



**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

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

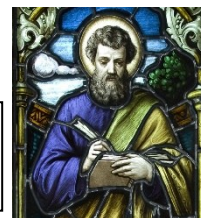


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Week commencing 7th December 2025

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading : Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Response: In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

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| Saturday 6th December 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Second Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass | |
| Sunday 7th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst | Second Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass | Repose of the soul of Margaret Williams |
| Sunday 7th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Second Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass | Missa Pro Populo |
| Monday 8th 11am, Sacred Heart | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity (FATHER'S DAY OFF) | |
| Tuesday 9th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Weekday Mass – Feria | Peggy Morris RIP |
| Wednesday 10th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Weekday Mass - Feria | |
| Thursday 11th 10.00am to midday | Light a Candle at Sacred Heart | |
| Friday 12th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Weekday Mass – Feria | |
| Saturday 13th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Third Sunday of Advent Vigil Mass | Missa Pro Populo |
| Sunday 14th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst | Third Sunday of Advent Holy Mass | |
| Sunday 14th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst | Third Sunday of Advent Holy Mass | |

REFLECTION, Second Sunday of Advent (A)

As we enter the second week of our preparation for the coming of the Lord at Christmas and at the end of time, the gospel confronts us with the figure of St John the Baptist. As the precursor of Christ, the vocation of John was to prepare the people for the coming of Christ. John took this assignment seriously and devoted all his energy to it. He lived a humble and simple life and preached a baptism of repentance, calling the people to turn away from their sins and make their hearts ready for the coming of the messiah.

John understood that as the precursor of Christ his vocation was to lead others to Christ and not to compete with Christ. As a sign post, his task was to make way for Christ and not draw attention or bind others to himself. Thus, when asked if he was the messiah, John simply answered he was not but that the messiah comes after him and he was not fit to undo the straps of his sandal. So, John is content to remain in the background so long as he succeeded in clearing the way for the messiah. Moreover, in preparing the way for Christ, John taught by example. The message he preached harmonized with his lifestyle such that his life was an inspiration to the people in responding to the call to repentance. John's self-effacement and asceticism all speak of his characteristic humility and simplicity.

As we prepare for the coming of Christ in our contemporary context, the voice of John remains persistent in the wilderness of our lives and we must listen to it attentively. Indeed, we can learn a lot of lessons from John's life and ministry. First is the need to open our hearts to God by removing anything in our lives that is not of God. In this context, the message of repentance John preached remains ever relevant.

Our preparation cannot be said to be adequate unless our hearts are free from sin. We cannot be said to be ready for the coming of the messiah unless we are at peace with God and with one another. If there are those who have hurt us, we must release forgiveness to them and also accept forgiveness from those we have hurt. If our hearts are clean and free from sin the messiah will find us ready and make his home in us.

In view of this, we cannot over-emphasize the importance of going to confession during the period of Advent, since it not only affords us the opportunity to experience God's forgiveness and renewal in our lives but it also empowers us with divine grace to avoid all occasions of sin and, so, live a pure and blameless life. Indeed, if our hearts are pure and we make effort to live a blameless life we will look forward to the coming of Christ with great joy and expectation.

It is important we have enough space in us to receive Christ when he comes. If we are full of ourselves or we are filled up with things that are not of God, there will be no space in us to welcome Christ when he comes. We need to empty ourselves of things that are not of God. Wholly emptied of self and our wayward attachments there will be no limit to which God can fill us with his presence.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Teas, coffee and cakes** will be offered after Mass at both churches. Also the **November 100 Club draw** will be held at Goudhurst. We look forward to seeing you there
2. **Light a Candle at Sacred Heart Goudhurst, between 10.00am and midday. All are welcome.**
3. Many parishioners chose to sponsor the first volume of our parish mass books to a loved one, with their name printed on a decorated label on the inside cover. This is the third volume of the six parts of the three year liturgical cycle. Please email the parish office to let us know if you would like to donate £5.00, in the memory of (or to whom, if the person is living) each mass book should be dedicated
4. **Ride and Stride:** Goudhurst Parish raised £274 towards grants for Friends of Kent Churches. As a result, we have been sent a payment of £137. Thank you to everyone for your contribution.
5. **The One Hundred Club.** Due to the wonderful response from everyone, we should be renaming it the 225 Club! Each number costs £2.00 per month, payable by standing order, card, or cash each month. The draw takes place on the first Sunday of the month with the coffee and teas at alternate churches. The total income will be halved, the Church keeps half and the other is divided amongst the winners. Eg This month, First prize £112.50; 2nd £56.25; 3rd £33.75; 4th £22.50. You will be notified if you are a winner. All the proceeds raised will go to help pay for the planned improvements to both Churches. If you have any questions, or wish to apply, please contact Lizzi Payne at the Parish Office or on 07831252314. A big thank you to all those who have already "joined the Club"!
6. **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.**



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Noelle McFadden, 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 Ada Tate, Anthony Berkeley, Reggie Gordon, Jack Brady and Margaret Murphy. *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