



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Newsletter - Sunday 13th September 2026

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SS. Ethelbert & Gertrude. 72 Hereson Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 7DS

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

Shrine of St. Augustine. St. Augustine's Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 9PA

Web: www.augustine-pugin.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; **Minster Abbey,** Mo. Nikola & Sisters. 01843 821254

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

Divine Retreat Centre: Fr Thomas Ettiyil VC, Fr. Martin Thomas & Fr Paul Pallichamkudiyil. 01843 586904.

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

Dear parishioners,

After the Social Committee meeting on Wednesday evening, a question was raised about **Friday Penance**. This is because we will be having a parish celebration on a Friday in October when we welcome back Bishop Paul and there will be refreshments afterwards. Should we brush aside the Friday penance for our own convenience and prepare sausage rolls and cold meats?

The Bishops of England and Wales 'wish to remind us that **every Friday is set aside as a special day penitence**, as it is the day of the suffering and death of the Lord. They believe it is important that all the faithful again be united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance because they recognise that the virtue of penitence is best acquired as part of a common resolve and common witness.

The Law of the Church requires Catholics on Fridays to abstain from meat, or some other form of food, or to observe some other form of penance laid down by the bishops' conference. The Bishops have decided to re-establish the practice that this penance should be fulfilled simply by abstaining from meat and by uniting this prayer. Those who cannot or choose not to eat meat as part of their normal diet should abstain from some other food of which they regularly partake. The decision will come into effect from Friday 16th September 2011.' (see page 212 of the Archdiocese Directory)

Why meat? People in the early church considered meat a rich food, which it always has been. Celebrations are marked by 'killing the fatted calf' when and if a family have the resources. Beans and rice are for every other day, and so in the early Church a Christian fast involved abstaining from riches and eating simply. The Desert Fathers ate only vegetables in order to live a life of penance and still today many Eastern Christians eat no meat or animal products in Lent and Advent as a way of fasting and living simply before the great feasts when meat is eaten again.

In other words, meat is for celebrating, no -meat is for penance. Thus Christianity has a vegetarian and vegan tradition, but for us it is chosen as a penance, not an 'alternative life style'. To this day, very strict orders of monks eat no or very little meat. But as for us, we are simply asked to take up this penance one day a week, in honour of the Lord who died because of our sins on Good Friday. It does not have to be demanding, because a large portion of cod and chips from multi- award winning Newington Fish Bar, may, however delicious and satisfying, remind us that it is a Friday and the Lord died for us on this day. So it's not much the Church asks of us to help us think of what the Lord has done for us. And sometimes we might choose a vegetarian option instead of fish, that is all to the good.

So what about receptions and parties on Fridays? I'll leave that to you, but sorrow and joy can co-exist. Only this month we remember both the birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her Sorrows. In her immaculate heart was both joy at the good news of the incarnation and sorrow at the suffering inflicted on her Son, for from early on she had been told '*a sword will pierce your heart*'. So yes, we too can both rejoice at the visit of a bishop and a celebration of a silver jubilee, and at the same time remember Our Lord's Passion and Death on a Friday, by the very small gesture of refraining from meat. Catholics don't eat meat on Fridays: that's who we are, let's not forget it.

God Bless,
Fr Jonathon

The next **Seniors Social** will be on Saturday the 3rd October from 2pm-4pm in St. Ethelbert's Parish Hall. Come along for some Bingo, cake, tea, coffee, raffle and good company. Please see the poster at the back of the church for more information.

Refugee Parish Talk: 'I was a stranger and you welcomed me' (Matthew 25:35)

Along with Mark Choonara, Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark & Matthew Partridge (Parish Volunteer), all are invited to an evening which highlights the plight of refugees on the 28th September at 7.00 pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanners St, Faversham, ME13 7JP

How do we pray? How do we build a better, more fulfilling relationship with God?

All are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called Teach Us to Pray facilitated by Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission. The programme will be online on Tuesdays, starting 6th October from 7pm - 8.15pm. Following 4 online sessions, there is an invitation to conclude the programme with an in-person Reflection Day in a Diocesan Retreat Centre on 5th or 12th December. There is no commitment to attend all sessions – join us whenever you can. See <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqjd> or see the poster for information.

There will be a **Second Collection** for the **Catholic Education Service** this weekend. This collection allows the Catholic Bishop's Conference to support Catholic education in England & Wales.

