



**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)

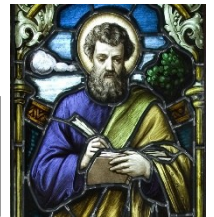
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Priest in Charge : Fr Ethelbert Ukpabi

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne (Emergency no 07831252314)

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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

Week commencing 25th May 2025 Mass Book Page 267

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Responsorial Psalm 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Response: Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia, If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 14:23-29

Saturday 24th May 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass	James Grier RIP
Sunday 25th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	The Mantyk Family RIP
Sunday 25th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo
Monday 26th	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed)	
Tuesday 27th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – Saint Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop, Apostle of England, Feast	
Wednesday 28th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass - Feria	
Thursday 29th 11.00am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst 6.30pm 7.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	<u>THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Solemnity, Holyday of Obligation</u> Holy Mass Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Holy Mass	
Friday 30th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass – Feria The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the reunion of Christendom begins today.	
Saturday 31st 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Sixth Sunday of Easter (C) Vigil Mass	Rhea, Ash and family for Rhea's recovery.
Sunday 1st June 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	David Barras RIP
Sunday 1st 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Missa Pro Populo

REFLECTION, SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)

There is a direct correlation between loving God and keeping his commandments. The only way to show that we truly love him is by keeping his commandments. Love is not a matter of sentiments. It is a matter of commitment and action. Keeping God's commandments may not always be convenient; for to keep God's commandments presupposes certain forgetfulness of self; it presupposes that we love God more than anything else, and indeed more than ourselves. Unless our love of God supersedes self-love or other loves in our lives, we may desire to keep his commandments but fail to find the strength and motivation to rise up to the occasion in the concrete situations of temptations.

Obviously if we are attached to our desire to a point of fault, it will always be difficult to make the sacrifice required to do the will of God. For in those moments of temptation, we will find all kinds of excuses why we must make an exception and satisfy our longing. The truth is that unless we learn to let go of our excessive self-importance on a daily basis, by practicing the discipline of detachment, our desires will always pull us down when God beckons to move in a different direction.

As demanding as it may sometimes be to keep God's commandment, it is actually the best way to preserve our fellowship with him. If we do what he requires of us, it is quite natural that he would be pleased with us; whereas if we choose to disobey him, we are bound to displease him.

Jesus is very clear in the gospel that the only way to remain in God's love and so preserve our communion with him, is by keeping his commandments. Indeed, as he says explicitly, "if a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him."

Nothing is as fulfilling as being in fellowship with God. It is a great blessing indeed to have God dwell in us and with us and to accompany us in our journey through life. When this happens, it means we are never alone as we have God as our partner. This is why Jesus says that if we dwell in communion with God we do not need to be afraid, as God provides for us in every situation and ensures that we are always victorious. To live in union with him, therefore, means that our joy and peace are not tied to external circumstances and for this reason, whatever happens, our joy and peace is intact.

Perhaps this is one of the greatest benefits that accrue from being a disciple of the Lord, for it means that we cannot be ruffled by any situation. Of course, it does not mean we will not experience challenges but because the Lord is with us and provides for us in every situation, challenges are a means through which our fellowship with him is deepened, as he proves to us that he can never let us down no matter how demanding the situation may be.

The basic truth is that the one who dwells in communion with God always has enough to meet the challenges he has to deal with. Yet the secret of remaining in communion with God is keeping his commandments. That is why it is so important that we never joke with God's word if we truly want to make the best of our relationship with him.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading: Gospel of Luke 18. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.

2. **Maidstone Deanery Confirmation Programme 2025**

Applications are invited from School age young people in **Year 9 or above**, to join our 2025 Deanery Confirmation programme, who live in the parishes of Maidstone Deanery (St Francis', Maidstone/ St Peter's, Bearsted/ Holy Family, Park Wood /St Thomas More, West Malling/St Theodore's Cranbrook/St Andrew's, Tenterden / Sacred Heart, Goudhurst). The programme will run on mainly Sunday evenings at St Francis' Church, Maidstone, beginning in June, a break throughout the summer holiday, continuing through September - October, with the **Confirmation Mass scheduled for Saturday 25th October, 2pm.** (Venue TBC)

**Applicants must be Catholics, who have made their First Holy Communion.

**Applications must come from the candidate themselves.

**Applicants will commit to attending all of the sessions.

**Applicants must also be willing to participate fully in all aspects of the programme.

To request an application form, which also gives details of dates and times of sessions, please email:

confirmation@stfrancisparish.org.uk The closing date for applications is **Monday 9th June 2025**

Any other questions can be raised either through this dedicated confirmation mailbox, or by contacting Deacon Ian.

3. **Goudhurst Fete & Dog Show 14th June**, We will need cakes, biscuits, jams, pickles etc but also we will have a table for artisan works. Please brush off your hidden talents and be creative!

4. Please will you inform Father 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.

5. Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford **7 June 2025**. It will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee see [Jubilee 2025: Archdiocese of Southwark](#). [Archdiocesan Jubilee](#)



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Rowena Bennett, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis and Jasmin Cameron.

ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Edmund Harris, Eric Baird Smith, Harold Bilson and Mirek Mantyk. *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