Peter's Basilica on the night of Christmas Eve, inaugurating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with the theme "*Hope does not disappoint*" (Rom 5:5) Archbishop John formally opened the Jubilee in the Diocese on the Feast of the Holy Family, when Bishops throughout the world did likewise. May all people of good will unite in hope, joy & prayer during this Jubilee year. As a parish we gathered this Saturday morning in prayer as part of our participation in the Jubilee; we united in the Holy Mass, prayed the rosary & spent time in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This will continue most Saturday's as we deepen our hope & faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

JUBILEE PRAYER FOR THE 2025 JUBILEE OF HOPE

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have given us
in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity enkindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators
of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos

in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for the treasures of heaven.

May that same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever. Amen

<https://www.iubilaeum2025.va/en/giubileo-2025/preghiera.html>

NEW "PARISH MASS BOOKS": There is an opportunity to arrange a prayer 'dedication' in a copy of the New Parish Mass books while also donating towards their cost, enabling prayer for our families, departed family or friends. Forms for dedications & donations are now available, from the back of the church.

SVP: The local SVP manage a foodbank and they are grateful for all the regular donations they receive. They would be particularly grateful at this time for any of the following donations: Long life milk, coffee (including decaff), tinned tomatoes and tinned fruits. Other donations of items with a reasonable shelf life are always welcome. There is a drop off point at the back of the church. *Thank you in advance for your generosity.*

GIFT AID BOXES: Existing gift aid donors who have not collected their gift aid boxes this year should please contact the Parish Office. If you a UK Tax payer and are able to 'Gift Aid' donations, please let us know; special forms are at the back of the church. For every £1 donated, the parish can claim 25p at no extra cost to the donor. Standing orders can be gift aided. If you need help completing the form or setting up a standing order please email: whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk or the parish office.

VOCATIONS TO THE DIACONATE: Is God calling you to become a Deacon? If you are considering a vocation to serve at the altar & profess God's gospel ministry as a Deacon, visit rcaos.org.uk/TheDiaconate. There are a few brochures with real life stories of people who have dedicated their lives to this ministry at the back of the church, together with some prayer cards. Let us pray for all Deacons and those in formation.

ARCHBISHOP'S CERTIFICATE: The Archbishop's Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course for those who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with confidence and joy. The course starts on 18 October 2025, cost £400 per year. Full cost, payable over 2 years is £800. Registration required with a non-refundable fee of £50. Visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> for details.

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.***

Volunteer roles include:

ALTAR SERVERS: Our altar servers assist during Mass and at other liturgies. It is a role open to young & old, normally after making First Holy Communion. Altar Servers help prepare the church before Mass, have particular tasks during Mass, and finally assist with clearing the altar afterwards. If you would like to join in please speak to Canon Philip.

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).

CHURCH FLOWERS: Our teams of arrangers help us by looking after church flowers on a rota about once a month. Thank you for all you do! We are looking for new volunteers to join the rota – help and direction provided, no experience required. Also, the parish needs help with collecting flowers (twice a week) from the Whitstable High Street branch of Sainsbury's; a group willing to make a rota would be ideal; let us know!

CHURCH CLEANING: With so many people coming to Mass each weekend, plus visitors praying during the week, it is important for the church to be spruced up each week. Volunteers give time, an hour or two, once every four weeks to help with the church cleaning. Thank you to all involved in keeping the church so smart. Could you spare some time to help & join the rota? Volunteers are usually paired up with someone else.

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.

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. 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 preparation, first in the parish (including safeguarding clearance) and commissioning at the Cathedral.

Items from past newsletters

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 (*Christian name?*)

Fr John Slater

Mgr Pat Wall,

Fr Bruce Keller,

Deacon Dan Mulcahy

Fr Chris Benynon,

Fr Anthony Pile

also: Fr Richard Calcutt MHM

Fr Tim Forbes-Turner,

Fr Jack Pledger,

whose mother lived in the parish.

Fr Barry Grant,

Fr Maurice Pledger,

possibly also: Fr Tony Hughes?

LISTENING TO THE READINGS AT MASS: When we read or listen to the bible it is almost always in a translation – unless you are gifted enough to understand Hebrew, Aramaic and ancient Greek! We rely on the gifts and talents of translators and scholars to bring us a more widely understood text. It has been decided by our Bishops that the ‘translation’ we listen to during Mass will be changed and we will use a new version of the Lectionary (the book used to read from in Mass). This started on the 1st December, the First Sunday of Advent. The Parish has received its ordered copies of the books to be used in the Sanctuary by the Readers and Clergy. Described as “*Exquisitely bound... adorned with gold-blocking, gilded edges and multiple ribbon markers, these [4] volumes are both sturdy & worthy for the proclamation of the Word of God.*” Additionally, the “Parish Mass Book” we use has been replaced. In our parish we deferred replacement of these books at the end of 2010 when the Mass prayers changed, presumably anticipating the future change of the Lectionary, and so Advent was the time to replace these books. Other options exist but, although having a significant up-front cost, the weekend ‘Parish Mass Book’ seem to be more environmentally friendly and financially cost effective over the long term. (*revised 30th Nov*)

HOPE IN ADORATION: As part of the Jubilee Year, Archbishop John is encouraging people to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration and have their hopes “fulfilled by Christ” (visit youtu.be/oq1oOeNQ2Nc to watch his message). The campaign, ‘*Hope in Adoration*’, will share individual testimonies throughout the year on how Eucharistic adoration has helped them build a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus. Resources will also be made available for free and there is a comprehensive list of times of Eucharistic adoration in parishes across the Archdiocese. Find out more about the campaign at rcaos.org.uk/hopeinadoration – a Parish summary sheet has been prepared for those who wish to read a paper version of this information. Adoration can take place simply, just spending time in pray in front of the Tabernacle, or in a more formal way as we do on Thursday after Mass (10.30am to 11am) and Saturday after Mass (11.30am to 12noon) both of which usually conclude with Benediction, a blessing given using the ‘Monstrance’ (the vessel which allows the Blessed Sacrament Host to be displayed for veneration).

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.

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*

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.

SAFEGUARDING: *The Diocesan Safeguarding Team include the following in every email they send:*

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child or adult at risk, do not delay in contacting the police, using 999 if a child or adult is believed to be in immediate danger. It is the policy of the Catholic Church in England and Wales to report all allegations of abuse to statutory authorities, regardless of whether the abuse occurred recently or in the past, or whether the accused person is living or deceased. If you are in any role within the Catholic Church in England and Wales, you must refer allegations directly to the safeguarding office for your diocese or religious congregation, or directly to the Police. If you are a member of the public, please refer allegations directly to the police and also to the safeguarding office in your diocese. You can contact the Southwark Safeguarding Office by phone 020 7261 1606 or email safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk

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.