



**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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Week Commencing 25th January 2026

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading : Isaiah 9:1b-4

Responsorial Psalm: 27: 1,4,13-14 Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Saturday 24th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Third Sunday (A) Sunday of the Word of God Vigil Mass Second Collection St George's Cathedral	Kevin and Anne De Souza and family for healing.
Sunday 25th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Third Sunday (A) Sunday of the Word of God Holy Mass Second Collection St George's Cathedral	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 25th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Third Sunday (A) Sunday of the Word of God Holy Mass Second Collection St George's Cathedral	Moyra Baker RIP
Monday 26th	Father's Day off Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops, Memorial	
Tuesday 27th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Wednesday 28th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Saint Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church, Memorial	
Thursday 29th	No Mass	
Friday 30th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass - Feria	
Saturday 31st 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Fourth Sunday (A) Racial Justice Day Vigil Mass Second Collection, Racial Justice Sunday	
Sunday 1st February 8.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Fourth Sunday (A) Racial Justice Day Holy Mass Second Collection, Racial Justice Sunday	
Sunday 1st 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Fourth Sunday (A) Racial Justice Day Holy Mass Second Collection, Racial Justice Sunday	Missa Pro Populo

REFLECTION, Third Sunday (A)

The call of the first disciple of Christ reminds us of the need to be prompt and generous in responding to the demands of our vocation. We cannot answer God's call effectively unless we are prepared to put up with some inconveniences. Very often answering the call of God requires us to give up something precious to us. To do so always involves some sacrifice. Unless we are generous, it is difficult to let go and let God.

In the case of Simon, Andrew, James and John, their lives were already secured, as they had a stable means of livelihood. Yet when Jesus asked them to follow him, they left everything and followed him at once. They left their comfort and security and stepped out into a journey of the unknown. For many people this is sheer folly and stupidity for, apparently, it is difficult to say they were settling for something better. If anything, they were taking a risk by leaving their father and their boat and nets in order to follow Christ.

But that was precisely what they did. They left everything immediately and followed Jesus and did not mind the risk. That they can do this tells us of how much faith they have in Jesus but above all it tells us of their readiness to part with something precious to them. It tells us of their love; for only one in love and one motivated by love, can give up something precious in order to follow one's heart's desire. Indeed, their journey of faith in following Jesus may look naïve initially but progressively they will become more acquainted with the way of Christ as should be evident from other episodes in the gospel.

The beginnings of every vocation are virtually naïve as it is impossible to see the whole picture at the start. There may be a burning desire in our heart to answer the call but as to where precisely we are being led or what is required of us, these are often shrouded in uncertainty. Because we cannot see everything at the initial stage, nor can we be absolutely sure, our move is always predicated on faith and very often we do not make the move with a full awareness of the risk involved. Because we are never fully aware of the enormity of the sacrifice involved, the progressive maturation of our perception comes with a burden of re-assessing our initial estimate and, when properly undertaken, this re-assessment comes with a certain purification of our motivation and commitment. So it was with the first disciple of Christ. It all started with their initial leap of faith which then brought them to see what was involved. But progressively they were forced by situations to see things as they really were.

Our experience of discipleship is not too different from that of the first disciples. In calling us to follow him in various contexts of life, we are never fully aware of what is involved in following him before we set out. Our following him always involves a risk, as we do not know what lies ahead of us. But in the crucible of suffering and the cross our initial enthusiasm is tested as our motivation is also purified, so that we emerge with a mature faith and commitment as our encounter with him unfolds and progresses. We cannot expect that everything will always go our way but if we truly trust him and follow him with a blind faith like the first disciples, Jesus can never let us down.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. We welcome Father Damian back from his short break and we thank God for bringing him safely back to us.
2. Changes at the Deanery. Canon Liam Gallagher is now at Wimbledon and the new Dean at St Francis Church, Maidstone is Canon John Diver.
3. There will be a second collection this weekend for St George's Cathedral. The Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.
4. Second collection next weekend for Racial justice Day.
5. Please join us for tea and coffee after Mass on 1st February when the January 100 Club draw will take place at Goudhurst. Please make sure that all cash payments are up to date. Thank you.
6. Please will you inform the office of any parishioners who are sick and would like a visit, and if they would like their names to appear in our Newsletter for our prayers.
7. 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.



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Noelle McFadden, Hannah Oliphant-Morgan, Marie George, Andy Rutherford, Jackie and David, Maureen Allanson, Lorraine Smith, Richard Brook-Hart, Marion Weeks, Geaft Weeks, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis, Jasmin Cameron and Vilma Fernandez

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Maire Brongor, Maire Dee, Frederick Rushmore, Barry Mort, Paul Hendrickx, Audrey Martine and Elaine Martin. *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