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**
	For the duty priest, for urgent emergency sick calls only: 07599 908633	
Parish Priest:	**Rev. Canon Philip Glandfield** whitstablepp@rcaos.org.uk	
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	**Contact Bernadette via the Parish Office** *(see above)*	
Safeguarding Representative:	**Mr John Flower whitstablesg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk**	**07738 370528**
Gift Aid Co-Ordinator:	**whitstablegac@rcaos.org.uk**	
Health & Safety Representative:	***Awaiting appointment*** **whitstable@rcaos.org.uk**	
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**	

TWENTY NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME: Mass Book page 143 **18th October 2026**

World Mission Day: ***One in Christ, united in mission***

SATURDAY: 17th Oct:
Confessions: apologies no confessions this weekend
6.00 pm: Intentions of Paul Regan (P Regan)

SUNDAY 18th Oct: 29th Sunday in Ordinary time
World Mission Day:
Rosminian Mission Appeal weekend
Welcome to Fr Benny Dennis preaching the appeal & celebrating our Masses this weekend.
8.10 am: *Rosary (led by parishioners)*
8.30 am: For the Bartley family (S Bartley)
10.10 am: *Rosary (led by parishioners)*
10.30 am: All Our Parishioners
Followed by Refreshments in the hall

MONDAY:19th Oct: *St Paul of the Cross*
10.00 am: **Funeral Mass**: May Dengate, RIP

TUESDAY: 20th Oct:
12.30 pm: Parents & Dec'd relatives of P Cassells

WEDNESDAY: 21st Oct: *St Margaret Clitherow*
1.00 pm: Donors Intention
Please note change of Mass time day

THURSDAY: 22nd Oct: *St John Paul II*
10.00 am: Irene Davidson, RIP (C Bruton)
followed by Adoration & Benediction

FRIDAY: 23rd Oct: *St John of Capistrano*
10.00 am: Sid Russell, RIP (C Russell)

SATURDAY: 24th Oct: *St Anthony Mary Claret*
Confessions: 11.30am to 12noon & 5.15pm to 5.45pm
6.00 pm: Darren Hawkins, RIP (A Hawkins)

SUNDAY 25th Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary time:
Second collection this weekend to support Missio
8.10 am: Rosary (Led by parishioners)
8.30 am: All Our Parishioners
10.10 am: *Rosary (led by parishioners)*
10.30 am: Lesley Wiles, RIP (C Bedells)
Followed by Refreshments in the hall

ROSMINIAN MISSION APPEAL: This weekend we welcome Fr Benny Dennis IC, visiting our parish to make the annual Mission appeal, this year on behalf of the Institute of Charity (Rosminians). The religious order was founded by St Antonio Rosmini on the charism of universal charity and missions. Please support the work they do with your prayer, kindness and generosity – Special second collection today.
My thanks to Fr Benny for celebrating the weekend Masses… enabling me to have a weekend away!

WORLD MISSION DAY: This weekend the Catholic Church worldwide marks World Mission Day. Pope Leo XIV chose the theme "*One in Christ, united in mission*." Earlier this year Pope Leo issued a message for this the 100th World Mission Day. The message reminded us that we are to be "*One in Christ – Missionary disciples united in Him and with our brothers and sisters*", that the purpose of being "*United in mission*" is so "*That the world may believe in Christ the Lord*" and that we have a "*Mission to love – Proclaiming, living and sharing God's faithful love*". The Pope, recalling his own in Peru, stated: "*I saw first-hand how the faith, the prayer, and the generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities*". Missio is the church's official Global Catholic Charity for the support of foreign missions, working through local bishops, churches & missionaries, ensuring resources are distributed fairly & justly on the basis of need. Our Parish collection for Missio is deferred to next weekend (24/25 Oct).

