



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 26th April 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.

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 Sunday is commonly called '**Good Shepherd Sunday**' as we celebrate that our Lord is the Good Shepherd of his flock, who knows his sheep who follow him because they know his voice. Anyone who follows Jesus will be sure of coming to the pastures of heaven, for He leads us there. We sing in the psalm, '*He guides me along the right path, he is true to his name. If I should walk in the valley of darkness, no evil would I fear. You are there with your crook and staff; with these you give me comfort*'. Jesus, Our Good Shepherd is there for us in the Sacraments and the Word which he entrusted to his apostles and their successors to minister for him.

So your bishops, priests and deacons are called to be shepherds of Christ's flock too. A bishop, in the fullness of his apostolic ministry, even carries the symbol of a shepherd in the crook, one of the great symbols of his office. It is not a symbol of might and power, but represents the *pastoral* care and leadership of the people entrusted to him by Christ. The bishop is the shepherd of his diocese as a shepherd is of his flock. And a priest is entrusted with this role by the bishop, to have the care of souls in parishes, schools, prisons, hospitals and the missions. In John 10 (yr B) we hear that the Good Shepherd will '*lay down his life for his sheep*' but the '*hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away*'.

Likewise, a good priest, a shepherd of his people, will *not* abandon them. His duty is to serve them in the place to which he has been sent by his bishop. Just as feeding your children does not make you a good parent, simply a parent, so a priest who says mass, says his breviary and hears confessions does not make him a *good* priest as such, but a priest who is simply living as a priest. You would never say of a mother, she's such a good mum, she feeds her children! (wow! amazing!) That is just what a mother is. Saying mass, hearing confessions and saying the office of the church, is just what a priest is. What makes a *good* mother is everything beyond that, and the sacrifice of herself for the good of her children. What makes a good priest is that he is there for his people at their hour of need and for this *he must actually be in his parish*. A good priest does not abandon his people, but like the good shepherd, is there for them, for better or worse and no matter how little they regard him. For the sheep know that the shepherd is *their* shepherd. Perhaps they don't consider him much as a person, but they know he is there for them, they know he won't abandon them and will sacrifice his own interests for his parishioners no matter what.

But priests are made and not born and it takes many years of training to bring a man to ordination. This year I'm not going to go on about 'the vocations crisis' again and why we have one but focus on the good work of our diocese in supporting vocations and the training of priests. Let us thank God for those few men who have heard the call and pray that some will make it to ordination and not abandon the priesthood afterwards as so many have. My priest and mentor always said 'It's a rocky road to the priesthood'. He didn't need to mention what came after because he, a good shepherd if ever there was one, showed me what it was all about, not only there for his people, but there for me too, encouraging my vocation.

On this '**Good Shepherd Sunday**' we pray for more vocations and there will be a Second Collection for the '**Priest Training Fund**' which helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and permanent diaconate as well as the ongoing formation of the clergy. The Diocese currently has 9 seminarians, each costing around £30,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity helps make their calling possible, and one day, God willing, one of these men, if they make it down that rocky road, may be your parish priest and be there for you here when you need him.

See the following page for ways in which you can make your donation to support the training of your future priests.

God bless, Fr. Jonathon

POLISH CHAPLAINCY

As I understand it, the Polish Catholic Mission urgently need a priest in London and so have asked Fr Ryszard to return to work for them again. His departure has been unexpected and sudden but those who have received his ministry here in Ramsgate thank him and all of us hope his latest move works out well for him and the Polish Community in London. If you wish to thank him in the usual way, please mark an envelope with words 'Fr Ryszard gift' or if you make a donation online, please also make this reference. The parish will then send Fr Ryszard a cheque to his new address.

In the meantime, the Archdiocese of Southwark are aware of the need for a Polish priest in this area and have assured me they have this in hand, but it will take a few months to arrange. So please be patient. Letters sent to the diocese will not speed things ahead or help. The diocese and I know the need. We have provisional arrangements for Fr Bernard, Fr Simon and myself to say the mass for the Polish community in English, with Polish from the people in readings and hymns. We thank Fr Bernard for the care he gives to the Polish here, among whom he has many friends.

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

Would you like to join a **Mary's Meals walking pilgrimage**? Details of all pilgrimages are 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. Come on your own or as a group.

PRIEST TRAINING FUND DONATION DETAILS.

Online - Go to www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF or scan the QR code with your mobile device

Cash - Please place your donations in the Priest Training Fund envelopes which are at the back of the church (if you are able to gift aid your donation please complete the form on the back of the envelope)

Cheque - Please make cheques payable to RCAS Priest Training Fund and place it in a second collection envelope (if you are able to gift aid your donation please complete the form on the back of the envelope)

Card - You can use the card machine at the back of the church and select the Priest Training Fund option or call 020 7960 2504

Legacy - If you would like to leave a donation in your will for the Priest Training Fund, please collect a leaflet from the back of the church to request information on how to do this.



Please contact the parish office for assistance or further information.

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

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently especially: 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, Fr. Simon Heans, 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) – Jenny, Barbara & Deacon Robin Carter for his birthday

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 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 details to the Parish Office on 01843 594031.

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 25 th April		Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am		12 noon	Chris Scutt & loved one's PI
<i>Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)</i> <i>(1962 Third Sunday after</i> <i>Easter)</i>		5.30pm	Amie Woods WB		
Sunday 26 th April		10.00am	Laura Wyness TG on her birthday	8.30am	People of the Parish
		12 noon <i>(English &</i> <i>Polish)</i>	Krystyna Kania RIP	12.00am <i>(Sung Latin</i> <i>1962)</i>	John Albert Alan Vingoe RIP
Monday 27 th April	<i>Feria of Easter</i>	9.30am	Pricillia Marie Pointer RIP	12 noon	Funeral Requiem for Gillian Gilbert followed by burial in the Graveyard
Tuesday 28 th April	<i>St. Peter Chanel,</i> <i>priest & martyr</i>	NO MASS TODAY		12 noon	Steve Carnell PI & WB
Wednesday 29 th April	<i>St. Catherine of</i> <i>Siena, virgin &</i> <i>doctor, Patron of</i> <i>Europe</i> <i>(1962 St. Peter)</i>	9.30am <i>(Latin 1962</i> <i>Low Mass)</i>	Requiem Mass for Clive King RIP	12 noon	Jim McGarry & loved one's PI
Thursday 30 th April	<i>St. Pius V, pope</i>	9.30am	Julie Rydz PI	NO MASS TODAY	
		4pm	Funeral of Clive King at Thanet Crematorium	12 noon	Burial of ashes of Jean Regan RIP
Friday 1 st May	<i>St. Joseph the</i> <i>Worker</i>	NO 9:30AM MASS TODAY		12 noon <i>(Ordinariate)</i>	Patricia Smalley PI
		11 am	Marriage of Alice Elizabeth Lukehurst and Jacob Alan Roch		
		6.00pm <i>(English &</i> <i>Polish)</i>	Mariusz PI		
Saturday 2 nd May	<i>St. Athanasius,</i> <i>bishop & doctor</i>	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am			
<i>Fifth Sunday of Easter (A)</i>		5.30pm	Kallai Odo WB	12 noon <i>(Latin 1962</i> <i>Low Mass)</i>	Barbara Bailey & loved one's PI