



**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

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** 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 and Friday 10.30 – 2.00pm

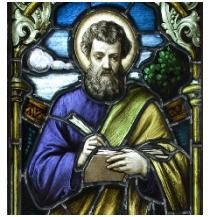


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Week commencing 26th October 2025 Mass Page 155

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading : Sirach 35:15-17, 20-22

Responsorial Psalm: 34: 2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 Response: The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14

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| Saturday 25th 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Vigil Mass | |
| Sunday 26th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst | Holy Mass | Missa Pro Populo |
| Sunday 26th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Holy Mass | |
| Monday 27th | FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed) | |
| Tuesday 28th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Saints Simon and Jude, Apostles, Feast Weekday Mass – Feria | |
| Wednesday 29th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Weekday Mass – Feria | |
| Thursday 30th Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | | |
| Friday 31st 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Weekday Mass – Feria | Susan and Paul Demuth |
| Saturday 1st November 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | All Saints, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation Vigil Mass | |
| Sunday 2nd 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst | All Saints, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation Holy Mass | |
| Sunday 2nd 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | All Saints, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation Holy Mass | Missa Pro Populo |

REFLECTION, THIRTIETH SUNDAY (C)

In the gospel Jesus teaches us how not to pray by confronting us with two models of prayer, the Pharisee and the Publican. Both men went up to the temple to pray. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus to himself: "God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week, I give tithes... But the tax collector stood far off lacking the audacity to lift up his eyes to heaven and said, "God be merciful to me a sinner." Jesus concludes the parable by declaring that of both men, the one who really prayed was the Publican and not the Pharisee.

What makes the prayer of the Publican worth emulating in contra distinction from the prayer of the Pharisee? Whereas the Publican was wholly focused on his faults, admitting his guilt and need for salvation, the Pharisee, celebrated his virtues by favourably comparing himself with others. His prayer lacks the quality of self-transcendence. He was more or less absorbed in his perceived virtues and considered others as unrighteous. The prayer of the Publican, on the other hand, exhibits the quality of self-effacement. He dared not celebrate his virtues. On the contrary, he makes his weaknesses his focus. In his own judgment nothing is as clear as his unworthiness.

If the Publican emerges the clear winner in this contest, it is wholly down to his humility, the fact that he dared not judge himself better than the others. In recognizing his faults and his radical dependence on God, he secures his justification whereas, in his assumed self-righteousness, the Pharisee exposes his pride. What is clear from this parable, therefore, is that if our prayer must be effective, it must possess the quality of humility and refrain from all self-indulging and self-reference. Prayer is not the place to celebrate our virtues or a tribunal where we judge and condemn others; rather our task in prayer is to focus on God.

If we focus properly on God and see ourselves as he sees us, we emerge from prayer with a list of things we need to do by way of rectification of our lives. Coming into the presence of light always has the effect of exposing our faults. In the light of God's presence, our prayers not only expose our faults but also obtains for us the courage to admit our guilt and resolve to do better by the grace of God.

If our comportment in prayer is one of seeing ourselves as we are in the light of God's light and, if we come to admit our faults, we should become softer, in our attitude to others rather than being judgmental. The sign that we have prayed well is when we emerge from prayer and realize that our assumed self-importance is a ruse. It is always better to leave judgment to God when it comes to our personal worth and never try to judge ourselves as better than others. This is the key lesson the Publican teaches us and it is one quality we must try to imbibe as far as our prayer life is concerned.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading, Acts of the Apostles. Ch 15. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
2. **Please note that next Sunday 2nd November is All Saints Day and a Holyday of Obligation. On Monday 3rd November All Souls Day will be commemorated for all the faithfully departed at St Barnabas, Hawkhurst at 11.00am and at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst at 7.00pm.**
3. **October is a month for the Rosary.** For those who recite five decades of the rosary in church or at home as a family gain a plenary indulgence daily. A partial indulgence is available for those who recite the Litany of Loreto (Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Wikipedia) and the Prayer to Saint Joseph (Prayer to Saint Joseph – Wikipedia). For more details see Liturgical Year: October: Month of the Holy Rosary Catholic Culture.
4. **The Autumn Fair, Saturday, 15th November 2025, 9.30am-12.00. Please will you help with donations for the: Tombola, Plant stall, Books, Pictures & Prints, Bric-a-Brac, Homemade Cakes, Jams, Chutneys and Bread. Toiletries, Candles and Gifts. Toys & Games & More. And don't forget the RAFFLE – a donation for a world cruise would be amazing!! Please leave the donations at the Presbytery between the hours of 10.30am and 2.30pm on Friday 14th November. If you need to leave things earlier, please liaise with Lizzi. NB: Please no electrical items.**
5. **We are desperate for drivers to take Father to Mass on a Sunday Morning to St Barnabas Church and back again to Goudhurst..** If you are able to help, please contact Lizzi on 07831252314. We thank all our current drivers who do a wonderful job. You are hugely appreciated.



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

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Beryl Millis, Mary Sullivan, Thomas Knight, Norah Ryan, Isabella Wilkins, Fred Cluley, Betty Hosking, Geoffrey Parton and Dr Margaret (Rita) Black. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in Peace.*

ONLINE DONATIONS, BANK DETAILS,

**NatWest Bank: RCAS Sacred Heart Goudhurst,
Account No: 59004576 Sort Code: 60 06 18**

Gift Aid: Please add your envelope number & name as a reference

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

If you wish to report any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our representatives:

Katherine Lawson Tel: 07717312571

Kveta Waterman, Tel: 07732 785517