



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 8th 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.

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,

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) thanks us for the sum of £229 for the White Flower Appeal 2026. 'The pro-abortion lobbyists know that the pro-life momentum is growing' writes the chairman of the SPUC 'In response they are desperately seeking to have abortion enshrined as a human right in law'.

As a catholic parish we must continue to speak up for a culture of life in our society. Last week I heard a discussion on Radio 4 on this very matter. It was interesting to hear how some people are coming- round to the recognition of human rights of the child in the womb, from a non-Christian perspective, simply because it is logical. Some of the discussion mentioned how the far- right in the twentieth century proposed euthanasia for adult human beings which they considered unworthy of life. This was the culture of death promoted by the Nazi party last century that killed millions. In modern times, it was argued, this culture of death has been adopted by the progressive left: the individual's right to choose whether to keep a baby or not has prevailed over our responsibility for the life of a child in the womb, whose humanity is not recognized.

This is especially so if the child is handicapped and a child with Down Syndrome can be aborted up to full term. When you think that one of the people interviewed had Down's Syndrome, this law is grotesquely evil and unkind to our fellow citizens. How must it make her feel to think a person with Down's Syndrome has less of a right to be born than other people? This is exactly the evil of ideology of Nazism for other races, and people with disabilities, that we now apply, by the law of this country, to the child in the womb.

But the pro- abortion lobby is petrified of such arguments. This particularly becomes difficult if a child is aborted because it is not the sex the parent(s) want. Usually this means the parents want a boy (for socio- economic reasons) and so girls are more likely to be aborted. The feminist lobby is outraged by this and say this should not be permitted as a reason for abortion. But it poses a dilemma: if we say a girl has a right to life, we are recognizing her humanity, as only a human being can have a 'right to life'.

Philosophically, the pro-abortion lobby fails in the argument: if killing a child is *not* murder at nine months when the child is still in the womb, how come killing the child *is* murder the moment after the child is born? How can simply a change of location affect our recognition of a human being? These are terrible evils to think about. The pro-abortion lobby will not even use the word 'baby' for the human being in the womb because this gives it a human right to life. For who would kill a baby? But an elephant is not an elephant just because you call it an elephant. And a baby in the womb is not just a baby only because it is wanted and called a baby. Ask any mother who has suffered a miscarriage of a baby she had loved and longed for. Our faith sheds light on these evils, because our faith is in accord with true philosophy: **The human comes into being from the moment of conception.** The Word became flesh at the Annunciation, *not* on Christmas Day. The Son of God went through all human life for us, from conception, through birth, childhood to death and in Lent we remember too, he was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. We too must resist the temptation to make individual choice our god, higher than what is right and just: and it is right and just that a helpless child in the womb is protected by the mother and the society she lives in.

The Chairman of SPUC thanks you with all his heart for your support of SPUC, as indeed, do I. The **Feast of the Annunciation** will be celebrated on Wednesday 25th March, with masses at 9.30 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. (in Polish) at St Ethelbert's and 12.00 noon and 7.00 p.m. (Latin 1962) at St Augustine's.

God bless,

Fr Jonathon

Lent Retreat Day at Minster Abbey, March 28th 2026. The theme of the day is 'Lent- A Journey in Love' and it will be led by experienced retreat guide, Eddie Gilmore. Contact him at: gileag@gmail.com or visit his website www.eddiegilmore.org for more information.

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

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 on 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

The next **Senior's Social** including Bingo, raffle & light refreshments will be on Saturday 21st March in the parish hall. All are warmly welcome. See the poster at the back of church.

The **Wine & Wisdom** social planned for the 14th March has been cancelled due to lack of interest. We will try and have another one later in the year.

Do you have an interest in gardening? If so, we are looking for volunteers to help maintain our church garden. 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. 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>
Saturday 7 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i> (<i>Ss. Perpetua & Felicity, martyrs collect</i>) (<i>1962 St. Thomas Aquinas, doctor</i>)	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am	12 noon Irene Singh TG (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)
Third Sunday of Lent (A)		5.30pm Ellen Goodman PI	
Sunday 8 th March	(<i>1962 Lenten Feria</i>)	10am S. Quincey-Jones PI 12 noon Phillip & Wye PI (<i>Polish</i>)	8.30am Gloria Frances Stewart RIP 12 noon Richard Mills RIP (<i>Sung Latin 1962</i>)
Monday 9 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i> (<i>St. Frances of Rome, religious collect</i>)	9.30am Mariel Pinto TG	12 noon Irene Singh PI
Tuesday 10 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i>	NO MASS TODAY	12 noon Madeline PI
Wednesday 11 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i> (<i>1962 Lenten Feria</i>)	9.30am Requiem Mass for Uta Nedd RIP (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)	12 noon Calvet Family PI
Thursday 12 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i>	9.30am Egwuatu Chiamaka Cynthia & Henry Ahamefula Alphius TG	NO MASS TODAY
Friday 13 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i>	9am Rosary of Our Lady of Sorrows 9.30am Bob Squirrell WB 6pm Anna & John Corson PI (<i>Polish</i>) 7pm Stations of the Cross	11.15am Stations of the Cross 12 noon Ciall Humphrey PI (<i>Ordinariate</i>)
Saturday 14 th March	<i>Lenten Feria</i> (<i>1962 Lenten Feria</i>)	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am	12 noon Mary Cynthia Roche RIP (<i>Latin 1962 Low Mass</i>)
Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)		5.30pm Mrs Smalley TG on her birthday	