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

CURRY WORKSHOP: **Sat 31st October. (24 places) 7.15 for 7.30 pm start.** Join the parish for a flavour packed evening, learning to make mouth-watering dishes from scratch. Cost £20 covers ingredients & a three course meal. Vegetarian kebabs & naan; Kofta curry (or paneer curry) & rice; Kulfi ice-cream. You will be making the starters together & then Karen Franzak will demonstrate how to make the curry (Anglo Indian Kofta Curry) & Paneer curry as the veg option. Please let Winston or Karen know about allergies.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE: **Sat 28th Nov. 10am to 1pm.** This year we plan to have Christmas themed crafts and decorations, plus the usual stalls of new gifts, bottles, jewellery, plants, cakes, plus a **GRAND RAFFLE** along with the usual raffles. Midway through the Fayre children from St Mary's School will join us to perform Christmas Carols, whilst we enjoy warm mince pies & mulled wine, plus **Santa will be arriving at his grotto at midday**. In order to make it extra special this year could we appeal for your kind donations for these stalls, leaving donations at the back of the church at the marked drop off point (please drop off bottles to the sacristy or parish office). Cakes: all flavours of cakes welcome. Please box them (name containers if they need to be returned) & deliver Friday 27th Nov from 12.30pm to the hall (with lists of ingredients), plants can be donated the same day. More volunteers always welcome… want to get involved contact Maria Bishop 07874 984453.

CHRISTMAS GRAND RAFFLE: ***Cash prizes***. 1st cash £100, 2nd cash £50, 3rd cash £25. Draw to take place 1pm Saturday 28th Nov. £1 per ticket. Look out for books of tickets next weekend. **IT COULD BE YOU!**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: the group gathers this Sunday, 18th Oct, just after the start of the 10.30am Mass.

FEAST OF ST JUDE: Celebrations marking the feast of St Jude are taking place on 24th, 25th, & 28th October at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanners Road, Faversham. There will be Mass, with the anointing of the sick.

NOVEMBER LISTS: If you would like to add names of your deceased family members, friends or benefactors to our parish November 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 a Mass for Holy Souls will be offered each week during the month. Any offering in the envelope can be gift aided if you add your gift aid number.

ROSARY: Contact Canon Philip if you will be willing to lead the rosary before or after Saturday 6pm Mass.

ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur about this time: Sr Gabriel, Albert Sorenti, Marie Recton, Josie Curtis, Alfred Sheppard, Michael Barrass, Ivy Penighetti, Ann Curry, Philip Perks, Gerald O'Connor, James Lilley, Margaret Nicholson, Audrie Harris, George Wiles, Violet Clitheroe, Brian Johnson, Mary Sullivan, Terence Mulholland, John Yates, Monica Dunn, Charlotte Knight, Mary Aust, Patrick Murray, Peter Ball, Leslie Baxter, "Pat" Anderson, Jim Keane, William Povey, Gloria Nelson, Michael McLoughlin, Michael King, Annetta Woodcock, Dorothy Buckley, Ben Laraman, Margaret St Aubyn, Jenny Dickley, Amy Butler and Fr John Slater.

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: 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, Reita Mugford, Gillian & David Black, Jack Murphy, Teresa Way, Nigel Bates, James Shepherd, Tina Bezer, Margaret Morgan, Gillian Lampard, Neil Lawson, Pamela Bavington-Brown, Shelia Slater, Nora Vaz, Graham Hill, Paul Regan, Ellie Kemp, Karenza Craven, Dave Chambers, Rose Link, Shirley Mayhew, David Amis, Fr Mark White, Joan Locke, Kathleen Swabey, Gerry Allen & Pope Leo. We pray for all who are sick or in hospital, their carers & all staff.

Collections	***Gift Aid***	***Non-gift aid***	***Total***
10th Oct & 11th Oct	£275.20	£289.98	£565.18
Prisoners Sunday (PACT)	£10.00	£278.78	288.78£
Other regular giving: Weekly average for Sept 2026*	£463.62	£31.62	£495.24
Weekly average for donations via Card machine, Sept 2026*	£23.08	£34.62	£57.70

Thank you for your continued support of our parish.

Collection this weekend for Rosminian Mission Appeal and next weekend for Missio

*This is the calculated 'weekly equivalent' of contributions received direct to the Parish account from parishioners for September and offerings made via the Card Machine for September.

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.

***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 are new to the parish 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. If you would like to be also added to the weekly parish newsletter list please email whitstable@rcaos.org.uk

ST MARY'S SCHOOL OPEN DAYS: Is your child (or someone you know) due to start school in September 2027. St Mary's Catholic Primary school are holding a series of tours, offering parents the opportunity to have a look around. Dates for tours: 20th October 9.30 am, 5th November 2 pm & 10th November 9.30 am. Contact the school on 01227 272692 or email office@st-marys-whitstable.kcsp.org.uk to book a place.

