



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 10th May 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; **Deacon:** Rev Peter Brown; **Pastoral Assistant:** Maureen Francis;

Verger: Anthony Jinks; **Parish Secretary:** Melissa Goes;

Safeguarding Officer: Sasha Ofori-ramsgatesg4@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Minster Abbey, Mo. Nikola & Sisters. 01843 821254 (*see the next page for Mass & service details*)

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 Sunday our children make their **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**. At the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we may receive the very body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. This is an intimate encounter with Christ, in which we sacramentally receive the Lord into our bodies, that we may become more one with Him.

TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION, YOU MUST BE A BAPTISED CATHOLIC IN A STATE OF GRACE. St Paul writes, *"Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a man examine himself, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup"* (1 Cor. 11:27–28). To receive Holy Communion without sanctifying grace in your soul profanes the Body of Christ in the most grievous manner.

The Church's ancient teaching on this particular matter is expressed in the *Didache*, an early Christian document written around A.D. 70, which states: *"Whosoever is holy let him approach. Whosoever is not, let him repent"* (*Didache* 10). Being 'holy' means *not* being in a state of mortal sin, that we have, through sacramental confession, returned to the state of grace given to us in Baptism. The *Didache* witnesses to this practice of the early Church. *"But first make confession of your faults, so that your sacrifice may be a pure one"* (*Didache* 14). This is also stated in Canon Law.

Also, to receive Holy Communion we must believe in the doctrine of **TRANSUBSTANTIATION**. St Paul writes, *"For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment upon himself"* (1 Cor. 1:29). Transubstantiation means the bread and wine are actually transformed into the actual body, blood, soul, and divinity of Christ, and only the appearances of bread and wine remain. This is why, at the Last Supper, Jesus held what appeared to be bread and wine, yet said: *"This is my body. . . This is my blood"* (Mark 14:22-24, cf. Luke 22:14-20). This is why our parish catechists give such careful preparation and teaching to our children before they receive Holy Communion for the first time: it is a momentous thing.

There is also the discipline of fasting before receiving Holy Communion. Canon law states, *"One who is to receive the most Holy Eucharist is to abstain from any food or drink, with the exception only of water and medicine, for at least the period of one hour before Holy Communion"* (CIC 919 §1).

Provided they are in a state of grace and have met the above requirements, Catholics should receive Holy Communion as often as they can (CIC 898). However, there is no obligation to receive Communion. Our obligation to God is to *attend* Mass on Sunday and holydays of obligation (e.g. this Thursday: **ASCENSION DAY**) If for any reason you *cannot* receive Communion, you can still fully participate in the Holy Sacrifice by attending mass, even without receiving Holy Communion. Participation does not require more than we are present to the Lord in his Church: *'come to me'* the Lord tells us, *'and rest in me, for my yoke is easy, my burden light'*. If you are not sure, please speak to a priest. Just remember, that Catholics are obliged to attend Mass but we are not obliged to receive Holy Communion, which is dependent on the readiness of our souls.

The traditional reverent way of receiving Holy Communion is kneeling and on the tongue. This is still the only way to receive the Lord at the Traditional Latin Mass, however in the novus ordo, the option is given to receive on the hand. Receiving on the tongue, kneeling, humbly shows that it is God who feeds us with the Bread of Life, Jesus his Son our Lord, and not we who feed ourselves. It is a sign to all of our love and humility before him. Those not able to kneel due to infirmity can receive Holy Communion standing.

Finally, after receiving Communion, it is good to stay after Mass and thank Jesus for coming to us in the Most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

God bless, Fr Jonathon

Rosary for Life. Archbishop John Wilson is calling on us to join him in praying the Rosary for Life this May (Month of Mary). Together, we will pray through the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries, each one offered for the most vulnerable facing growing threats to life: unborn children at risk of abortion, victims of war and persecution, people with disabilities, and the elderly. For video, audio and written versions of the Rosary for Life, visit www.rcaos.org.uk/rosaryforlife. **Pray the Rosary. Encounter Christ. Defend life.**

First Holy Communion. Congratulations to our 13 children receiving the Holy Eucharist for the first time this weekend at the 12 noon Sunday Mass at St. Ethelbert's. Thank you to their families, friends and catechists for helping to prepare them for this sacrament.

Following requests for evening weekday Masses, we will try having a single **Mass** celebrated at St. Ethelbert's on **Fridays** at 6pm replacing the 9.30am morning Mass. This Mass is for all parishioners and readings & bidding prayers will be said in Polish but the Gospel and priest's prayers will be in English. Scripture readings will be available to read in both English & Polish. There'll also be half an hour of Adoration at 5pm and the rosary at 5.30pm. All are welcome.

The **Summer Celebration of St. Jude** will be on Saturday 30th May at the Carmelite Shrine of St. Jude in Faversham. The day will include devotions with anointing, open air Mass and a procession past the Shrine of St. Jude. Please see the poster at the back of church for more information. If there is enough interest, a parish coach can be arranged so please contact the parish office to register your interest.

