

St Simon Stock Catholic Church

Priest in Charge: Fr. Jose Anchanickal Sebastian, Brookfield Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 4EU tel: 01233622399

Web: st-simon-stock-ashford.org.uk Email: ashfordsouth@rcaos.org.uk

Hire of St. Simon's Hall: email - hallhire@outlook.com; Phone 07955323211

Parish School: St. Simon of England Primary School, Noakes Meadow, Ashford, TN23 4RB. 01233 623199 Headteacher - Peter McCabe

PLEASE TAKE THIS NEWSLETTER HOME WITH YOU

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday 1st February 2026, Fourth

Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Racial Justice Day

10.30am Mass (Michael & Maria Zaldak RIP)

1.30pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

6.30pm Mass (The people of the parish)

Monday 2nd February, The Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)

7.00pm Solemn Mass (The wellbeing of Mark Pickett)

Tuesday 3rd February, St. Laurence of Canterbury, Bishop, Memorial

10.00am Mass

Wednesday 4th February, St. Henry Morse, Priest and Martyr

6.05pm Recitation of the Rosary

6.30pm Mass (Sybil Cash RIP)

Thursday 5th February, St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr, Memorial

10.00am Mass

Friday 6th February, SS. Paul Miki, and Companions, Martyrs, Memorial First Friday

10.00am Mass (Holy Souls) followed by Adoration until noon

Saturday 7th February, The Blessed Virgin Mary First Saturday

10.00am Mass (Maureen Auchterlonie RIP)

Sunday 8th February 2026, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Day for Victims of Trafficking

10.30am Mass

1.30pm Mass in the Syro-Malabar rite

6.30pm Mass (For the people of the parish)

A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOSE: Dear family members and friends: In today's Gospel acclamation we recite, "Rejoice and be glad for your reward is great in heaven." It is a portion of the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus gives us great hope when He proclaims the beatitudes where He speaks clearly about who the Blessed people are. Whatever Jesus speaks there is actually what he practiced in His life and further we can say it is a synonym of the life of Jesus. The life of anyone who follows the beatitudes is blessed and his reward will be great in heaven. Let us try to be poor in spirit in order to trust the Lord and depend on Him to be a true Christian and enjoy the fruits of the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - CANDLEMAS - SOLEMN MASS tomorrow at 7pm - where we celebrate his first entrance into the temple in Jerusalem, to be presented as a baby. We process into church lighting candles, to celebrate Christ the true light of the world coming to his believing people, for the first time. We shall bless our hand candles, the Parish liturgical candles as well as any devotional candles for use at home that you may wish to bring along.

CRIB OFFERINGS - If you have not yet made your crib offering, which will go to **The Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund**, please do so in the next couple of days as the crib will be removed on Wednesday. You can give your offering in the box at the crib or by using the contactless machine. Thank you for your generosity.

TODAY IS RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY - This year's theme for Racial Justice Sunday *"Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.* Racial Justice Sunday is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. When Christ commissioned his disciples he intended the message of his reconciling ministry, death and resurrection for all peoples, times and places. The word that came to summarise this reality was the Greek word '*Katholikos*' - Catholic - meaning universal. Our model for community wellbeing has to be as diverse as the disciples Jesus called and the places they were sent, as varied as the parables he taught, as extensive as the good news Jesus preached. It is an ongoing encouragement for us today that the early Church was this diverse in her make-up of believers and in her geographical spread. As the Letter of James tells us - God shows no partiality in what he has created.

The second collection will be for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice and is taken to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

BIG CHURCH CLEAN - WEDNESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY FROM 2.30PM - If you are available please do come along as we will be removing the last of the Christmas trimmings and giving the church a spruce up. If you are able to help take down the decorations and clean the church please let Thereza know. Thank you.

MASS INTENTIONS - You can ask the Parish Priest to offer Mass for a specific intention of yours. It could be for: yourself or your family, a friend in need, a deceased relative, our community or the wider world or a private intention. If you would like to be sure of a specific date, please speak to Fr. Jose. Simply fill in a Mass Offering envelope that is on the newsletter table and either give it to Fr. Jose or place it in the collection plate.

COLLECTIONS - Last week - £549.46 (£95.2 Gift Aid + £246.36 loose plate and machine + £208 standing order). Second collection St. George's Cathedral £60.41. Thank you. Second collection today - Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel

Holy Michael, the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle; be our safe-guard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly host, by the power of God, cast down to hell Satan and all other evil spirits who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen

CONFESSIONS

After 10am Mass
Saturday and on request

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for:

Francesca Baker,
Emma Baker,
Tricia Coppin,
Luke Fellowes,
George McQuillan,
Agnes
Perinpanayagam,
Raymond
Trumpfheller,
Kitty O'Mahoney,
Gerard Quinn,
Pulkeria Msoka,
Susannah John,
Emma Broad,
Peter Vokes,
Dorothy Wiseman,
Ken Gwam
Frankie Lanzino,
Maria McCarthy,
Zita Wilkinson,
Marie Columb
Maureen Woods
Beryl Swaffer
Frances
Fr. Jose
Guy Beresford
Maria Lanzino,
Mark Pickett