GARDENING GROUP: Last meeting for 2026 Saturday 7th Nov. *Hope to see you there, Winston Waller.*

POPE LEO'S OCTOBER PRAYER INTENTION: For mental health ministry. Let us pray that a mental health ministry is established throughout the church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

"Save the Date" ***make a note in your diary or on your calendar:***

- **Christmas Fayre: Saturday 28th November 10 am to 1 pm.** Various Christmas themed stalls to browse and pick up some good bargains for Christmas presents. More details to follow
- **Christmas Wreath Workshop: Saturday 5th Dec from 2 pm to 4 pm.** Create your own Advent Wreath. Tickets £25. Includes seasonal refreshments. More details to follow.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: Some months ago, Canon Philip thanked all those who help with the Parish by assisting with Holy Communion, both in church and for home visits. There is a need to expand the team for all weekend Masses and for making home visits. Please do make suggestions of parishioners who you think might be asked to join the volunteer team.

WEDNESDAY TEA CLUB: They meet most Wednesdays (Term time *September - July*) 2pm to 4pm in the Parish Social Centre. £1 entry gets you a raffle ticket, refreshments & cakes, plus frequent bingo, games, music, & lots more!!!! Everyone is invited to join us.

PARISH EVENTS GROUP: The next meeting is on Wednesday 11th November at 5 pm.

THE ROSARY IN OCTOBER: The month of October is designated as the month of the Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary being celebrated on 7th October. This celebration was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary, in gratitude for the protection given to the Church in answer to the faithful praying of the rosary. The practice of praying the rosary goes back centuries, it is appealing and simple, and helps us meditate on the great mysteries of our salvation. It can be recited either at home as a family or with the church community, and those who pray may obtain a plenary indulgence. If you might be willing to lead the rosary after daily Mass or the weekend Masses please speak to Canon Philip

OCTOBER MONTH FOR MISSIONS: October is also the month for Missions. Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme for World Missions Day 2026, which falls on 18 October, as "One in Christ, united in mission." In his message for World Mission Sunday, Pope Leo emphasized that it is a privileged occasion for the entire Church to join in prayer for missionaries and for the fruitfulness of their apostolic work. The Pope, recalling his personal experience as a priest and later as a missionary bishop in Peru, stated: "*I saw first-hand how the faith, the prayer, and the generosity shown on World Mission Sunday can transform entire communities*". Let us pray for missions and for the spread of the Gospels throughout the world.

FIRST FRIDAY ROSARY: The Pupils from St Mary's School will next lead the First Friday Rosary on 6th November at 9.30am before Mass. The prayers are offered particularly for the children & staff of the school, & their families. Please join them if you can.

FLOWERS FOR ALTAR: If anyone would like to donate flowers/foliage for the altar, please bring them to the church before Friday 10 am & leave them in a bucket at St Vincent's side transept. Our Flower arrangers usually prepare flowers for the altar on a Friday or Saturday. To join the rota, please email the parish office.

PARISH WEBSITE: Thank you to the several offers of help with getting a revamp of the website ready. If anyone else could like to join in the process please do let Canon Philip know – especially if you have an eye for design. More heads can lead to more opportunities for inspiration!

HEALTH & SAFETY: There is a vacancy for a Health & Safety Representative volunteer for the parish. Please speak to Canon Philip if you, or someone you know, could help the parish, especially someone with experience in the area of Health and Safety. A couple of offers gratefully received... perhaps a small team?

SVP Appeal: The SVP are currently running low on several food and cupboard items; they would be particularly grateful for donations of the following: tea, coffee, cereal, long life milk, tinned meats, tinned tomatoes, baked beans, personal hygiene products, dish detergent, and laundry detergents. Donations of strong carrier bags would also be very much appreciated. The SVP thank you in advance for your generosity.

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

Events taking place in or with the Diocese

HOW DO WE PRAY? To build a better, more fulfilling relationship with God: You are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called **Teach Me to Pray** facilitated by Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission. The **online** programme has two more sessions: 7pm to 8.15pm, 10th Nov - Prayer as Imagining; 17th Nov - Prayer as Dialogue. For details and/or to book visit:
aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqd

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

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:

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.

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

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 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.

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).

