



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 22nd February 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; **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,

After the Spirit descended, after the voice from heaven said: "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.", Jesus was led by this same Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil." It was the Holy Spirit who led him into the wilderness! God himself initiated this first Lent. It is the Holy Spirit we call upon too to guide us God's church to make this a holy Lent through our prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Jesus did battle with the devil in the wilderness as we must too, but God the Holy Spirit is with us. The Holy Spirit, when we call upon him, is our weapon in our spiritual warfare against the world, the flesh and the devil. But we must not look out there... the world, the flesh and the temptations of the devil are within you and me and so the only way we can fight evil in this world is if we start with ourselves. Confession of sin makes us strong in this spiritual warfare because it means bringing the truth of ourselves to God. That's what St Paul means when he says 'In Christ, when I am weak, I am strong'. True repentance before God is the strength the world needs: a turning away from human sin to the way of freedom with God. This is the true mark of a Christian, when we can say 'Father forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us'. Let us arm ourselves against the devil this Lent and start by confessing our sins. There will be a whole afternoon available for confessions at St Ethelbert's on Saturday 28th March, the day before Palm Sunday.

On Wednesday, we received our ashes as the outward sign of penance. Lent is also a time for Fasting from the riches of this life. St John Chrysostom says: *You should learn from this the great value of fasting and that no weapon is more powerful against the devil. After baptism you should not be filled with food and drink from a well-laden table, but should rather devote yourself to fasting, Jesus fasted not because he himself had any need to do so, but to give us an example'.*

We must also pray. Why not join us for our Rosary of the Sorrowful Mother on Friday mornings at 9.00 a.m. and on Sunday 22nd March at 4.00 p.m.? We also have Stations of the Cross on Fridays at St Augustine's at 11.15 and St Ethelbert's at 7.00 p.m. (followed by another episode of 'the Chosen', the story of the life of Christ. Each episode is to some extent a story in itself, so there is no need to come every week.)

And there is Almsgiving, in which as a parish we will support the CAFOD LENT 2026 APPEAL The collection will take place next weekend and there will be more details in the next newsletter. Pick up your CAFOD envelope this weekend and return next week. Donations can also be made on the contactless devices or online (see poster).

Wishing you all a joyful Lent,

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 more information, please go to www.marysmeals.org.uk or contact Roy Peachey at roy.peachey@marysmeals.org. May God bless you all.

Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows. Every Friday at 9am before Mass at St. Ethelbert's.

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral. Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. This is a beautiful opportunity to draw closer to the Lord Jesus in prayer. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm, and again on Friday 6th and Friday 27th March. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary

Discernment Retreats for single Catholic women aged 18-35 at Minster Abbey Benedictine Monastery for those who are open to discerning a monastic vocation. Retreats are in the 27th-29th March, 7th-9th August & 9th-11th October 2026. Please see the notice at the back of church or contact Sister Walburga at minstervocations@gmail.com

CAFOD Family Fast Day. This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour by fasting and giving what you save on Friday 27th February. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions. Please see the poster and collect an envelope after Mass.

Stations of the Cross. Every Friday during Lent.

St. Ethelbert's

7pm followed by a showing of 'The Chosen' in the Parish Room.

St. Augustine's

11.15am followed by Mass at noon then a Lenten Lunch in the Visitors Centre



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: Sunday 12 noon (during Mass) or by arrangement.

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> |
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| Saturday 21 st <i>Lenten Feria</i> February | No Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs | 12 noon Sung Requiem (NB no Latin Mass today) Mass for Kevin Flynn R.I.P. |
| First Sunday of Lent (A) | 5.30pm Smalley Family PI | |
| Sunday 22 nd February | 10am Masia Pinto TG 12 noon Magda's Private (Polish) Intentions | 8.30am People of the Parish 12 noon Magda's (Sung Latin 1962) Private Intentions |
| Monday 23 rd <i>Lenten Feria</i> February | 9.30am Jo Carnell PI | 12 noon Steve Carnell PI |
| Tuesday 24 th <i>Lenten Feria</i> February | NO MASS TODAY | 12 noon Jo Carnell PI |
| Wednesday 25 th February | St. Ethelbert, King 9.30am Mrs Chappell RIP (No Latin 1962 Mass Today) | 12 noon Caroline, Nataliae, Taraly, Jackee, Janet & all who are suffering WB |
| Thursday 26 th February | 9.30am Steve Carnell PI | NO MASS TODAY |
| Friday 27 th <i>Lenten Feria</i> February | 9am Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows 9.30am Veronica Carnell PI 6pm Ada, Brad & Children PI (Polish) 7pm Stations of the Cross | 11.15am Stations of the Cross 12 noon Patrick, Kathleen & Brian Pender RIP |
| Saturday 28 th <i>Lenten Feria</i> February | Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am 5.30pm Edward Smalley TG on his Birthday | 12 noon Matt Dickenson PI (Latin 1962 Low Mass) |
| Second Sunday of Lent (A) | | |