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

For the duty priest, for urgent emergency sick calls only: 07599 908633

Parish Priest: Rev. Canon Philip Glandfield whitstablepp@rcaos.org.uk

Emeritus Parish Deacon: Rev. Deacon Dan Mulcahy

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 07594 485503

Safeguarding Representative: Mr John Flower whitstablesg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk 07738 370528

Gift Aid Co-Ordinator: whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk

Health & Safety Representative: Mrs Lesley Wiles whitstablehands@rcaos.org.uk 07594 485503 SVP Group: Mrs Jane Hill 07842 550998

Parish School: St Mary's School, Northwood Road
Parish Website: www.rcourladywhitstable.org.uk

Notices for the Bulletin: To be submitted please by 7.30 pm on Wednesday

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: (Yr C) Mass Book page 197 29th October 2025

SATURDAY: 25th Oct:

Confessions: 11.30 am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.45 pm

6.00 pm: Darren Hawkins, RIP (Hawkins)

SUNDAY 26th Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

8.30 am: Dave Bean, RIP (J Bean)

9.15 am: Confirmation Group 10.30 am: All Our Parishioners

Refreshments after Mass

TUESDAY: 28th Oct St Simon & St Jude

12.30 pm: Well-being of Dave Chambers (S Avery)

WEDNESDAY: 29th Oct:

12.30 pm: Well being of Jennifer Austin

6.00 pm: Christmas Fayre Volunteers meeting (PSC)

THURSDAY: 30th Oct:

10.00 am: In Thanksgiving (C & E Seniviratne)

N.B. no Adoration today.

FRIDAY 31st Oct:

10.00 am: Sonny Macdonald, RIP (C Bedells)

SATURDAY: 1st Nov 10.40 am: Rosary

11.00 am: Those suffering from despair

Followed by Adoration and Benediction

Confessions: 11.30 am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.45 pm

6.00 pm: Patrick Rafter, RIP (J Foley)

SUNDAY: 2nd Nov: ALL SAINTS

8.30 am: All Our Parishioners 9.15 am: Confirmation Group

10.30 am: Sid Russell, RIP (C Russell)

Refreshments after Mass

MONDAY: 3rd Nov: All Souls

10.00 am: All the Faithfully Departed

7.00 pm: Fr Kevin St Aubyn, RIP (J Melis)

ROOF WORKS: The main work on the roof is now complete! There is still a little work left to be finished, particularly on the wall near the car park entrance. The hope is that this will be done within the next fortnight. That being said, already some of the scaffolding has been taken down (at the front of the church), and more will be taken away soon. The work has been done very well, and I am very pleased how it looks.

ALL SAINTS: As this Holy Day of Obligation falls on a Saturday this year, in England and Wales its celebration is transferred to the Sunday (2nd Nov). It is a day when we remember and honour all the holy men and women who, having lived their earthly lives, have arrived in God's heavenly Kingdom. May their Christian devotion and love inspire us to live faithfully and to daily follow Our Lord Jesus Christ.

ALL SOULS DAY: the day after All Saints, Monday 3rd November, is we keep the *Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed*, when we pray for those deceased who are being purified and are waiting for the full joy of heaven. There will be Mass at 10am and 7pm, when we can pray for those of our family, friends, benefactors, colleagues and others who have died.

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, & let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen.

WHITSTABLE CEMETERY PRAYERS: As in recent years, I will be visiting Whitstable Cemetery to lead prayers. Please feel welcome to join me next Sunday, 2nd November, at 3pm, where I lead a short service particularly for the souls of parishioners buried there. After the service I will be free to bless individual graves.

Wishing you and your families a blessed week ahead. Canon Philip



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POPE LEO'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION: That those who are tempted to commit suicide might find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Saturday 29th November from 11 am to 2 pm. *Please do add this to your diary*! The first meeting for the Christmas Fayre organising group and volunteers is this **Wednesday**, 29th October, 6 pm to 7 pm in the Social Centre. New volunteers most welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!

NOVEMBER LISTS: If you would like to add the names of deceased family, friends or benefactors to our 2025 Parish List you can find pre-printed sheets, and an accompanying note, at the back of the church. Individual lists will be added to the Parish book which will be placed near the altar during November and Masses for Holy Souls will be offered each week during the month. Any offering in the envelope can be gift aided, so please do add your Gift Aid number.

ANNUAL MASS COUNT: Thank you to all those who helped to count heads for the four weeks of the official Mass count, and also for the work of counting during the Summer. The figures show an average of 209 attending Mass this year, slightly smaller that the 216 average in 2024.

Date	6pm	8.30am	10.30am	Total	Date	6pm	8.30am	10.30am	Total
20/21 Sept	52	52	116	220	4/5 Oct	48	38	114	200
27/28 Sept	49	48	110	207	11/12 Oct	44	58	108	210

CHILDREN'S LITURGY, an opportunity for the young children of our parish to gather for part of the 10.30am Mass for their own prayer and worship. Led by Theresa, they meet this Sunday 26th October, then 9th, 16th & 23 November, 14th, 21st & 28th December. If you think you might have the calling and would like to support & assist Theresa, speak to Canon Philip or Theresa.

