



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

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

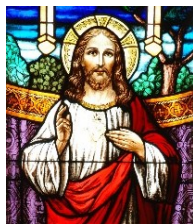
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Parochial Administrator : Fr Damian Ilodigwe

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne (Emergency no 07831252314)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 10.30 – 2.00pm

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

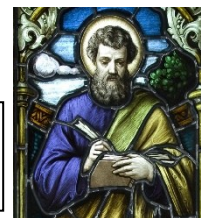


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart, SATURDAY 5:00pm before Mass
St Barnabas, SUNDAY 8:00am before Mass



First Sunday of Advent (A)

Week commencing 30th November 2025

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading : Isaiah 2:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: 122:1-2,4-5,6-7,8-9 Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.

Second Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

Saturday 29th November 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	First Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass	12 Noon,	Baptism of Penelope Page
Sunday 30th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	First Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass		Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 30th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	First Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass		Loiselle Downing 60 th Birthday Blessing
Monday 1st December	FATHER'S DAY OFF		
Tuesday 2nd 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria		Loiselle Downing 60 th Birthday Blessing
Wednesday 3rd 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Day of Prayer for Migrants Weekday Mass – Saint Francis Xavier, Priest, Memorial		
Thursday 4th			
Friday 5th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria		
Saturday 6th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Second Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass		
Sunday 7th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Second Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass		
Sunday 7th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Second Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass		Missa Pro Populo

REFLECTION, First Sunday of Advent (A)

. Advent is a time to prepare for the coming of the son of man. We prepare to welcome Christ into our domain. We prepare for his twofold coming – his coming at Christmas and his coming at the end of time. In preparing for his coming we allow him to prepare us by himself. We invite him to come into our hearts afresh and remove the rubbish in our lives. We invite him to come and cleanse us, so that set free from what makes us unworthy of him we are ready to welcome him with joy and enthusiasm.

Nothing could be greater than meeting the Lord; for, such encounter is always rewarding and deeply transforming as we are never the same thereafter. But to profit from our encounter with the Lord it is important that our hearts are clean, ready to welcome him. Our hearts must be totally centred on God. We cannot prepare adequately unless we become aware of God's presence in our lives and deliberately yield ourselves to his control. The consequence of becoming aware of his presence and responding appropriately is that we become more and more attentive to the manner of lives we are living, especially, whether our priorities are right and whether our lives are pleasing to God and why our lives are pleasing to God or not.

If we truly open to the presence of God and so become aware of our true situation, we become aware of the influence and the hold of the false self upon us. We become aware of our double life and how it makes it difficult for us to experience the joy and peace of God's kingdom. As we become aware of our failings and the correlation between sinfulness and lack of true satisfaction in our lives, we are motivated to work hard to overcome the influence of the false self on us and allow the true self to assert itself. With the emergence of the true self, we become more and more clear about our priorities as we also find the inner strength and courage to pursue them, even if it means others may not approve of us, so that in a sense we become a sign of contradiction to the world, so far as we live in the world but are not of the world.

The emergence of the true self is always the result of prayer and personal friendship with Christ, in which Christ himself undertakes to reform us through the power and influence of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, the more we dwell in the presence of Christ the more we assume his attitudes and dispositions so that we now see things increasingly as he would see them, just as his desires and taste also become our desires and taste. In the presence of Christ and as a result of the influence of the Holy Spirit upon us our many loves dissolve into one love – the divine love the source of all we have and are. The result is that our lives become more and more integrated.

Consequently, set free from the hold of the false self on us, we come to reflect more and more the image of Christ and enjoy the freedom of the children of God, the freedom that enables us to do the will of God and reject evil in all its ramifications. What is clear, therefore, is that the journey of Advent involves a basic invitation to turn our hearts and lives to God and allow him to reshape us in the image of Christ. If we approach the coming weeks in this fashion and submit ourselves to the discipline of Advent, it means we would emerge with a new heart and a renewed spirit at the end of the exercise, ready to celebrate Christmas worthily and meet the Lord at the end of time. There is no better way to adequately prepare for the incarnation event than by opening our lives to God and removing everything in us that is not of God. As we start the journey of Advent today, let us resolve to be generous in responding to the invitation to open ourselves completely to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We are pleased to announce the Baptism of Penelope Page on Saturday 29th November, the granddaughter of Teresa Page.
2. With winter getting ever closer and fallen leaves getting slippery, if you feel unsteady using the steps at Sacred Heart Church, please use the ramp at the back from the car park. The door will be open for you and a welcome awaits.
3. **Mass Intentions** – In the Catholic Church, a Mass intention refers to a specific prayer request or intention for which a priest offers the Mass. This practice allows individuals to dedicate the graces of the Mass to a particular need, whether it be for the well-being of a living person, the repose of a deceased soul, or to express gratitude.
4. **We urgently need 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. THANK YOU.**
5. 100 Club, the next draw will be on Sunday 7th at Goudhurst. Please make sure your payments for November are up to date. Many thanks to everyone as this has raised so much for our Parish.



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, Vilma Fernandez

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Leslie Atkinson, Catherine Scarlett, Christine Bodger, Vera Crouch, Marian Fraczyk, Guy Page, Alice Burgess, Herbert Fitzgerald, Leonard Law, Father Pradeep Joshi SJ, Betty Widdowson and Marie van Graan.. *Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, May they rest in Peace. . 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