



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY - THANET

A Message about our Buddy System

Two weeks ago Father Joe wrote a letter to the parish about our new Buddy System. If you missed this, please read overleaf as we begin to implement it.

Father Jackson's Visit

Fr Jackson, our incoming priest, will join us for the 6pm Mass on Tuesday, 24th March. It is an opportunity for him to meet the parishioners before he formally starts so please come to the Mass if you can.

Adults to be Initiated into the Catholic Church

Please continue to pray for the adults being baptised and received this year at Easter in our parish and thier families and sponsors:

Colin Brown, Tatyana Dabanovic, Michele Whittlesea, Riley Andrews, Darren Prince and Jade Andrews.

Please also join and support them at the Easter Vigil, on the 5th April at 8pm, where they will receive the Sacraments of Christian Initiation.

Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)

The next GIFT session will be on **Sunday, 28th March 2026**, immediately after the 10:30am Mass. Please continue to pray for and support our young families.

Spiritual Exercises during Lent

The parish has provided a range of devotions and formation sessions to aid our spiritual renewal during this holy season. There is something for everyone irrespective of your weekly schedule.

- Stations of the Cross - **Every Friday**, following the 10am Mass.
- The God Who Speaks - Bible Study - **Thursday** evenings from 7:15pm to 8:15pm
- Faith Sharing - Films on the Life of Jesus - **Tuesday** evenings from 7pm

If you cannot attend in person, there is an online bible study on Tuesdays at 7-8.15pm. Registration: comeandsee.org/lent26. **If you work during the day, why don't you come along to Mass on Tuesdays at 6pm and/or on Thursday at 8am as your Lenten practice.**

Lenten Lunch - Wednesday 18th March

Next Wednesday, 18th March we will be hosting a Lenten Lunch at 12 noon in our hall in conjunction with Birchington Churches Together. Please find the sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

Lenten Reconciliation Service - Saturday, 28th March, 6:45pm

Mother the Church invites us to go to Confession during Lent in preparation for Easter. What a gift we have in this Sacrament where all our sins are wiped away. We will therefore have two extra priests to join Father Joe to offer individual Confessions on Saturday, 28th March at 6:45pm (immediately after the 6pm Mass).

Please, also be reminded of our regular parish Confession times indicated on the bottom right side of this newsletter.

Palm Sunday Procession - 29th March

Please note that we will begin the 10.30am Mass on Sunday 29th March at Birchington Town Square (in front of the Powell Arms) at 10am where our palms will be blessed. We will then process through the town and into the church. The other Mass times are as normal.

Collections Last Weekend

Collection Plate: £319.20 of which £125.00 was Gift Aided
Digital Collection Plate: £65.00 of which £35.00 was Gift Aided
Standing Orders: £740.00 of which £560.00 was Gift Aided

Parish Priest: Father Joseph Owusu-Ansah /thanet@rcaos.org.uk /01843 841549
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Sunday, 15th March 2026

Saturday 14th March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
(LAETARE SUNDAY)

Vigil 6pm

Sunday 15th March

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)
(LAETARE SUNDAY)

Mass 8.30am

Mass 10.30am
Margaret Lattimore, RIP

Tuesday 17th March

Saint Patrick

Mass 6pm

Andrew McLoughlin, RIP

Wednesday 18th March

Feria

Mass 10am

People of the Parish

Thursday 19th March

Saint Joseph

Mass 8am

Friday 20th March

Feria

Mass 10am

Saturday 21st March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Vigil 6pm

Freida Murray, RIP

Sunday 22nd March

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

Mass 8.30am

Mass 10.30am

Richard Dickinson - Wellbeing

Confession

(Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Sundays 8.00 am - 8.25 am & 9.30 am - 10.10 am

Please speak to the priest in person or email/phone the office to make an arrangement outside of these times

A Message about our Buddy System

Dear Parishioners,

Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. (Romans 15:7)

Following our welcomers hospitality workshop, I mentioned there will be further communication about a parish buddy system. I would therefore like to explain what will happen when the new buddy system is introduced.

We have already made good progress with welcoming visitors and potential new parishioners. Indeed, some of our newer parishioners have told me that they really enjoyed the welcome they received when they first came to the Holy Family Parish. However, we have noticed that sometimes, when a visitor comes to the church alone, they can end up sitting alone during Mass. It's important that anyone new to the Parish feels part of our community. This means that our friendliness should continue inside the church.

The Parish is creating a welcome letter which would be given to visitors telling them something about us. This will be available soon and we hope that it will help. Also, welcomers will be asking visitors if they would like to sit with one of our regular parishioners who is willing to accompany them on their first visit. For the visitor or potential new parishioner, this must be offered as a personal choice as they may wish to sit alone. We should all respect this. Equally we are aware that some of us may be uncomfortable doing this. If that is the case, please say so.

It is though, important to bear in mind that we as parishioners have a duty to welcome newcomers. So, if one of our welcomers asks if you mind looking after a visitor to guide them during Mass if required, please consider doing this. We do not expect this to be an onerous task and may only happen occasionally. We ask only that everyone should be aware of new people and maybe give others a smile, so everyone feels comfortable in our church. You may also want to invite visitors to join us in the hall after the 10.30 Mass. Also, please be mindful about regular parishioners who often sit alone and may like some company!

Yours in Jesus and Our Blessed Mother,

Father Joe