



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

SS Ethelbert & Gertrude Church & Office,
72 Hereson Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 7DS, Tel: 01843 594031
Shrine of St Augustine & National Pugin Centre,
St Augustine's Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9NY, Tel: 01843 592071

Newsletter for Sunday, 7th December 2025

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; **Verger:** Anthony Jinks. **Safeguarding Officer:** Sasha Ofori. **Minster Abbey,** Mother Nikola & Sisters; (Sunday Mass at 10.00am and daily Mass at 9.00am. 01843 821254). **The Divine Retreat Centre:** Fr. Joseph Edattu & Fr. Paul Pallichamkudiyil. Weekday Mass 5.30pm. (01843 586904). **St. Ethelbert's School:** Headteacher, Mr. Simon Marshall - (01843 585555).

Dear parishioners,

I draw your attention to our Christmas Fayre this Sunday from 12.15. This is our biggest fundraiser in the year and we have moved mass times to help all our parishioners attend. May God grant success to the work of all those who have organized our parish Christmas Fayre. This prayer is not just for fundraisers, but for all events, because more work goes on behind the scenes by some parishioners than we may realise. Take for example, the Bishop's Mass last Saturday evening: the hours of preparation in simply putting an order of service together, the arrangements with many people, assembling and practicing a choir, decorating and cleaning the church, preparing the ceremony directions, putting together all the resources needed, practicing the servers and the confirmation candidates, preparing the food and many, many hours of catechesis: I could go on. And one thing we should not overlook was the late dispersal of those using the hall on Saturday afternoon so that three parishioners had to give up attending the confirmation mass to prepare the hall for the reception afterwards. When I led the bishop into the Hall it looked splendid! So many people in lively conversation, a long table filled with food and drink, table decorations, but behind the scenes are the parishioners who give up a lot for the happiness for others. God knows what you do! I thank you for the love you show God by your service to the people of this parish: the few for the many.

The same goes for our ecumenical service of Advent Lessons and Carols with Benediction on Sunday afternoon. It was the most blessed start to Advent and helped me begin the new church year in peace and joy. Again, this took hours of preparation. It was good to welcome Christians from other ecclesial communities to this, to hear the Word of the Lord together and to sing His praises. For all of you who did attend, it was another good demonstration that we don't just *talk* unity, but as a parish we actually *celebrate* it frequently however we can with many events. Please do join us for the Epiphany Carol Service in early January and check your newsletter for other events, including the week of prayer for Christian Unity early next year.

On Monday this week, is the great Advent **SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**. This Advent, let us be reminded to be like Mary, Mother of the Church and listen to the Word of God. Also check you have a basic understanding of what this feast celebrates. I have heard fellow Catholics, who should know better, describe the Immaculate Conception as the Virginal Conception and Birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ which it is *not*. If you are not sure, please ask, but to put it simply, Our Lady is *the* Most Highly Favoured Lady who was chosen by God in Heaven before even she was conceived in her mother's womb, for the Incarnation of his Son. Mary was given the unique privilege of being conceived in the womb of St Anne, her mother, the natural way like all of us, but without the burden of Original Sin with which we were conceived (just look at the world to believe this). With her total purity, Mary was perfectly open to God in her life. Our Blessed Lady is *the* model of mystical union with God which we all long for, deep down, but unlike us, there were no obstacles of sins to the movement of the Holy Spirit within her. Because of her Immaculate Conception and her complete openness to God, we honour Mary as *the* perfect Temple of the Holy Spirit.

Origin wrote '*If Christ did not come to your soul, of what use would his historical coming in the flesh be to you?* Let us pray that each day we may experience God's coming when we give God a little bit of time for prayer and listen to his Word of Life in our souls as we read Holy Scripture. In her openness to God, Mary is also *the* example to us.

By such listening prayer to God, by confessing our sins and penance, and our good works, with the Blessed Virgin Mary's prayers and friendship, we will be ready for the coming of the Lord. That is good news and then *with her* we can also proclaim: *my soul glorifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my saviour.* At St Ethelbert's, mass will be at 9.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. (in polish) and at St Augustine's at 12.00 noon (ordinariate usage) and 7.00 p.m. (Latin 1962). God bless, Fr Jonathon

Please remember in your prayers the sick of our Parish & those who have died recently.

