



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY - THANET

Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) – A New Initiative for the Formation of Families of Our Parish

“Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a ‘domestic church’, a church in the home as it were, where God is honoured, his law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares the hopes, the problems and sufferings of everyone else.” - Pope St. John Paul II

Last Sunday we launched Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) in our parish. As explained, GIFT is an initiative to help families indeed make the home the “Domestic church” (*Ecclesia domestica*), the first and primary place where faith is learned and lived, as the Catholic Church teaches. As a parish, we are stepping into intentionally accompanying and forming our young families to truly live this.

GIFT is also a pathway to preparing children for their First Confession (Reconciliation) and First Holy Communion. Therefore, every family in the parish with a child aged zero to eleven are to be part of this process, not only because of its immense benefit but it will be the only way through which their child can prepare for the reception the two Sacraments mentioned above. Families whose children have already received the Sacraments are not left out of GIFT. It is for every young family in the parish.

GIFT entails monthly sessions of parents and children together with the GIFT Team. The team accompanies the families in between sessions. Each session starts with Mass, followed by refreshments and formation which includes the GIFT Team delivering a short catechesis and each family working together as a unit. **We gather to celebrate, learn and worship.**

The first session will be next Saturday, 31st January 2026 from 10am to 12 noon. Future dates will be published soon. The families are positive and excited about GIFT.

Please get involved and let us all contribute our part to make this fruitful.

Sunday of the Word of God - Sunday 25th January

This Sunday, the third in Ordinary Time, is the 'Sunday of the Word of God' - a day, instituted by Pope Francis on the Feast of Saint Jerome in 2019, devoted to the celebration and study of Sacred Scripture. "Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." - Pope Francis

To mark this Sunday, Father Joe kindly reminds that could all please bring along their Bibles to Mass this weekend.

The God who Speaks - Parish Bible Study

In unison with this celebration, our parish has developed a weekly Bible study to further our own engagement with and understanding of Scripture. The Bible Study evening therefore continues this week on Thursday. It continues to be an enriching gathering of parishioners of all different ages. Please come along even if you missed the previous sessions as all are welcome any week; it remains your space. We will continue to meet every Thursday in the parish hall from 7:15pm to 8:15pm.

Sunday, 25th January 2026

Saturday 24th January

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME (A)

Vigil 6pm
Eddie Cooke, RIP

Sunday 25th January

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME (A)

Mass 8.30am
Andrew McLoughlin, RIP

Mass 10.30am
Theodore Coverdale - Thanksgiving

Tuesday 27th January
Feria

Mass 6pm
People of the Parish

Wednesday 28th January
Saint Thomas Aquinas

Mass 10am
Isaac - Strength in Suffering

Thursday 29th January
Feria

Mass 8am
Holy Souls

Friday 30th January
Feria

Mass 10am
Thanksgiving for Prayers Answered

Saturday 31st January
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME (A)

Vigil 6pm

Sunday 1st February
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME (A)

Mass 8.30am
Petr and Eva - Special Intentions

Mass 10.30am
Dennis How, RIP

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - United Service on Sunday 25th at 3pm

Just a reminder that the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will conclude with a united Service that will take place this Sunday 25th January at the Methodist Church at 3pm. Please do attend and join together as we pray for unity across the denominations.

Chris' Winter Warmer

One of our parishioners will be kindly opening her home for anyone who would like some company in these cold winter months. You are all warmly invited to come for a cuppa, cake and a chat with friends on the following dates at 11am:

Thursday, 29th January

Thursday, 26th February

Thursday, 26th March

If you are interested, Chris can be reached on 07773576795

SVP Quiz - Saturday 7th February

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be hosting their quiz on Saturday, 7th February from 7pm for a 7:30pm start time. Tickets will be on sale after Mass on Sundays at 10:30am and are £5 per head. Please bring your own refreshments.

Second Collection: St. George's Cathedral

For over half a century, St George's Cathedral has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's has been a beacon of light.

Today, St George's Cathedral continues to attract thousands of worshippers and visitors each year, as well as serving a lively local parish community which proudly reflects the rich cultural and ethnic diversity of South London. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. In many respects, St George's Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and 'beehive' for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark.

St George's Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.

Thank you!

Second Collection Next Week: Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on Sunday, 1 February 2026, at 10am. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride.

If you would like, please gather outside the cathedral at 9.45am to join the procession of national flags. After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments — a chance to meet one another, share experiences and continue the conversation about faith and inclusion.

Collections Last Weekend

Collection Plate: £287.15 of which £100.00 was Gift Aided

Digital Collection Plate: £75.00 of which £50.00 was Gift Aided

Standing Orders: £405.00 of which £405.00 was Gift Aided

200 Club Draw:

1st Prize Christine Bentley £141.25

2nd Prize Sian Williams £56.50

3rd Prize Tony London £28.25

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