Items from past newsletters

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY: The late Pope Francis said that "*Synodality is a style, it is a walk together, and it is what the Lord expects from the Church of the third millennium*". The Synodal Process is now in its third Phase: 'the Implementation For a Synodal Church'. Each diocese has been invited to share how our understanding of synodality has changed and how synodal practices have been, or might be, implemented in the life of our parishes. Archbishop John has started this in our area of the Church, and is preparing to help us to have Parish conversations on the Final Document, using a small group discussion resource. Canon Philip and some parishioners recently joined with other people from around the Diocese to reflect on the journey so far and to learn about the next steps. The **Called to Bear Fruit (C2BF)** process is a timely gift, as it dove tails very much into many of the reflections during the Synod. Let us ask the Lord to fill us with understanding and a willingness to listen to His voice, so often presented to us through the words and examples of other followers of the Lord Jesus. Let us pray for a generous spirit so that we can engage with God's plan.

EDUCATION SUNDAY 2026 – 13 September – was an invite to pray to Almighty God for all involved in Catholic education, to celebrate the achievements of the past and to ask Our Lord to bless the work of the School year ahead. Catholic education in Church schools and universities endeavours to acknowledge Jesus' loving presence in the lives of young people as they work, learn, pray, grow in character and virtue, and discover their vocation. We pray also for the Catholic Education Service (CES), the national body who work on behalf of the Catholic Bishops to support positive working relationships with Governments.

Archbishop John praised "the teachers and the staff in our schools who work tirelessly to ensure our young people receive the very best Catholic education." He said this education prepares pupils: "for their future careers, but most importantly, it draws them into a deeper relationship with the Lord Jesus, so that they can grow in wisdom, knowledge and holiness." Reflecting on the dedication of school leaders, he added: "I know how hard our headteachers, teachers and staff work to put their pupils first and give them the tools they need to flourish. For that, I once again express my sincerest gratitude and assure you of my prayers."

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.

DEACONS IN THE DIOCESE: Is God calling you? The 3rd Archdiocesan Diaconal Day was celebrated on 12th July 2026, and was an opportunity to pray for the Permanent Deacons serving our diocese, as well as for the new vocations to this ministry. If you are a man between 21 to 58 years, prayerful, with the desire to love & serve God, and His people, involved in services within your parish & community, have tried many things & still feel drawn to a closer relationship with Christ and His Church. you might possibly be called to be a Permanent Deacon. For further information about the Permanent Diaconate, e-mail: ianblack@rcaos.org.uk You can also visit: rcaos.org.uk/vocations/is-god-calling-me/the-diaconate/

Prayer for those discerning a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate: Lord, Jesus Christ, you have asked us to pray for more labourers to be sent into your harvest. I ask you to make those you have called to diaconal ministry, ready to hear and act upon your invitation. Make them at all times sensitive to your guidance, willing to learn and eager to obey. I ask this in your name, Lord Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. **Amen.**

CATHOLIC APOLOGETICS PROJECT FOR PARISHES & SCHOOLS LAUNCHES:

Ambassadors for Christ is a year-long video series aimed at building witnesses for Jesus and His Church. As the number of people joining the Catholic Church in England and Wales continues to rise, the Archdiocese of Southwark has launched a landmark apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to the burning questions of both new and practicing Catholics. The project, named "*Ambassadors for Christ*", is the first of its kind in a Catholic diocese in England and Wales and is designed to equip the faithful with a deeper understanding of their faith. While the journey to faith of each person is unique, they often grapple with similar questions and doubts, and find themselves searching for answers. As more people become interested in the faith, practicing Catholics are experiencing more questions from their family, friends, and colleagues but often remain unsure where to look for evidence-based answers. These can range from fundamental questions like "Is Jesus really God?" or "How do we know God is real?" to more practical questions about the Catholic faith, such as "Why do Catholics make the Sign of the Cross?" or "What is happening during Mass?". This project aims to not only help people find answers to their burning questions, but also to provide a reliable resource that can be relied upon when teaching about the Catholic faith. The project will consist of 52 videos, posted every Monday on YouTube in 2026. To provide assurances for the viewer that the information is from a trusted source, each video will feature a Catholic priest. To ensure doctrinal accuracy, each script draws from a foundation of Scripture, primary Church Father documents, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and official papal and Church teachings. All have been robustly checked by expert theologians prior to publication. The video format has been chosen to respond to reality that young people increasingly turn to social media for answers, including matters of faith. Each video will follow a similar format:

- **Objection/Question:** It begins with a common objection, question, or myth
- **Scripture:** The issue is first looked at through Scripture, drawing on solid biblical teaching
- **Church Fathers:** To provide a historical understanding and demonstrate the Church's link to the apostles, each video will then draw on the teaching of the Church Fathers
- **Church Teaching:** The final part of the video will highlight Church teaching on the subject, drawing on papal and Church documents, as well as quotes from Saints.

