



**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)

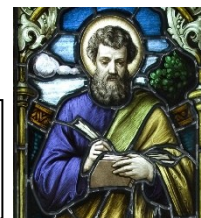
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

Week commencing 6th April 2025 Mass Book Page 176

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 43:16-21

Responsorial Psalm 126:2-3, 4-5, 6 Response: What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:8-14

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God. Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, for I am gracious and merciful. Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel: John 8:1-11

Saturday 5th April 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 6th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	
Sunday 6th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Matthew, Phyllis and Margaret Kane RIP
Monday 7th	FATHER'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday 8th April 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – Feria	
Wednesday 9th 9.00am 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Mass - Feria	
Thursday 10th		
Friday 11th 9.00am 9:30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Stations of the Cross Holy Mass – Feria	Oswald Conn RIP
Saturday 12th 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	HOLY WEEK Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Vigil Mass	
Sunday 13th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo
10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Edel Dillon RIP

REFLECTION Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)

The story of the woman caught in adultery reminds us that God is full of mercy and compassion. But he is also God of justice, so that his mercy is without prejudice to his justice. The demands of mercy and justice allow us to understand the attitude of Jesus to the woman. Jesus will not condemn the woman. Yet he will also say to her to go and not sin again. Thus, while he does not approve of her sin, he nonetheless sets her free and gives her a fresh opportunity to make up for her lack.

The point is that the demand of law is not opposed to the demand of mercy provided we understand that the demand of law finds its fulfilment in the demand of love. Without love, law becomes oppressive. Indeed, throughout his teaching ministry, Jesus was always at pains to preserve the continuity between law and love. Thus, it would be wrong to accuse Jesus of desecrating the law or encouraging people to disregard it. For at a deeper level the concern of Jesus is to point out that the ultimate law is the law of love, so that the integrity of every law must be judged ultimately in terms of whether or not it fulfilled the law of love.

The contrast between the Scribes and the Pharisees and Jesus' respective reception of the situation is remarkable. Both are faced with the same situation. But they react differently. The scribes and the Pharisees were convinced that the woman had violated the law, so that in keeping with the provisions of the law, she must be punished accordingly. She must be condemned to death by stoning.

Yet despite what the law said on this seemingly unequivocal matter, the Scribes and Pharisees were prepared to approach Jesus to ask his opinion. However, as scripture makes clear they had a hidden agenda for it was not merely to get his sincere opinion as their intent was to trap him, convinced he would take a different position, so that they could find something to use against him.

However, they were disappointed as Jesus did not offer a direct answer to the question "what have you to say?" On the contrary he responded indirectly, bending down and then writing on the ground with his finger. After a while he looked up and said, "If there is one of you who have not sinned, let him be the first to throw a stone at her". "When they heard what he said, they went away one by one, beginning with the eldest, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who remained standing there." He looked up and said, "Woman where are they? Has no one condemned you? No, one sir, she replied. Neither do I condemn you, said Jesus go away and do not sin anymore."

We are all beneficiaries of God's mercy as revealed by Jesus in his attitude to the woman. While his initiative speaks to the heart of our experience and thus brings us consolation, it also challenges us at another level, not to assume an overly self-righteous attitude towards others but to allow the mercy of God to inform our dealings with them, even when they are seemingly unworthy of mercy.

The claim of mercy upon us is overwhelming. If we are a beneficiary of God's mercy, we too must become apostles of his divine mercy. What we receive from God, we must extend to others.

The discipline of Lent should awaken in us the reality of our sinfulness and God's mercy and as such motivate us to return to the Father's house. May we never despair of his mercy nor delay in returning to his love when we fail him. Above all as we experience God's mercy and love amidst our spiritual brokenness may we also become merciful in our dealing with others, leading them to experience precisely what we have received, namely, God's mercy and forgiveness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading: Gospel of **Luke 11**. 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. Please join us for teas and coffees after Mass on Sunday 6th April for the March 100 Club Draw.
5. **Easter is approaching and we would love to fill the church with flowers for our Risen Lord. *Donations please***
6. **Please support Lent Lunches at Hawkhurst Baptist Church** every Friday 21st March from 12.00 to 1.30pm until 18th April. St Barnabas will be serving the lunch this week on **11th April**. The road closure at the traffic lights in Hawkhurst will not affect access to the Baptist Church from the Goudhurst/Cranbrook side.
7. There will be a second collection on Good Friday for the Holy Places of Palestine. This collection is sent for the upkeep of the centres of veneration and pilgrimage connected with Our Lord's Passion and for schooling in the area.



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 Thomas Brongor, Ivy King, Bill Turner, Barbara Johnson, Kathleen Mary Steddy, P J Smyth, Tom Sibree, Mary Rourke, Rose Margaret Poile, Donald Gagnor, Joan Forrest, Eleanor Ruth Cordeiro, Lois Hosking, and Timothy Furlonge. *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