



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

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Livestreaming : Sacredheartparish.com **

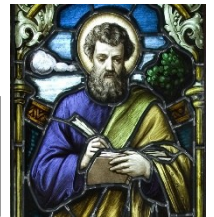
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Priest in Charge : Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 10:30am – 2:00pm

Parish Closed every Monday



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

Eighth Sunday (C)

Week commencing 2nd March 2025 Mass Book Page 144

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Sirach 27:4-7

Responsorial Psalm 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 Response: It is good to give thanks to you, O Lord

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia.. Shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 6:39-45

Saturday 1st March 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass Day for the Unemployed	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 2nd 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	In Thanksgiving
Sunday 2nd 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	In Thanksgiving
Monday 3rd	FATHER'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday 4th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – Feria	Julie, for successful surgery and a speedy recovery
	THE SEASON OF LENT	
Wednesday 5th 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst 11.00am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	<u>ASH WEDNESDAY a day of fasting and abstinence</u> Readings: 1st Reading: Joel 12:12-18; Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-17; 2nd Reading 2 Corinthians 5:20-6;2; Acclamation: Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Harden not your heart today, but Listen to the voice of the Lord, Glory and praise to you, O Christ. Gospel Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 Holy Mass – Ash Wednesday Holy Mass – Ash Wednesday Holy Mass – Ash Wednesday	
		Peter Hansell RIP
		Paul Gourmand RIP
		Donor's Intention
Thursday 6th		
Friday 7th 9.00am 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass - Feria Women's World Day of Prayer	
Saturday 8th 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	First Sunday of Lent (C) Vigil Mass	Patricia Simpson

REFLECTION Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent. It is a forty-day period of preparation for Easter. The word Lent comes from the middle English 'Lenten' which means 'spring', but the Latin equivalent *Quadragesima* means forty, referring to the length of days. These forty days are however exclusive of Sundays.

The number 40 has biblical origin. The flood that cleansed the earth in Noah's time lasted 40 days and forty nights. (Gen 7: 4) The prophet Elijah walked for 40 days and 40 nights to Horeb. (1Kgs 19: 8) The prophet Jonah warned that only 40 days remained for Nineveh to be destroyed. (Jonah 3: 4) Jesus fasted 40 days and 40 nights before beginning his public ministry. (Mt 4: 2) After the resurrection, Jesus stayed 40 days before the Ascension. (Acts 1:3)

In Gen 3 and 4 we are told how sin entered the world. God created the world in love. He wanted all creatures especially human beings to live in peace and harmony with Him and all other creatures. But man sinned and lost the grace of original innocence. (cf CCC 402-409)

Though man sinned, God did not abandon him to the power of death (cf Ps 16: 10; Acts 2: 27); or stop loving him because he loves with an 'everlasting love.' (Jer 31: 3) To save man from damnation, in the fullness of time, God sent his Son into the world. (Gal 4: 4), not to condemn the world, but that through him the world might be saved. (Cf Jn 3: 16) Jesus shed his blood on the cross, giving his life for the salvation of all. (cf Mt 20; 28; 1Tim 2: 6, cf Eph 1: 7; 1Pet 1: 9; 1Jn 1: 7)

Lenten is to prepare us to celebrate with proper disposition this event that gave us new life in Christ. As we begin Lent, the focus is not on our poor, fallen state, but on the riches of the victory of Jesus Christ. One of the major rituals of the beginning of Lent is the blessing and distribution of ashes. The priest blesses the ashes which come from the palms used last Palm Sunday, marks it on the forehead of each person saying, "Turn away from your sins and be faithful to the gospel" or "You are dust and unto dust you shall return."

The use of ashes has its roots in the Scriptures. For example, in Jer 6: 26 people rolled in ashes as a sign of mourning. In Matthew 11: 21 Jesus referred to this practice when he said, "If the miracle done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have long-ago put-on sackcloth and sprinkled ashes on themselves to show that they are repentant."

Similarly, when we mark our foreheads with ashes on Ash Wednesday, it is for two reasons: first, ashes are a sign of repentance, they indicate that we are sorry for our sins. Secondly, ashes are a sign of our mortality. (cf Gen 3: 17,19); to remind us that we shall die someday.

The season of Lent stands on three pillars of prayers, fasting, abstinence and almsgiving. For those ages 21 through 59, the Church prescribes a minimal penance of fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Those 14 years and over, abstinence from meat on all Fridays.

The prophet Joel tells us, "Let your hearts be broken, not your garments torn." (Joel 2: 13) Jesus confirmed it when he said we should pray, give alms and fast in secret. (Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18) The success of this season is not determined by how many meals we skip or how much we give, but on how much effort we put into removing vice from our hearts. (Cf Mt 11: 29) Therefore, let us not just fast from food, let us also fast from sin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading: Gospel of Luke 6. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Ethelbert by email or phone.
2. **Stations of the Cross** will begin on Friday 7th March at 9.00am before Mass, at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst and all Fridays of Lent.
3. Congratulations to Aurial Martine on her Confirmation at Benenden School Chapel. God Bless her.
4. **In the quest to raise funds for the Parish projects, Justin Donegan has graciously agreed to lead a fund-raising committee.** This group will undertake to raise funds for the Parish project to build a hall for use by St Barnabas and the Sacred Heart in the coming years. He would very much like to hear from anyone wishing to participate, or with ideas on how to raise funds for the Parish, so that no stone is left unturned in our quest to raise the considerable sum needed to make our dream a reality. In the year of Hope being called by the Archbishop to allow our faith to flourish and bear fruit, we look to you all for help, no matter how small. **Please contact him on 07832367388 or by email: justindonegan1@gmail.com. Please see attachment for more information.**
5. Please will you inform Father Ethelbert 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 prayer.



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis, Alison McKenna, David Cockayne and Jasmin Cameron.

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Ellen Queally, Edith Fuller, Elizabeth Smyth, Frank Raynor, Patty Mahoney, Emlyn Roberts, Noel Watson, Terence Burton, Paddy Smyth, Gordon Heap, Mike O'Reilly, Ted McGuire and Paul Gourmand. *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