

*Brothers and Sisters: may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all men, as we do, so that he may establish your hearts unblameable in holiness before our God and Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. {1 Thessalonians 3:12(RSV) – an extract from the First Reading for the First Sunday of Advent (C)}*

Dear Parishioners,

Next weekend we begin the holy season of Advent. This is a season of joyful twofold waiting for our Lord: His second coming in glory and His coming at His birth. Of course, He has already been born but we prepare for the worthy celebration of it so that He can be born anew in each of our hearts.

It is a season of joy, hope, peace, and love.

As a parish, we are called to be a family bonded together in love. As the name of our parish as Holy Family suggests, we are invited to be a family; to be in communion with one another as we are in communion with the Universal Church.

In this regard, let me take this opportunity to first thank you all for the open and honest way you have received the announcement that we will not resume Mass at the United Reformed Church Hall in Westgate. Let us all continue to work together as we strive to be one community, and work towards ways to help those who do not drive to be able to attend Mass here at the parish.

Furthermore, I invite you all to be part of a journey to use this Advent to celebrate our communion as we also seek to strengthen it. This year's Advent season will be themed as:

### **An Advent to Celebrate and Strengthen Our Communion**

During the season we will work towards this through a series of events. These are listed below, and I will be giving more details of each event on the weekends prior to it being held.

The events are:

#### **Sunday, 5th December – Name Tag Sunday**

Get a name tag as you arrive for Mass and get to know some more parishioners as we have tea, coffee, hot chocolate, and Irish Whisky after Mass.

#### **Sunday, 12th December – Testimonies Sunday**

At Mass, some parishioners will share their experiences of coming back to Mass when the Church reopened after lockdown.

#### **Sunday, 19th December – Thank You Sunday**

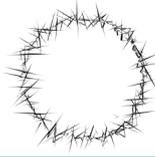
On this day we will be saying thank you to those numerous volunteers who have helped to keep our church open during the pandemic. A Certificate of Recognition from our Archbishop, John Wilson will be presented to our Stewards.

#### **Sunday, 26th December - Solemnity of the Holy Family**

Our Parish Feast Day Mass

I hope you will all be able to take part in Our Advent Journey.

In Christ, Fr. Joe Owusu-Ansah (Parish Priest)



PARISH OF THE HOLY FAMILY - THANET

**Advent 2021**

Please find a letter from Fr Joe regarding Advent this year on the opposite page.

**Synod 2021-2023**

"A big thank you to those who attended the Synod meeting last Sunday. Written responses are trickling in. If you haven't yet responded, don't worry! The Synod of Bishops Office in Rome, responding to petitions from across the world, has extended the time available to dioceses for their local processes of listening and discernment. The deadline by which diocesan submissions in England and Wales have to be sent to the Bishops' Conference has now been extended.

Therefore, the Parish deadline has been extended. Please fill in a response form at the back of the church or on our parish website and return it by Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Many thanks.

Cathy and Suzanne  
(Parish Delegates)

**Christmas Fayre**

Please come along and get involved. It is an entire parish event, which will be held on 27th November, 2021. Please bring home baked cakes on the day, if you can.

**Birchington Churches Together Carols Service**

Takes place on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> December in the Village Centre, behind the library.

**Parish Bereavements**

For your charity, please pray for the repose of the souls of Monica Mouldale and Barry Harding.

The late **Monica Mouldale**, has been a parishioner here for over 50 years. She was for many years a Reader at Mass and an Extra Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Her husband, the late John Mouldale, was also a staunch parishioner. Monica's funeral will be here in our parish on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon.

The late **Barry Hardy**, and his wife Kay, were parishioners here for a long time before they moved to Cornwell.

Please note the details of Fr John Slater's funeral has **not** yet been confirmed. It will be communicated as soon as we know.

**Collection Weekend of 6<sup>th</sup> /7<sup>th</sup> November 2021:** £369.80 of which £148.00 Gift Aided

**Collection Weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> /14<sup>th</sup> November 2021:** £335.10 of which £156.00 Gift Aided

**Second Collection this Weekend:** Catholic Youth Services

The collection taken on National Youth Sunday supports youth work in the diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.



**Saturday 20th November**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*Holy Souls*

**Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 21st November**

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

*People of the Parish*

**Mass 10.30am**

**Wednesday 24th November**

Saints Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs, Memorial

*Holy Souls*

**Mass 10am**

**Thursday 25th November**

Feria

*Edith Collins*

**Mass 7:15am**

**Friday 26th November**

Feria

*Holy Souls*

**Mass 10am**

**Saturday 27th November**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

*People of the Parish*

**Vigil Mass 6pm**

**Sunday 28th November**

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

*People of the Parish*

**Confession**

(Sacrament of Reconciliation)

Please speak to Father Joe in person or email/phone the office to make an arrangement.