



Parish of Ramsgate & Minster

Weekly Newsletter - Sunday 4th 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; **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,

The Psalm for Easter Sunday says, *"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* Above all days, Easter is a day of joy. The deepest joy of all in this life is when we come through a time of loss, or mourning or despair. We may not always notice it reappearing, but it can quietly enter our life again. When we somehow begin to have a sense of peace again, even for only brief moments, perhaps accepting our suffering and getting a sense that God is with us, this can bring us joy: that's what we may receive even in very difficult times when our proclaimed belief in the Resurrection of Jesus becomes real to us. But we really need faith in the Risen Lord to know this joy and for many people, there are few signs of it in the world: we can reach for the moon, but the stupidity, aggression and greed of earthly powers means life is getting worse for so many people.

For Christians in Lebanon and Palestine who have been suffering loss upon loss for decades caused by Israeli bombing, incursions and intimidation, it is hard for us to imagine how they can embrace the joy of Easter as yet again they are attacked by Israel. Monasteries have opened their doors as a refuge from the Israeli attacks. Only on Palm Sunday, the Israeli Police prevented the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Cardinal Pizzaballa, from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem as he made his way to celebrate the Palm Sunday Mass. EWTN recorded that on the West Bank, the catholic parish priest of the last entirely Christian village in the West Bank, Fr Fawadleh, appealed for the support of the whole Catholic Church in the face of new attacks by "fanatical Israeli settlers" seeking to displace the local population. These incursions, he continued, in addition to constituting "a violation of international law and of the rights of the local community," represent an affront that, for the village's inhabitants, goes far beyond a mere legal or political matter.

"This story is about the life of a Christian community that has been present in this land for more than 2,000 years," Fr Fawadleh said. The Christian village attacked is the biblical Ephraim, now called Taybeh, where Jesus went to rest shortly before his passion (cf. John 11:54). It is the only entirely Christian village left in lands illegally occupied by Israel. These encroachments have been ongoing for some time. In July 2025, Israeli settlers set fire in the area near the ruins of St. George Church, dating back to the fifth century, where the local community typically holds religious celebrations. Several vehicles were also set ablaze, and the attackers "painted hateful graffiti,".

According to the parish priest, "when the land is threatened, people become fearful." The local community simply wants, like you and me, "to live in peace, with dignity, and on our own land," he said, noting that the farmers of Taybeh are even afraid to go out to their fields.

"This is a matter that concerns the entire Church. We ask for your prayers, and for your visits to the Holy Land and to the 'living stones' in Taybeh and throughout the Holy Land," he said. "And your support, so that Christians may remain here through education, housing, and employment opportunities. For the Christian presence in the Holy Land is not merely a local matter," he pointed out. As we support the Holy Places on Good Friday, we should care even more for the living church in Palestine and the actual people who keep the Faith alive there.

The continued presence of the ancient churches in Israel and occupied Palestine is precarious. Despite deadly attacks by the Israelis, let us join with the Church in the Holy Land in our prayer that it will not die, that the hope of Easter will keep the Christian faith alive in 'the Holy Land'. As Christians, the loss of the Church in the Holy Land would be our loss too, for if the Church dies there, it will no longer be the *Holy Land*. It is only the presence of the living church, the body of Christ, that makes it holy ground. May Easter this year, bring the Church of the Holy Land hope that there will be more Easters to come.

God bless and Happy Easter

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.

Please welcome to the parish **Steven Quincey-Jones, Oriol Bath, Kelly Costello & Phil Bishop** who have been confirmed & received into the Catholic Church this Easter. Please keep them in your prayers.

Seniors Social. The next social for seniors will be on Saturday 25th April from 2pm till 4pm. Come along for some bingo, tea, coffee, cakes and a raffle. Please see the poster at the back of the church for more details.



Easter Lilies

George Campbell
Phyllis McQuaid
Marjorie Andrews
Stanley Andrews
Dora Hodgson
Marjorie Hodgson
Norman Cotton
Phyllis Rapley
William Rapley
Frances Family
Power Family
Hardwich Family
Rydz Family
Watts Family
Smalley Family
Cook Family
Kathleen Freeman
Miriam Mehlin
Mary Henderson
Rosaleen Lennon

Prayer Candles - St. Ethelbert's: Alex Able RIP, William & Phyllis Rapley RIP, Steven Godden RIP, Fr. Jonathon Routh, Fr. Christopher Basden, Fr. Simon Heans, Dcn. Peter Brown, Monks at Chilworth, Sisters of Minster, Mary Cotton, Maggie & Brian Smith, Rita & Keith Andrews & The Smalley Family x2

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 can help, please contact the parish office.

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

Please remember in your prayers those who have died recently especially:

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 Howell, 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, 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.

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.

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.

Parish Social Media

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)

Mass Intentions for the Week

		<i>St. Ethelbert's</i>	<i>St. Augustine's</i>
Saturday 4 th April	HOLY SATURDAY	<i>Święconka (Polish Blessing of Food) at 9am, 10am & 11am</i>	
		3.00pm Divine Mercy Novena (Day 2)	
	EASTER VIGIL OF THE HOLY NIGHT (A)	7.00pm William & Phyllis Rapley RIP	7.00pm Rima D'Costa PI
Sunday 5 th April		10.00am Stephen Rydz PI	8.30am Michael Carroll RIP
	EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURECTION OF THE LORD (A)	12 noon Jan Staszczaz RIP (Polish)	12.00am Kevin Flynn (Sung Latin 1962) RIP
Monday 6 th April	<i>Monday in the Octave of Easter</i>	12 noon Irene Singh TG (Polish)	12 noon Bill Shaw RIP
Tuesday 7 th April	<i>Tuesday in the Octave of Easter</i>	NO MASS TODAY	12 noon Owen Williams RIP
Wednesday 8 th April	<i>Wednesday in the Octave of Easter</i>	9.30am Uta Nedd RIP (Latin 1962 low Mass)	12 noon Irek, Wife & Family PI
Thursday 9 th April	<i>Thursday in the Octave of Easter</i>	9.30am Julian Whitebread RIP	NO MASS TODAY
Friday 10 th April	<i>Friday in the Octave of Easter</i>	9.30am Maureen Francis TG	12 noon Kamil, Kasia & (Ordinariate) Children PI
		6.00pm Fr. Ryszard PI (Polish)	
Saturday 11 th April	<i>Saturday in the Octave of Easter (1962 Sabbato in Albis)</i>	Mass at Our Lady Star of the Sea, Broadstairs at 9.30am	
			12 noon Irene Singh PI
	LOW SUNDAY, SECOND OF EASTER (A) ('Divine Mercy')	5.30pm Alex Dias RIP	