To find out more about this project at rcaos.org.uk/AmbassadorsforChrist.

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 was been decided by our Bishops that the 'translation' we listen to during Mass would change 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 2024 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. (*updated 15th Nov '25*)

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?

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?

Long Term Parish Items – for information

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*

GIFT AID: Would you like your collection offerings to go further? The UK 'Gift Aid' scheme boosts the overall value of any offering you make to the parish or the diocese. How does it work? It is a UK government scheme allowing charities to reclaim basic rate tax (20%) on donations from taxpayers, boosting the gift's value by 25% at no extra cost to the donor. Donors must pay UK Income or Capital Gains Tax equal to the tax reclaimed. Which means every £1 you give to the parish is worth £1.25 and helps further the mission of the parish and the diocese. Forms are at the back of the church. If you need help please email the parish.

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.

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.

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

2025 ANNUAL MASS COUNT: Thank you to all who helped with the 2025 official Mass count, and also for the work of counting during Summer 2025. The figures show an average of 209 attending Mass this year, slightly smaller than the 216 average in 2024.

Date	6pm	8.30am	10.30am	Total
20/21 Sept	52	52	116	220
27/28 Sept	49	48	110	207

Date	6pm	8.30am	10.30am	Total
4/5 Oct	48	38	114	200
11/12 Oct	44	58	108	210

Archdiocesan Prayer:

God our Loving Father, pour out on us afresh the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
Open our ears to hear your Word, open our eyes to see your presence,
open our minds to understand your Wisdom
and open our hearts to be more available for your mission
so that strengthened by your grace we can truly be
a sign and instrument of your presence in our world today.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT: The consultation that the Archbishop commissioned in 2025 has had a response published. The Archdiocese gives thanks to thousands of people who took part: "*We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese.*" The response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit "*The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.*"

The 'Consultation Response' is a step on a journey, not an end in itself. It is a document for the Parish as well as for the Diocese; a 'gift' (and a challenge) from the Lord Jesus to each of us, not only to me as Parish Priest. I would ask you to read this with an open heart and an open mind, to talk about it in the family and with other parishioners… and to share that which the Holy Spirit inspires you, with me and others.

CALLED TO BEAR FRUIT (C2BF) – Consultation Report: Report in 60 seconds

Thousands of parishioners across the Archdiocese took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation, offering honest, hopeful and practical reflections on the life and mission of our Church in Southwark. People spoke with gratitude for their parish communities, where welcome, prayer and sacramental preparation are often sources of real strength, while also expressing a desire for deeper formation and ongoing opportunities to grow in faith. It is clear there is a profound love of the Lord Jesus in our parishes, along with a burning desire to lead people to him. That is why it was so heartening to see a strong recognition that evangelisation is central to parish life, though many asked for clarity and practical tools to help move from words to action.

Youth emerged as the most urgent priority, with a widespread call to invest in engaging and supporting young people at the heart of our mission. Across the board, parishioners highlighted the real need for collaboration - with neighbouring parishes, with clergy and among volunteers - as well as the need to value and invite new people to share their gifts. Looking ahead, people acknowledged the reality of fewer priests, but also expressed confidence that laity and clergy together can take up the challenge of renewal. The consultation revealed a Church that cares deeply for its future, ready to grow in faith, hope and love, and eager to continue to build vibrant parish communities that witness joyfully to the Gospel.

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15 action points have been identified from the themes. Canon Philip set a challenge of including a reflection of one point regularly in the newsletter during the first half of 2026. The now full list of reflections on the points can be read below: As they are published any extra thoughts will be added in… plus a summary of any feedback.

18th July 2026: An update… *All fifteen Action Points and the reflections have now been 'published'. Many of the reflections included questions or invitations for feedback to me. In our busy lives it can be difficult to find time to think and then time to feedback. Perhaps, you shared thoughts among yourselves in conversations? Alas, very few thoughts or reflections made it back to me here in the Parish Office* 😳*. However, you can still pass your thoughts on. Perhaps have a ponder on the Points over the summer? The recent teaching of Pope Leo and the late Pope Francis, reminds us that we are* **called** *to work together. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us respond with eager Faith.* ***Canon Philip***

1. **Celebrate existing signs of growth** 11/01/26
   There is hope in and for the Church, including our Parish. Locally we thank God for recent (Dec 2025) Confirmation of 18 young people and the baptism of two adults. Let me know other things we can celebrate, and how we might share the news.