CHRISTMAS WREATH WORKSHOP: Join us on Saturday 22nd November 2pm to 4 pm at the Parish Social Centre. Cost £25 per person; includes materials, foliage & seasonal refreshments. You only need to bring garden secateurs & scissors. Booking forms at the back of the Church. *Booking deadline 7th November:* Complete & return the form to Canon Philip or the Parish Office. **Limited spaces, so book early!**

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY: Pupils from St Mary's School will lead the rosary on Friday 7th November at 9.30am. The prayers are offered particularly for the children and staff of the school, & their families.

PARISH SOCIAL PLANNING GROUP: Next meeting on Wednesday 5th November at 6 pm

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Margaret St Aubyn, Jenny Dickley, Amy Butler, Fr John Slater, Arthur Hankey, Linda Kerr, 'Tess' Holley, Ita Wright, Bill Stone, Joe Sykes, Darren Hawkins, 'Rena' Barrett, Albert Tracey, Sr De Sales, Fred Rowden, Leo Trainer, Frank Farrier, Agnes Ross, Thomas Magee, Denis Flaxman, Teresa Killion, Peter Tooher, Michael Rook, Ann McGeehan, Anne Tickhurst, 'Peggy' Ellis, Irene Punter, Charles Ford, William O'Neil, Mathew Barry, 'Fritz Seiller, Sarah File-O'Brien, Frank Keating, Harry Holloway and Phillip Barron. We also pray for the souls of Agnes Edwards, whose funeral service takes place this week.

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, David Rose, Nicholas Watson, Margaret Webb, Leah Sheehan, Roman Sheehan, Colin Henson, Catherine Richardson, Reita Mugford, Jack Murphy, Gillian & David Black, Teresa Way, Nigel Bates, James Shepherd, Tina Bezer, Margaret Morgan, Gillian Lampard, Neil Lawson, Pamela Bavington-Brown, Shelia Slater, Les Hill, Graham Hill, Paul Regan, Christopher McDonnell, Terry & Ellie Kemp, Marian Ahern, Julliete Beaumont, Ian Swabey, Karenza Craven, Dave Chambers, Nora Vaz and Jennifer Austin. We pray for all who are sick, and their carers.

Collections	Gift Aid	Non-Gift Aid	Total
18 th & 19 th October 2025	£295.60	£217.18	£512.78
Missio	£25.00	£332.34	£357.34
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.

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

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 are useful to look up. Additionally, some items can be repeated.

HOLY FATHER'S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION - Collaboration among religions: that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend & promote peace, justice and human fraternity.

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

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

BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION: Saturday 24th January 2026

CHURCH CLEANING: A number of our volunteers have had to hang up their dusters, as they are unable to continue with church cleaning; *thank you for all you have done for our community*! Now is the time for new volunteers: Your Parish needs **YOU!** If you are able to spare an hour to clean sometime during the week or on a Saturday morning please email the Parish Office. There is a rota & you will be paired with someone else.

GIFT AID: If you a UK Tax payer and are able to 'Gift Aid' donations, please let us know as 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 or more information email: whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk or the parish office.

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!!!!

CATHOLIC SCHOOL GOVERNANCE: One of the early 'missions' the Church in this country engaged in, when Catholicism began to re-establish, was the provision of education to young people, often supported by Religious Sisters and Brothers; in our Parish the Mercy Sisters. As the State began to make more provision for education, the Church worked in partnership: State funding was provided and the Church maintained influence through its involvement in school governance. This is still the case today. The Archbishop is able to appoint Governors to Diocesan schools, and has the right to maintain a majority of 'Foundation Governors'. He can only do this if parishioners are willing to volunteer their time for this highly important role. Our own local Catholic School, St Mary's, has vacancies for appointments to its Local Governance Committee (LGC), as does the Ursuline College in Westgate. Would you be willing to aid the Archbishop, the Parish, the Schools, and especially the pupils by being a member of a LGC? Governors meet usually six times a year, make a few formal visits to the school each year and endeavour to keep abreast of the life of the School community. Their role is strategic – not day to day management of the School (the role of the Headteacher) – and one that has been described as being a "critical friend" to the school, with a particular focus on maintaining & developing the Catholic life and ethos. Is this something you could help with? Speak to Canon Philip in the first instance.

Your School needs YOU!

MISSION 'RED BOXES': In England and Wales, Missio & the Mill Hill Missionaries work together through the Red Box partnership. For over 80 years now the 'Red Box' has been a symbol of faith, hope and love in people's homes. The income from the Red Box is shared 60/40 between Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Missio supports faith communities in dioceses where the Church is still young or poor overseas. The Mill Hill Missionaries' share supports formation and training of its future missionaries. In England & Wales there are Red Boxes in over 200,000 homes; together we have collected millions of pounds for the missionary Church. Do you remember a 'Red Box' in your home? Do you still have one? Canon Philip would like to reenergise in our parish this way of helping the missions. On World Mission Sunday, please pray that we may be inspired to help pray for those missions evangelising overseas and to support them financially. Many parishes have a 'red box coordinator' – would you be willing to do this for our parish?

GARDENING GROUP: Next gathering: Saturday 15th Nov. 12 noon. Do come along and give a hand to help keep the church grounds looking clean and tidy. Session about 2 hours.

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.

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

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.

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.

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!

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).

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

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.

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?)
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 2024, 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)

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.

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 <u>youtu.be/oq1oOeNQ2Nc</u> 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 <u>rcaos.org.uk/hopeinadoration</u> – 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.

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

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.

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.