



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 29th March 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.

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,

I write this after joyfully celebrating a sung Mass with our school on the Feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. On this feast we celebrate that God sent his Son into this sinful world, to save us from ourselves. The contrast between God's love for us and the sin of the world is visible in the church on this feast day. For being in the middle of Passiontide, with our images covered as a sign of mourning and penance for the death of the Lord soon to come, we are made visually aware that the light of God came into a world of darkness, that God's love was met with rejection by us on the Cross on **GOOD FRIDAY**.

The world God created is beautiful and good and human beings are the summit of God's creation. God looked upon his creation and said *'it is good'*. We can say people are basically good only because God made us to be good. We are created in the image of God and God gave us free will to glorify him with our praise, thanksgiving and love. In return, God does not *make* us love him: true love is always freely given. This is the love the Blessed Virgin Mary freely gave God when she said *yes* to the Angel Gabriel, *yes* to being the mediatrix by which the Word became flesh, dwelt among us and God's grace is given to us in Jesus. She herself was the perfect dwelling place, the new garden of Eden, a paradise unpolluted by sin. But rightly she was troubled by what this could mean for God to enter this world as human beings as it is, and not how God made it. Mary knew the excessive cruelty of her world, occupied by the Romans, as poor women with child would today in Palestine or Lebanon faced with death all around them and the destruction of their homes and land by the merciless bombs of their continually aggressive neighbour. When Simeon warned Mary in the Temple that *'a sword shall pierce your heart'*, she had every reason to be sorrowful, even as she rejoiced in love of God shown in the gift of her Divine Child.

We have meditated upon the seven sorrows of Our Lady: in all the suffering of her son Jesus, Mary suffered with Him. To quote John D. Miller *'Mary is our role model. Mary has shown us what we have to do. By offering all our prayers, works, sufferings and joys each day to Jesus with Mary, in a spirit of sacrifice, we are able to co-operate... in the ongoing work of redemption. We become God's fellow workers' and 'complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of the Church'*. ('Beads and Prayers' p164-5)

The Blessed Virgin Mary's sorrows through her tears at the suffering and death of her son Jesus is a call to us to show sorrow for our sins, do penance and ask God for his mercy upon humanity. In the great **Liturgies of this HOLY WEEK & EASTER** let us enter these mysteries of our salvation with Mary and weep for the sins of humanity, because Jesus died for love of us that our sins might be forgiven. By our good works, we too can join Jesus in his sacrifice for the redemption of souls and with Mary, our Sorrowful Mother, cooperate in Christ's work of Salvation and Redemption of souls by dying to the self and taking up the cross and following Him.

Let us pray, that by our co-operation with the saving work of Jesus, peace may come to the world, especially to the people of Palestine for whom the Cross of occupation, loss of land and homes and indiscriminate death is their ever-present reality. We pray especially for the ancient Christian churches of Palestine - not the buildings- but our fellow Christians among this cruelly afflicted people. For them, we will have the usual **annual collection for the upkeep of the Holy Places in Palestine**, which Palestinian Christians keep alive by praying in them even in these most challenging times. It is the presence of Palestinian Christians that keep the church alive in Palestine, not the historical buildings, however important these are to them and us. May our most sorrowful mother, Queen of Palestine, pray for those who still remain in the Holy Land of their fathers and give them hope for a better future.

God bless, Fr Jonathon

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.

Easter Draw. Tickets will be available for our Easter draw this weekend and the draw will take place on Easter Sunday at the coffee morning after 10am Mass.

Easter Flowers. There will be a second collection this weekend to fund our Easter Flowers. If you would like an **Easter Lily** for a loved one, please provide the name of your loved one(s) to the parish office or pastoral assistant before Maundy Thursday along with a £5 donation per lily. All lily donations will go to the Holy Places charity.

We are still looking for volunteers to participate in the **Washing of Feet** during the **Mass of the Last Supper** which is on 2nd April at both St. Ethelbert's & St. Augustine's at 7pm. Please put your name on the sheet at the back of church or contact the parish office if you are interested.

Do you have an interest in gardening? If so, we are looking for volunteers to help maintain our church garden. No experience necessary. If you are able to help, please contact the parish office or speak to Liz.

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.

Stations of the Cross.

Please collect your Easter Mass schedule from the back of Church

St. Augustine's

Divine Retreat
Centre Stations of
the Cross on Good
Friday at 11am

St. Ethelbert's

Children's Stations of
the Cross at 10am
and Parish Stations of
the Cross at 7pm
both on Good Friday



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>	
Saturday 28 th March		Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am		12 noon <i>(Latin 1962 Low Mass)</i>	Valentina Tereshkova PI
		2.00pm	Reconciliation Service: Adoration & Confessions		
		5.30pm	Lukasz Kwiatkowski RIP		
<i>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (A)</i>					
Sunday 29 th March <i>(Clocks go forward an hour at 1am)</i>		10.00am	Deceased Members of the Hardwick, Rydz & Watts Families RIP	8.30am	Stephen & Sabina Joyce RIP
		12 noon <i>(Polish)</i>	Conversion of Stanislaw Staszczail TG	11.00am <i>(Sung Latin 1962)</i>	Lorraine Mulvihill RIP
Monday 30 th March	<i>Monday of Holy Week</i>	9.30am	Sheila Raleigh PI	12 noon	Netta Rankin & Family PI
31 st March	<i>Tuesday of Holy Week</i>	NO MASS TODAY		12 noon	Gordon Molloy RIP
Wednesday 1 st April	<i>Wednesday of Holy Week (‘Spy Wednesday’)</i>	9.30am	Sung Latin Mass (1962) of Holy Wednesday with St Luke’s Passion of the Lord.	12 noon	Rev. Michael Goeffry Nevin RIP
Thursday 2 nd April	<i>MAUNDY THURSDAY</i>	7.00pm	Rydz Family PI	7.00pm	Carlo Rodrigues WB
Friday 3 rd April	<i>GOOD FRIDAY</i>	10.00am	Children’s Stations of the Cross	11.00am	Divine Retreat Centre Stations of the Cross
		12.00 noon	Polish Adoration of the Cross		
		3.00pm	The Passion of the Lord	3.00pm	The Passion of the Lord
		6.00pm	Divine Mercy Novena (Day 1)		
		7.00pm	Parish Stations of the Cross		
Saturday 4 th April	<i>HOLY SATURDAY</i>	<i>Święconka (Polish Blessing of Food) at 9am, 10am & 11am</i>			
		3.00pm	Divine Mercy Novena (Day 2)		
		7.00pm	William & Phyllis Rapley RIP	7.00pm	Rima D’Costa PI
<i>EASTER VIGIL OF THE HOLY NIGHT (A)</i>					