2. **Provide a new vision and a study guide on the purpose of a parish** 18/01/26
   In due course we hope to get a 'study guide' from the Diocese, but as we wait perhaps, as a parish, we can think about what we see as the many strands of 'purpose' for our own Parish. Please share them with Canon Philip and /or your fellow parishioners. Using the language of the garden: this will help us to build on what is already fruitful, look to see what might need tender care, and also to plant new spiritual seeds which can bear fruit in the future.

3. **Encourage inter-parish collaboration** 01/02/26

This seems easy at one level, but can be more complex in reality. If we do things together, of course it must be better and easier? But our nearest parishes are Herne Bay (4 miles), Canterbury (8 miles) with Hersden (11 miles), and Faversham (11 miles), so travel is an issue for joint ventures/events etc. Which Parish should host? '*if it isn't here I probably wouldn't go*'. Perhaps technology might help. Please think about what our parishes "should" do together, and also what we might do together; perhaps thinking at first about our links with Herne Bay? Don't keep your thoughts to yourself – share! Talk with other parishioners and pass on thoughts to Canon Philip via the Parish Office. "Subsidiarity" is a principle in Catholic Social Teaching stating that matters should be handled by the smallest, lowest, or most local competent authority, rather than a central power. Sometime two parishes are better than one.

4. **Give clarity about what mission looks like today** 08/02/26

We are called by the Lord Jesus to be Missionary Disciples. However, it is quite important that, as a parish community, we have a shared understanding about what we mean when we talk about "***mission***". Using the term Missionary can make us think of courageous people heading overseas to spread the Gospel to other nations; this is comfortable… because it is then up to someone else to do. "***Mission***" is the task of all Christians, taking a form that is unique to each person. Christ asks us to listen to Him and allow Him to use our gifts, talents, treasures, yes even our very selves, to allow His Gospel to spread. Let us ask the Lord Jesus to give our parish clarity about what mission looks for us like today in Whitstable.

5. **Encourage parishes to move from welcome to invitation** 15/02/26

AP4 reflected on "***Mission***". Part of this is being a welcoming community… but the challenge is not just to wait for "them" to walk through the door, but actively reach out. How do we and how can we, as a Parish 'invite'. We are asked by the Lord Jesus to extend **His** invitation on His behalf: to newcomers, to the lapsed, to those who may not know Jesus is calling them. The Holy Spirit is entrusting YOU with ideas of how we as a Parish can do this. Don't ignore His inspiration, share them with each other & with Canon Philip. Who do you know that needs a personal invite to come to meet Jesus?

6. **Share good practice from across the Archdiocese** 22/02/26

We are challenged to have "***Mission***" & "***Invitation***" at the heart of who we are as a Parish community. Sometimes the 'how' of this does not need *reinventing* but to be learned from the success of others… or us sharing our successes! The Diocese have offered examples, and will continue to do so, but have you heard or experienced something our Parish can take up? May the Holy Spirit guide us!

7. **Celebrate and equip catechists and parents** 01/03/26

One of the blessings in the 'Rite of Baptism of Children' speaks of how parents "*…will be the first teachers of their child in the ways of faith.*" Then asks God to help them "*…be also the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what they say and do in Christ Jesus our Lord.*" As a faith community it is important that we support parents in the calling to pass on the gift of Faith, as C2BF asks that we 'equip' them, provide help, support and the necessary 'tools' to teach the faith. Catechists are volunteers "*who echo the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Catholic Church, facilitating religious education and formation for children, young people, and adults*". **Thank you** to our Catechist and the parents of the parish – how could the parish better support and equip you for the beautiful task the Lord Jesus has entrusted to you?

8. **Build on the foundation of sacramental preparation by offering ongoing formation** 08/03/26

Our parish, and the Church as a whole, rightly puts a focus of time and energy into preparing people to receive the Sacraments; our Holy Communion group is meeting at the moment, and our Confirmation Group recently had their 'going forth' Mass. This action point is encouraging us as a parish, and a diocese, to recognise that there is a *need* for a process of 'ongoing' faith development. Something that is very appropriate for those who have recently 'finished' preparation… but also for all those who finished some while ago – that includes us all! What areas of faith development are ***you*** interested in focusing on? When could this be done? How could it be done so that large numbers of parishioners could benefit? How do we best share the answers to these questions?