Prayer Candles - St. Ethelbert's: Judy, Charlie, Flo, Sharon.

Day	Date	St Ethelbert's		St Augustine's	
Saturday <i>St. Nicholas, Bishop</i>	6 th Dec		<i>Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am</i>	12.00noon <i>(Latin 1962, Low Mass)</i>	Eduta, Radek & Family PI
2nd Sunday of Advent (A)		5.30pm <i>(Vigil)</i>	Calvet Family PI		
	7 th Dec	11.00am	Lukasz Kwiatkowski RIP	8.30am	People of the Parish
				10.30am <i>(Sung Latin)</i>	Holy Souls – November List
Monday THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: SOLEMNITY	8 th Dec	9.30am	Intercession of Archangel Raphael – Holly's Intentions	12.00noon <i>(Ordinariate)</i>	Helen Gaskin RIP
		6.00pm <i>(Polish)</i>	The Polish Community	7.00pm <i>(Latin 1962, Low Mass)</i>	Holy Souls of Our Lady of Montligeon
Tuesday <i>Feria</i>	9 th Dec		<i>Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am</i>	12.00noon	Holy Souls – November List
Wednesday <i>Our Lady of Loreto</i>	10 th Dec	9.30am <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Calvet Family PI	12.00noon	Holy Souls – November List
Thursday <i>Feria</i>	11 th Dec	9.30am	Holy Souls – November list		
Friday <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	12 th Dec	9.30am 6.00pm <i>(Polish)</i>	May Kirwan – Wellbeing Florence (SC) PI	12.00noon <i>(Ordinariate)</i>	Ros Lennon RIP
Saturday <i>St. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr</i>	13 th Dec		<i>Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am</i>	12.00noon <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Eduta, Radek & Family PI
3rd Sunday of Advent (A) Gaudete Sunday		5.30pm <i>(Vigil)</i>	Holy Souls – November List		

Saturday, 20th December – At St. Ethelbert's - All day Adoration, Confession 1.00 – 5.00pm. Followed by Benediction at 5.00pm.

Saturday, 20th December - Senior Parishioners Social Afternoon, Christmas Party 1.00 – 4.00pm.

Friday, 26th December – St. Stephen's Feast Day, Patron of Altar Servers, 12.00noon Sung Latin Mass at St. Augustine's Shrine & refreshments after.

Sunday 11th January, A Service of Thanksgiving and Carols for the Epiphany, in thanksgiving for the Parish and Volunteers.

At all Masses over the weekend of 13th/14th December there will a retiring collection for flowers for the Churches at Christmas.

Fresh greenery appeal – healthy sprigs from Eucalyptus, Conifer, Holly & Ivy are needed to decorate St. Ethelbert's Church. Refreshing will be required throughout Advent for the wreath & Altar area. Additional greenery can be delivered to church on Saturday mornings. .

Mary's Meals Charity - *The Charity helps support children throughout the world who are starving* - For those who wish to donate at Christmas to Mary's Meals instead of sending Christmas cards to parishioners. If you wish to add your name to the list, which will be published in the newsletter, please pass your name and donation to the office. Currently some charities are doubling the donations.

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 sick or bereaved parishioners who may like a home visit, please obtain their permission and forward details to Parish Office on 01843 594031.

Please see Mass Schedule overleaf for any changes this week to Mass times.

Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament: *St Ethelbert's:* Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 8.30am. *St Augustine's:* Tuesday 12.30 – 1.30pm.

Rosary: *St Ethelbert's:* Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 9.00am. **Mothers' Prayers:** St. Ethelbert's Parish Room, on 1st Friday of the month at 12.00noon followed by **1st Friday Rosary** at 12.30pm.

Confessions: *St Ethelbert's:* Saturday before 5.30pm. Mass. *St Augustine's:* Saturday 11.00am. after Mass and by arrangement.

Follow the parish on: 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)