



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 25th January 2026

Parish Priest & Rector: Fr Jonathon Routh email: jonathonrouth@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office email: ramsgate@rcaos.org.uk Tel: 01843 594031.

St. Augustine's Shrine email: augustineshrine@rcaos.org.uk, Tel: 01843 592071.

Shrine Chaplain: Fr Simon Heans; **Polish Chaplain:** Fr Ryszard Hanaczewski; **Deacon:** Rev'd Peter Brown;

Pastoral Assistant: Maureen Francis.

Vergers: Anthony Jinks.

Parish Secretary: Melissa Goes.

Safeguarding Officer: Sasha Ofori.

Minster Abbey, Mo. Nikola & Sisters. 01843 821254 (Sunday Mass at 10.00am and daily Mass at 9.00am).

Divine Retreat Centre: Fr Joseph Edattu & Fr Paul Pallichamkudiyil. 01843 586904. (Weekday Mass 5.30pm)

St. Ethelbert's School: Headteacher, Mr. Simon Marshall - (01843 585555).

Dear parishioners,

This Monday, 2nd February, is **CANDLEMAS** which brings the extended Christmas season to a close. We call it Candlemas because on this feast we light candles to symbolise the light of Christ which has come into the world. The proper names for it are 'The Presentation of the Lord' because Our Lord was brought to the Temple for the first time and secondly it is called 'The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary' because on this day, Our Lady went to the temple forty days after giving birth in fulfilment of the law. At this feast we say farewell to the crib and start to prepare for Lent and Passiontide. In addition to being the final flicker of Christmas celebration, February 2nd is also the remote preparation for Passiontide, both for the Lord Himself, and for His sinless Mother, and for us. It is the last light of Christmas and the first glimpse of that green hill faraway, outside the city wall. This shift of mood and direction is reflected in the change of the Marian Antiphon sung to our lady. At Compline, after the mass of February 2nd, we no longer sing the '*Alma Redemptoris Mater*' sung during Advent, Lent and Epiphany and start singing '*Ave Regina Caelorum*' through Lent and Passiontide, until Good Friday. In this way, Candlemas is a pivotal feast day between the two seasons.

When the Infant Jesus was brought to the temple, He replaced its cold dead stones with the warm new life of His own Divine Person because *He* is the new and living temple. Our Lord was born into this world in order to die. He was born in order to become a pure victim, a holy victim, a spotless victim, the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. That sacrifice was to replace the sacrificial cult of the old temple. The blood sacrifices of calves and goats and pigeons were no longer valid offerings, because the one true oblation had come. Thirty- three years later, that oblation would be offered up to heaven, not in any temple, but on the hill of Calvary.

In the temple on this feast day of Candlemas, Simeon's words both look back to Christmas and forward to Good Friday. Looking back to Christmas he said '*... For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations, the light to enlighten the gentiles and give glory to your people, Israel*'. This light is represented by the Candles of 'Candlemas'. But Simeon also looked towards Good Friday when he prophesied that a sword of sorrow would pierce the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Our Blessed Lady was destined to share uniquely in her Son's Passion. Indeed, her sharing in the Passion would be so much deeper than ours, because she was free from sin. That meant, there were no barriers within her to impede her fullest acceptance of God's will. Nor would she hold back, as we so often do, from the pain of suffering. When the Blessed Virgin Mary first carried the Light of all nations into the temple, His divine nature was hidden from almost everybody else, except from Simeon. We, like Simeon, have seen the light of Christ, which, with Our Lady's prayers, we are called to show the world.

We can, on this ancient feast day, implore Blessed Mary, our Sorrowful Mother, to protect our parish and all our church. By her prayers may we together remain faithful, humble, and pure in dark times, and may the light of Christ at Candlemas, give us hope through the times of loss or suffering that we all have to face.

God bless, Fr Jonathon

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for your amazing generosity in donating foreign currency. You kindly donated £502.97, enough to feed more than 26 children for a whole school year! On behalf of the children we serve, we would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks! Please do continue to pray for the children and for the work of Mary's Meals worldwide. If you would like to find out more about our work, please go to www.marysmeals.org.uk or contact Roy Peachey at roy.peachey@marysmeals.org. May God bless you all.

Racial Justice Sunday: Join Archbishop John Wilson & Caritas Southwark at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 1st February, for the 10am Mass to mark Racial Justice Sunday 2026. This year's Racial Justice Sunday comes at a particularly important time - whilst some voices in our society are calling for division, here at Caritas Southwark we're promoting a message of unity. After Mass, all are welcome to gather in Amigo Hall for refreshments and conversation. If you are unable to attend you can watch the livestream at www.youtube.com/live/fdmGwmESSgI. There will also be a second collection for Racial Justice Sunday at all Sunday Masses this weekend. Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS. Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Every Tuesday live on YouTube starting on the 17th February at 7pm ending on the 24th March. This is Free of Charge and you can register at www.comeandsee.org/lent26. Please see the poster in the porch for more information.

Crib Offerings: The crib will remain on display in the lady chapel until Candlemas on the 2nd February. Crib offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society who support disadvantaged and vulnerable children in the South East of England to overcome the challenges they face so they can achieve their full potential and have hope of a brighter future. Candlemas Mass times— St Ethelbert's 9.30am & 6pm (Polish), St. Augustine's – 7pm (sung with procession)

A BIG THANK YOU to Claire Thorpe at **SILKROAD** in Addington Street, for soft furnishings and furniture restoration. Claire had made and donated our perfectly matching new red kneeler for our central communion rail at St Ethelbert's. This was a very generous donation which has improved both the appearance and the comfort of distributing Holy Communion the traditional way. See: <https://www.silkroaddesign.co.uk/>

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament:

St Ethelbert's: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 8.30am.

