



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 8th February 2026

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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,

Thanks to all who contributed to our beautiful celebration of Candlemas, with the candlelit procession, last Monday evening. Some of you brought your personal candles to church to be blessed too. At the end of mass, the infant Jesus was removed from the crib and processed out of the church. We are now in the run-up to Lent and in the traditional calendar, last Sunday was 'Septuagesima' Sunday, meaning the countdown to Easter, seventy days away, has begun. At traditional masses, green turns to purple at this time too, as we approach Lent. Traditionally *Alleluias* stopped from now until Easter with some people even beginning a pre-lent fasting at this time too. In these modern times with so much of our religious tradition watered-down, we can at *least* begin to make preparations for Lent and ask ourselves: How am I going to mark Lent this year? How will I live out the call to fasting and penance, prayer and almsgiving?

In this Sunday's gospel, **the Lord calls us to be the salt of the earth and a light to the world.**

When non-believers find themselves in a catholic church, it may cause them puzzlement and wonder, but that may be the first act of spreading the Gospel to others. If we hide our light and say and do just like everyone else in the world, we will interest no-one. If the catholic mass looks the same as an evangelical service, a native American pagan fluffing ceremony or a rock concert – but not done as well - people may well ask, why bother? Remember, Jesus also calls us to be the salt of the earth. As we, the church, are called to be God's light in the darkness of the world, so too we are the salt which brings flavour. But if our beliefs, worship and morality is not God's but the same as the world's, truly, as salt of the earth, our salt will have lost its saltiness. In other words, if we become like the world, we become pointless, '*good for nothing except to be thrown out and trampled under-foot*'. If a stranger comes to our catholic mass and says afterwards 'that was different! I don't know *what* was going on there', that might not be bad thing. If you went to a mosque or a Hindu temple would you understand everything going on there? Neither should we be aiming to make the infinite mystery of the Holy Trinity and the Sacrifice of the Mass comprehensible to a perfect stranger. All are invited to enter the mystery and God will do the rest.

To be a light to the world, we must be light in the darkness, and light, it goes without saying, is different from dark. That's what our faith makes us: *different* or as Jesus said '*If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, that is why the world hates you*'. (John 15: 19). We, God's church, baptised in the death and resurrection of Jesus, are *not* of this world, but we are called to be *in* it, to be God's light in the world.

To be God's light in the world, we must also start with ourselves and turn from the darkness within us by repenting our sins in Confession. As God's light re-enters the soul, then his light can shine again from us. Individually, making our confession is the most important and necessary thing to do in Lent. Don't forget to make yours too this coming Lent to let the light of the Risen Christ shine from you. **Ash Wednesday** is on 18th February. Let's get ready.

God bless, Fr Jonathon

Mary's Meals: 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.

Clergy Support Fund: The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan the QR code. You can also donate via telephone during office hours, Mon-Fri on 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available at the back of the church. There will be a second collection for this cause on the weekend of the 14/15th February. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



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.

***SING YOUR PRAISES
TO GOD!***

*Oh give thanks to the LORD;
call upon his name;
make known his deeds
among the peoples!
Sing to him, sing praises to
him;
tell of all his wondrous
works!*

(Psalm 105:1–2)

It was good to see two parishioners joining the ecumenical choir for the service for Christian Unity. Thanks also to the coming together of our two choirs of St Ethelbert's and St Augustine's for the celebration of Candlemas. If you would like to join one of our choirs, or give it a try, we normally get together an hour before the 10 o'clock mass at St Ethelbert's & the 12 noon at St Augustine's, with the organist. When possible, we also try to meet for a midweek practice. Singing enhances and elevates the mass and in our parish, we actually *sing* a sung mass. For a sung mass should be the *mass* itself sung: a said service with hymns inserted is not in our tradition. Thanks to all who contribute so much to keeping it alive in Ramsgate by leading the singing of our masses so joyfully. If you like singing, and love the mass, why not join one of our choirs?

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

Mass Intentions for the Week

		<i>St. Ethelbert's</i>	<i>St. Augustine's</i>
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 Sr. Ancilla Dent OSB RIP <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>
<i>Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (Sexagesima)</i>		5.30pm Michael Godden on his 90 th birthday	
Sunday 8 th February		10am Barry Coppock RIP	8.30am People of the Parish
		12 noon Basia PI	12 noon Magda & Stephen TG <i>(Sung Latin 1962)</i>
Monday 9 th February	<i>Feria</i>	9.30am Fr. Simon PI	12 noon November Holy Souls List RIP
Tuesday 10 th February	<i>St. Scholastica, virgin</i>	9am Kevin Flynn RIP	NO MASS TODAY
Wednesday 11 th February	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes, world day for the sick (1962 The apparition of the BVM Immaculate)</i>	9.30am Fr. Daniel Weatherley PI <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	12 noon David McMahon RIP
Thursday 12 th February	<i>Feria</i>	9.30am The Calvet Family PI	NO MASS TODAY
Friday 13 th February	<i>Feria</i>	9.30am The Brzysky Family PI 6pm Basia PI <i>(Polish)</i>	12 noon The Calvet Family PI
Saturday 14 th February	<i>St. Cyril, monk & St. Methodius, bishop, patrons of Europe (1962 Our Lady on Saturday with com. Of St. Valentine)</i>	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am	12 noon Jim Lee RIP <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>
<i>Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (Quinquagesima)</i>		5.30pm Valerie & Michael Godden TG on their 66 th Wedding Anniversary	