Details of all **Mary's Meals walking pilgrimages** are available at www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/charity-events/walk-for-hope. You are very welcome to join for a single day, several days, or for a whole pilgrimage.

Shrine of St. Augustine & National Pugin Centre Volunteers Needed. Do you have an interest in history or gothic architecture? If you do & can spare a few hours each month then please consider volunteering at our visitors centre and contact the parish office.

May Devotions. We will be having our parish May devotions at St. Ethelbert's Church at 4pm this Sunday the 10th May which will include the Rosary, Litany of Loreto and Benediction. All are welcome to join.

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: By arrangement.

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

Minster Abbey.

Weekday (Mon-Sat) Mass – 9am

Lauds – Mon-Sat 8.30am, Sunday 9am

Vespers – Mon-Sun 6pm

Sunday Mass – Sunday 10am only

Vigils – Mon-Sat 5.30am & Sun 6am

Midday Office – Mon-Sun 12.20pm

Compline – Mon-Sun 7.45pm

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently especially: Clive King, Jean Regan, Gillian Gilbert, Miriam Mehlin, Anthony (Tony) Webster, Uta Nedd, Kevin Flynn & Doreen Browning.

Please remember in your prayers all those who are sick, especially: Sr. Aelred, Rita Andrews, Tim Bowell, Brylle Buenaventura, William Carbury, Mary Cotton, Eileen Crowley, Christopher Egan, A. Fell, Martin Flannery, Julie Foreman, Jim Gallagher, Pauline Gladman, Valerie & Michael Godden, A. Gosling, Joan Hall, Mark Harvey, Carlos Hernandez, Alex Jordan, Tai Jordan, Alena Joyette, Piotr Kapuśniak, Yan Kelly, Susanna King, Steve Lawlor, Rita Lemesheva, Kay Lovett, A. Lucas, Pauline Macdonnell, B. Mallon, M. Marjoam, Norma McAllister, Eileen & Jack McCaughan, Eleanor McGinley, Kevin Nicholas, Mary Northrop, Viktor Nowicki, Kevin Pender, Tom Phelan, Magdalena Prystupa, Jeannette Riley, Guy Rowe, H. Russell, Jane Ryan, Derek Rydz, Tarlie Sansom, Jef Silva, Di Sinclair-St Claire, Edward & Patricia Smalley, Maggie Smith, Violet Solley, Lisa Taylor, Frank Tierney, Catherine Tocci, Julian Tranguille & Jenny Whitebread.

Prayer Candles (St. Ethelbert's)

Rebecca Ing, Peter & Mark, Patricia Smalley WB & our FHC Children

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 or 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 Mondays 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 the details to the Parish Office.

The Parish newsletter can now be accessed from the Shrine homepage at [Home - Shrine of St Augustine & The National Pugin Centre \(augustine-pugin.org.uk\)](http://Home - Shrine of St Augustine & The National Pugin Centre (augustine-pugin.org.uk))

Parish Social Media

Twitter: @catholicramsmin **Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:** @AugustinePugin

YouTube: /staugustinesramsgate

Mass Intentions for the Week

		<i>St. Ethelbert's</i>		<i>St. Augustine's</i>	
Saturday 9 th May	<i>Feria of Easter</i> (1962 St. Gregory Nazianzen)	Mass at Minster Abbey at 9am		12 noon (Latin 1962 Low Mass)	Fleming Mass Trust RIP
<i>Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)</i> (1962 Fifth Sunday after Easter)		5.30pm	Robert Edward Wyness RIP		
Sunday 10 th May		10.00am	Edith & William Power RIP	8.30am	Ann, Jeremy & Nereah Thornton TG
		12 noon (FHC Mass in English)	Dominic & Noris PI	12.00am (Sung Latin 1962)	Enid Diana Rigg RIP
		4.00pm	May Devotions; parish rosary, litany of Loretto & benediction		
Monday 11 th May	<i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30am	Manuel Pinto RIP	12 noon	Holy Souls
Tuesday 12 th May	<i>Ss. Nereus & Achilleus, martyrs</i>	NO 9.30 MASS TODAY		12 noon	Ivy Beavis RIP
Wednesday 13 th May	<i>Our Lady of Fatima</i> (1962 Vigil of the Ascension)	9.30am (Latin 1962 Low Mass)	Ron Francis RIP	12 noon	People of the Parish
Thursday 14 th May	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (A) Holyday of obligation.	9.30am	Rita & Keith Andrews WB	NO 12.00 NOON MASS TODAY	
		7.00pm	Margaret Kingswood RIP	7.00pm	Francis Family TG
Friday 15 th May	<i>St. John Stone, priest & martyr</i>	6.00pm (English & Polish)	Augustine Carnell PI	12 noon (Ordinariate)	Clergy of our Parish TG
Saturday 16 th May	<i>St. Simon Stock, priest</i> (1962 St. Ubaldu)	Mass at Minster Abbey at 9am & Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am			
<i>Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)</i>		5.30pm	Anna & Damian Gonsalves PI	12 noon (Latin 1962 Low Mass)	Ivy Jessica Lillian Hulcoop RIP