



**Parish of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Goudhurst TN17 1DN
and St Barnabas Catholic Church, Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4AH**

Contact : The Presbytery, Beresford Road, Goudhurst, Kent TN17 1DN

Tel : 01580211268 E-Mail: goudhurst@rcaos.org.uk

** Livestreaming : [Kentchurches.com](https://kentchurches.com)

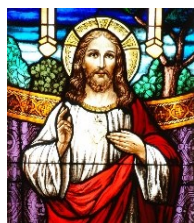
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Parochial Administrator : Fr Damian Ilodigwe

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne (Emergency no 07831252314)

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 10:30am – 5.00

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

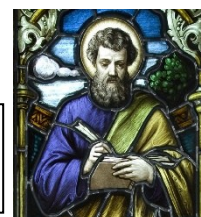


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart, SATURDAY 5:00pm before Mass
St Barnabas, SUNDAY 8.00am before Mass



EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (C)

Week commencing 3rd August 2025 Mass Book Page 117

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Responsorial Psalm: 90 3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

Saturday 2nd August 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass	Repose of the soul of Daisy Fletcher RIP
Sunday 3rd 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 3rd 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Barbara Fletcher for a speedy recovery & wellbeing of daughter and carer Sonja
Monday 4th	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed) St Clare, Virgin, Memorial	
Tuesday 5th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	Funeral for Rowena Bennett at St Laurence Church, Hawkhurst at 12.00 noon.
Wednesday 6th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Thursday 7th	Saint Maximilian Mary Kolbe, Priest and Martyr, Memorial	
Friday 8th August 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation Holy Mass	
Saturday 9th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Twentieth Sunday (C) Vigil Mass	Repose of the soul of Alex Martin RIP
Sunday 10th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	For the healing of Maureen Allanson
Sunday 10th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo

REFLECTION, EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY (C)

The parable of the rich fool in the gospel of today reminds us that it is foolish to live without reference to God; for, God is the source and origin of all we have and are. Without him we are nothing. Consequently, the true value of our lives does not really consist of our possessions or our accomplishments; rather it consists in living in communion with God and using our possessions to give glory to God.

This means we must always live with a basic awareness of our radical dependence on God, so that even when we have the things of this world abundantly, we are never forgetful of God and our obligation to acknowledge and worship him. Indeed, when we live with an awareness of our dependence on God it helps us to remain humble and accord God his proper place in our life and, so, avoid all forms of idolatry.

A basic challenge here is that we tend to be carried away by the things of this world and become forgetful of God, as we begin to see ourselves more and more as our own master and, so, hardly feel the need to refer anything to him, believing misguidedly, of course, that we are self-sufficient. The case of the rich man in the gospel of today clearly illustrates this challenge.

While there is nothing wrong in celebrating when we are successful, to celebrate without acknowledging God, is tantamount to usurping the glory of God. This folly of inflating our self-importance by usurping the glory of God does not go on perpetually, as something suddenly happens that breaks the cycle of self-absorption and reveals our assumed security to be misplaced. It could be sickness or crisis or misfortune or whatever. But when it happens we come to the realization that we are not our own master, but are radically dependent on God. In the case of the rich man, the moment he settled down to enjoy him-self, God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made of your soul and, this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?"

The situation of the rich man clearly illustrates there is no security in material possession or worldly accomplishments. Indeed, as Jesus says in warning us against avarice of any kind, "a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs". To think otherwise simply amounts to vanity, hence the preacher instructively says that, "vanity of vanities. All is vanity". The truth is that a life that is lived without reference to God is simply empty!

We may think ourselves secure on account of our material possession but experience shows that this is sheer folly. What really gives us security is to live a life that is totally dependent on God and devoted to the service of God and humanity, so that whatever possession we have becomes a means of making a difference in people's life. If we realize that our possessions have been entrusted to us as stewards, as faithful servants of God, we will always be guided by the fear of God in dispensing them, so as to use them in a manner that gives glory to God rather than simply inflating our self-importance. This, is perhaps, why Jesus concluded the parable by declaring in respect of the tragic fate of the rich fool: "So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God."

Lord, give us the grace to realize our radical dependence on you; for, you alone, not our possessions or accomplishments, truly guarantees our security.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading, Acts of the Apostles. Ch 4. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
2. Please welcome Father Fidelis from the Missionary of St Paul. There will be a second collection for the Mission this weekend.
3. We were delighted to see Father Ethelbert back in our Parish last weekend. However, as he explained to us, his Bishop in Lagos has called him back to Nigeria for a new assignment. Father Ethelbert will be returning to Lagos on 13th August. Needless to say, we will all be extremely sad to see him go but we will have a wonderful "Send-off" for him on Sunday 10th August. Please go to the home of Bernadette Masters who lives, at Triggs Farm, Goudhurst TN17 1DS at 4.00pm to wish Father Bon Voyage. Bernadette has kindly offered to host the party. Please continue pray for Father. If anyone would like to help with the Send off party, please contact Lizzi. 07831252314. Finger foods please.
4. If you would like to leave a gift for Father Ethelbert, the card machine has been set up to receive your gift. Alternatively, you can leave a card or donation at the back of each church in the purple boxes, or give to Father or Lizzi Payne who will give them to Father Ethelbert. Online Bank payments please reference: "Fr Ethelbert Gift" We are all sad to see him go, he will be a great loss to us all and we have much to thank him for. God Bless you Father.
5. **There will be tea and coffee after Mass on Sunday and the 100 Draw for July. All welcome and Good Luck!**
6. **Office news!** Lizzi will be back in the Parish office on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please call her on 07831252314 at other times.



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Maureen Allanson, Lorraine Smith, Marion Weeks, Geaft Weeks, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis, Jasmin Cameron and Vilma Fernandez.

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Lily Wise, John Sienesi, Tony Coleman, Gerry Cleary, Mary Elizabeth (Daisy) Fletcher, Jack Benton, Toni Markley Aimes, Terry Wilkinson, Maree Alexander and Margaret Peel. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in Peace.*

ONLINE DONATIONS

BANK DETAILS, Gift Aiders please add your envelope number and name as a reference
NatWest Bank: RCAS Sacred Heart Goudhurst, Account No: 59004576 Sort Code: 60 06 18