9. **Promote resources on prayer** 15/03/26

The consultation report speaks of there being "…lots of excellent resources on prayer available today. The Archdiocese of Southwark Spirituality Commission offers information and resources on ways into prayer via its website: www.southwarkdsc.org.uk". The report also mentions that "Smartphone apps have become increasingly popular, such as Universalis, Hallow and 'Pray As You Go'. Christian Art offers a daily Gospel reading and art reflection." It concludes its reflection on AP9 by stating "The need for prayer must also be articulated often and with love." What areas of prayer might you interested in focusing on? How and when could this be done with other parishioners? How do we best communicate with one another (and Canon Philip) what help we would like?

10. **Strengthen our culture of hospitality** 22/03/26

'*Hospitality is one of the simplest and most powerful ways we share God's love. A warm smile at the door, coffee after Mass or introducing a newcomer to others can make all the difference.*' Our parish has a firm foundation of welcome to build upon. However, it is important that each parishioner think about what we currently do together and how that can be strengthened. Then EVERYONE should consider "how can I help our parish to be more hospitable". The Holy Spirit wants YOU to play your part. How can we best share ideas with one another (and Canon Philip) to *strengthen our culture of hospitality*?

11. **Celebrate and thank volunteers more visibly** 25/01/26

The Parish is blessed with many volunteers, getting involved in many aspects of Parish life and volunteering in the wider community. In September we hold a Parish Volunteer gathering; one way of 'celebrating'. How can we build on this? Share your thoughts. Canon Philip intends on highlighting different groups of volunteers over the course of the year.

12. **Encourage personal invitations into service** 24/05/26

'*Personal invitation matters. Many people don't step forward because they feel unsure or unworthy, yet when encouraged, they often discover new gifts and a deeper relationship with God...*' This 'action' is not simply a task for me as the Parish Priest, but one that is given to all member of the parish, particularly those already involved in the wide variety of ministries in the parish. Inviting someone to volunteer is not only a help to the parish, it can also be the way God draws them closer to himself.

13. **Invest in youth ministry** 31/05/26

In reply to the C2BF consultation, across the Archdiocese, the renewal of youth ministry was named more than any other area of parish life, with 57% of groups highlighting it as essential. This reflects both concern for the future and real hope that young people will be central in the revitalisation of our Church.

The Archdiocese has been investing greatly in the Southwark Catholic Youth Service (SCYS), visit the webpage rcaos.org.uk/mission/southwark-catholic-youth-service – but this does not mean that our Parish can sit back and relax. We too are challenged by the Lord to 'invest', whether this is by our time, our talents or our 'treasure' (put our money where our hearts are challenged to be), or indeed all three. The "real hope" mentioned above needs to be, and indeed must be, nurtured and encouraged. What are we called to do?

14. **Launch a Parish Renewal Course for laity and clergy** 07/06/26

Over several months I have included the titles of the series of "action points" published following the C2BF consultation. This week we reach the penultimate point for our newsletter reflections… although this is one that we will have to patiently wait for. The Diocese has said that it is preparing "*…a new study guide - which will be published in due course - on the purpose of a parish. It is a guide to Pope Francis'* 2020 document 'The Pastoral Conversion of the Parish Community'." I am sure we all have our own idea of the purpose of a parish, however, let us be open to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to broaden our understanding and to set new challenges. The Spirit invites us to be open to ***relearning*** how we can & should live the Gospel the Lord Jesus gave us, including the duty to share this great gift with others. As we await the launch of the course, let us pray for a listening ear and for an enthusiasm for Parish Renewal.

15. **Pray for renewal** 14/06/26

The final stop on the "action point" reflection journey is 'prayer': prayer for our parish, prayer for the local Church in Kent & South London, prayer for renewal, prayer for the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. "*Archbishop John would like to invite everyone into a time of deeper prayer and personal renewal, by committing to one or more of the following for the intention of renewal in the Archdiocese: 1) A Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament; 2) Praying the rosary; 3) Seeking the Lord's mercy through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*" How can and should our Parish deepen our prayer in response to this invite?

"Let us ask the Holy Spirit
to illumine our hearts and minds
with fresh possibilities."