There will also be a second collection next weekend for **Evangelii Gaudium Sunday** or Home Mission (19th/20th). The Evangelii Gaudium collection provides the Bishops of England & Wales with resources to support 'Home Mission', the spread of the Gospel in our own country. The money collected enables a breadth of work to be done in support of parish evangelisation.

The Archdiocese of Southwark will be holding their annual service for those that have been harmed by abuse on the 30th September 2026, at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral. The service will be led by Archbishop John Wilson and is an opportunity for the archdiocese community to express their solidarity and compassion to those that have been hurt by abuse and our commitment to building safe environments for all. All are welcome to attend.

Mary's Meals Foreign Currency Collection. With the Summer holidays now over, we are asking everyone to consider donating your leftover foreign currency to help support Mary's Meals. Simply pop any foreign currency you have into the marked box at the back of the church. No matter how old or obscure, it can be used. You can even include old UK currency that is no longer legal tender. Please contact the parish office for more information.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament.

St Ethelbert's: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday at 8.30am. Fridays at 5pm.

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

Rosary: St Ethelbert's: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday at 9.00am. Friday at 5.30pm.

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 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

The Parish newsletter can be viewed online at www.augustine-pugin.org.uk

Please remember in your prayers those who have died this year especially:

Sr. Aelred, Judith Guiver, 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: Rita Andrews, Moira Barter, Tim Howell, 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.

St. Ethelbert's Prayer Candles – William & Phyllis Rapley RIP, Terry & Kate

Mass Intentions can be booked at any time but if you would like a specific date please book these as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. The suggested donation for a single Mass intention is £10 & requests can be made by using the envelopes at the back of church or by contacting the parish secretary.

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! Contact the parish secretary for help setting this up or see the poster at the back of the church.

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.

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

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.

Supporting Your Parish.

Gift Aid. Our parish benefits greatly from Gift Aid which allows charities like us to reclaim tax on donations made by a UK Taxpayer. This means we can claim back from the HMRC 25p for every £1 you donate.

Legacy. A gift in your Will to the Church is a wonderful way to support your local Catholic community and parish.

Volunteering. If you can donate your time to support the parish in any way please contact the parish office.

Mass Intentions for the Week

		<i>St. Ethelbert's</i>	<i>St. Augustine's</i>
Saturday 12 th September	<i>St. Eanswythe of Folkstone, abbess (1962 The Most Holy Name of Mary)</i>		12 noon A. W. N. Pugin RIP (<i>Latin 1962 Requiem Mass</i>)
Twenty Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A) (1962 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost)		5.30pm William & Phyllis Rapley RIP	
Sunday 13 th September		10.00am Stanislaw Papka RIP	8.30am Kay Roberts TG on her birthday
		N.B. NO 12 NOON POLISH MASS 6.00pm Mariusz & Barbara TG on their marriage (<i>Polish</i>)	12 noon Eileen Anne O'Connor Murphy RIP (<i>Sung 1962 Latin Mass</i>) (Month's Mind)
Monday 14 th September	<i>The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, feast</i>	9.30am Peter PI	12 noon Patrick Campbell RIP (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)
Tuesday 15 th September	<i>Our Lady of Sorrows, memorial</i>	NO 9.30AM MASS TODAY	12 noon Joseph Bonnefin RIP
Wednesday 16 th September	<i>SS. Cornelius, pope, & Cyprian, bishop, martyrs</i>	9.30am Clive King RIP	12 noon Adeline Braganza RIP (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)
Thursday 17 th September	<i>St. Robert Bellamine, bishop</i>	9.30am Miss Dowd PI (<i>School Mass</i>)	NO 12.00 NOON MASS TODAY
Friday 18 th September	<i>St. Edith of Kemsing</i>	6.00pm Fr. Jonathon TG <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	12 noon Martine Farrell TG for her birthday (<i>Ordinariate Friday after the 15th Sunday after Trinity</i>)
Saturday 19 th September	<i>St. Theodore of Canterbury, bishop</i>		12 noon Marieta & Garrett Brennan WB (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)
Twenty Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (A)		5.30pm Alex Dias RIP	

**Other
Masses in
Thanet:**

Minster Abbey – www.minsterabbeynuns.org
 Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs - www.ourlady-broadstairs.org.uk
 Parish of the Holy Family, Birchington - www.holyfamilythanet.org.uk
 Ss. Austin & Gregory with St. Anne, Margate – www.margatecatholic.org