St Augustine's: Tuesday from 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Rosary: *St Ethelbert's:* Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.00am.

Mothers' Prayers: St. Ethelbert's Parish Room, 1st Friday of the month at 12.00noon followed by **1st Friday Rosary** at 12.30pm.

Please see the Mass Schedule at the back for any changes this week.

Confessions: *St Ethelbert's:* Saturday before 5.30pm. Mass.

St Augustine's: Saturday 11am & Sunday 12 noon (during Mass) or by arrangement after Mass.

St. Augustine's Visitor Centre and Shrine is open to visitors 7 days a week from 10am to 4pm

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently especially Doreen Browning.

Please remember in your prayer all those who are sick, especially:

M. Marjoam, A. Fell, Edward Smalley, T. Webster, H. Russell, Joan Hall, B. Mallon, A. Gosling, Frank Tierney, A. Lucas, Kevin Nicholas, Susanna King, Sr. Aelred, Mark Harvey, Valerie & Michael Godden, Eileen & Jack McCaughan, Jef Silva, Steve Lawlor, Eileen Crowley, Yan Kelly, Norma McAllister, Patricia Smalley, Jane Ryan, Edmond Glean, William Carbury, Carlos Hernandez, Christopher Egan, Tom Phelan, Martin Flannery, Kay Lovett, Kevin Pender, Alex Jordan, Eleanor McGinley, Tarlie Sansom, Mary Cotton, Di Sinclair-St Claire, Maggie Smith, Uta Nedd, Mary Northrop, Catherine Tocci, Julian Tranguille, Lisa Taylor, Pauline Gladman, Piotr Kapuśniak, Tim Bowell, Julie Foreman, Guy Rowe, Brylle Buenaventura, Fr. Christopher Basden, Kevin Flynn, Derek Rydz, Jim Gallagher, Jeannette Riley, Christine Layfield, Tai Jordan, Jenny Whitebread, Magdalena Prystupa & Alena Joyette.

Prayer Candles - St. Ethelbert's: Jack McCaughan & Judy Lee

We're registered with **Easyfundraising**, which means that over 8,000 retailers will donate to us when you shop with them at no extra cost to yourself! It's easy & completely FREE! Sign up at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> & select the Catholic Parish of Ramsgate & Minster. Contact the parish secretary for help setting this up and see the poster at the back of the church.

Monday Group: Do you want to know more about Catholic Spirituality? Come along to the Monday Group at 4.30pm in St. Ethelbert's meeting room on Monday's and explore the treasure of the Faith.

Baptismal Preparation: If you are planning a Baptism, please contact a priest on 01843 594031 or leave a message in the Parish Office, in good time, to ensure that Baptismal preparation can take place.

For 1st Holy Communion Preparation: Contact – Catechist Mrs Julie Rydz.
Confirmation & Pre 1st Holy Communion Faith Club: Contact - Catechist Mrs Patricia Smalley.

If you are in hospital: If you or a family member is admitted to hospital and requires a priest to visit, please contact your Parish and ask for a Priest to visit. Contact for Fr. Jonathon is on 01843 594031 or call your local Parish.

Ministries for the Sick and Bereaved: If you know of any sick or bereaved parishioners who may like a home visit, or their name placed on the sick list, please obtain their permission and forward details to Parish Office on 01843 594031.

Parish Social Media

St. Ethelbert's: on Twitter: @catholicramsmin

St Augustine's: Facebook, Twitter & Instagram: @AugustinePugin or on

YouTube:/staugustinesramsgate **Website:** www.augustine-pugin.org.uk.

Newsletter can now be accessed from the Shrine homepage:

[Home - Shrine of St Augustine & The National Pugin Centre \(augustine-pugin.org.uk\)](http://www.augustine-pugin.org.uk)

		<i>St. Ethelbert's</i>		<i>St. Augustine's</i>	
Saturday 31 st January	<i>St. John Bosco, priest</i>	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am		12 noon <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Mary Cotton TG on her birthday
<i>Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (Septuagesima)</i>		5.30pm	Julie Rydz PI		
Sunday 1 st February		10am	Kate & Terry Morgan TG on their Wedding Anniversary	8.30am	Jeremy & Anne Thornton PI
		12 noon	Adam PI	12 noon <i>(Sung Latin 1962)</i>	Fr. Patrick Hayward RIP
Monday 2 nd February	<i>The Presentation of the Lord/Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Candlemas)</i>	9.30am	Richard Fernandes RIP	NO 12.00 NOON MASS	
		6pm <i>(Polish)</i>	Feliz Menezes RIP	7pm <i>(Sung)</i>	Sisters of Minster TG
Tuesday 3 rd February	<i>St. Laurence of Canterbury, bishop</i>	No Mass Today		12 noon	Caroline - career & WB
Wednesday 4 th February	<i>St. Henry Morse, priest & martyr (1962 St Andrew Corsini)</i>	9.30am <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Isaac PI	12 noon	Monks of Chilworth TG
Thursday 5 th February	<i>St. Agatha, virgin & martyr</i>	9.30am	Veronica Carnell PI	No Mass Today	
Friday 6 th February	<i>Ss. Paul Miki & Companions, martyrs</i>	9.30am	Stephen Carnell PI	11am	Funeral Requiem for Doreen Browning
		6pm <i>(Polish)</i>	Cardinal Dominic Duka PI		
Saturday 7 th February	<i>The Blessed Virgin Mary (1962 St. Romuald)</i>	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am		12 noon <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Sr. Ancilla Dent OSB RIP
<i>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (Sexagesima)</i>		5.30pm	Michael Godden on his 90 th birthday		