



**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

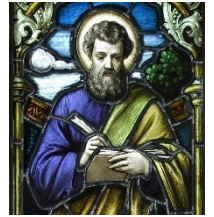
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Priest in Charge : Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne

Office Hours: Tuesday to Friday – 10:30am – 5:30pm

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

Third Sunday of Lent (C)

Week commencing 23rd March 2025 Mass Book Page 160

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Responsorial Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 Response: The Lord is compassionate and gracious.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God. Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Saturday 22nd March 4.00pm 4.45pm 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	PARISH LENTEN RETREAT 2025 Preacher: The Right Rev. Bishop Paul Hendricks Theme: "Yet even now", declares the Lord, "Return to me with all your heart". (Joel 2:12) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament / Talk Confessions Vigil Mass 2 nd Collection, Poor Parishes	
Sunday 23rd 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass 2 nd Collection, Poor Parishes	Repose of the Soul of Josie Cooke and God's love and healing for Peter
Sunday 23rd 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass 2 nd Collection, Poor Parishes End of Parish Retreat	Marie-France Henry, Anniversry RIP
Monday 24th	FATHER'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday 25th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, Solemnity	
Wednesday 26th 9.00am 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Mass - Feria	Birthday Blessings for BT
Thursday 27th		
Friday 28th 9.00am 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass – Feria	Francoise Li Ship, Special Intention
Saturday 29th 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Fourth Sunday of Lent (C) Vigil Mass	Adrian Fletcher RIP
Sunday 30th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo

REFLECTION Third Sunday of Lent (C)

In the gospel passage we have the parable of the fig tree that was planted in a vineyard and yet failed to produce fruit. A vineyard was an ideal place for a fig tree to grow and produce. If it failed in a vineyard, then it wouldn't grow or produce any other place. The owner decided to cut it down, but the gardener pleaded with him to give him one more year to dig round it and put manure; and if after all that, it doesn't produce, then he could cut it down.

Jesus in this parable tried to tell the people of Israel that God gave them a choice place and took special care of them, but they failed to bear fruit. Jesus is the gardener who with his life pleads with God to give them more time so that he will preach to them (put manure). Jesus told them that notwithstanding their failure to produce, God will be patient and give them a second chance.

How does this parable apply to us? We are like the people of Israel. God has also given us a choice place in his divine plan. He expects us to bear fruits of love, of patience, kindness, generosity, peace. God in his love and patience has sent his son Jesus, to put manure round us. In our time, Jesus continues the work of tending us through the Church.

God in and through Jesus is giving us time and genuine opportunity to repent. Let us heed the words of St Peter in 2Pet 3: 9, "The Lord is not slow...but is patient toward you, not willing for anyone to perish." And 2Pet 3: 15, "Think of the Lord's patience as your opportunity to be saved."

There is a purpose for every creature. The purpose of the fig tree was to produce fruit, but it failed. What is your purpose? Is it to hate, to kill, and take away hope and joy? Or is it to love and serve and heal and give solace and joy, and mend the broken hearted, and bring peace and hope and light?

Am I achieving my purpose? God is giving us genuine opportunity and time to repent so that we do not perish. God is so patient, so forgiving, so faithful and so loving that he doesn't want any of us to perish. "He does not desire the death of a sinner." (Ezek 33:11) That is why he is patient with us.

Let us raise our voices to God in prayer so that we may hear the Lord say about us as he said of the people of Israel, "I have seen the miserable state of my people.... I have heard their appeal.... I mean to deliver them...." Let us call on him to look with mercy on us and come to save us as he did the people of Israel in their time of affliction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading: Gospel of **Luke 9**. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Ethelbert by email or phone.
2. **Stations of the Cross** on Friday's of Lent at 9.00am before Mass, at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst.
3. **Lenten Reflections 2025: The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross**. At Mass on all Fridays of Lent, there will be a short Reflection on one of the Seven Last words of Jesus.
4. **Churches Together, Lent Lunches at Hawkhurst Baptist Church** are every Friday starting **21st March from 12.00 to 1.30pm until 18th April**. Everyone is very welcome.
5. **Stations of the Cross** on Friday's of Lent at 9.00am before Mass, at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst.
6. There will be a **second collection this weekend, 23rd**, for **Poor Parishes**, formerly Needs of the Diocese collection. This collection enables the Archdiocese to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.
7. **The works** regarding the garden area around the car park at Sacred Heart are continuing. Thank you to everyone who has contacted us with suggestions. However, we now need the funding for this. If anyone would like to purchase a bird box or a plant in memory of a loved one, their name would then be added to our Memorial. Please contact Lizzi Payne on the Parish number or 07831252314.
8. **100 Club**. Please make sure that all cash payments are made before **30th March**.
9. **Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, July 12th 2025, at St George's Cathedral**. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: **your names** in the format John and Mary Smith, **your home address**, your **parish**, and the **anniversary you are celebrating**, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact Carole at mflkent@rcaos.org.uk. As the **title of your email, please write your parish location, Goudhurst**



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 Robert Holmes, Malcolm Joseph Butt, Tim Gower, Tom Faulkner, Margaret Body, Sue Ring, Margaret Banfield, Terence Burton, Sheila Boyce and Anthony Richards. *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 Aiders please add your envelope number and name as a reference