



**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 to Friday – 10:30am – 5.00

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

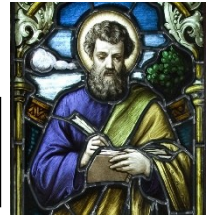


**ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Sacred Heart, SATURDAY 5:00pm before Mass  
St Barnabas, SUNDAY 8.00am before Mass



**TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY (C)**

**Week commencing 24<sup>th</sup> August 2025 Mass Book Page 127**

**TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Responsorial Psalm: 117: 1, 2 Response: Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

<b>Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b> <b>5.30pm **Livestreamed</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	<b>Vigil Mass</b>	Missa Pro Populo
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>8:30am</b> <b>St Barnabas, Hawkhurst</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	
<b>Sunday 24<sup>th</sup></b> <b>10:30am **Livestreamed</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Repose of the Soul of Elizabeth Mann
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed)</b>	
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b> <b>6.00pm</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	Weekday Mass – Feria	
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b> <b>09.30am</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	Weekday Mass – Saint Monica, Memorial	
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, Memorial	
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b> <b>9.30am</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	The Passion of Saint John the Baptist, Memorial Weekday Mass	John Morris RIP
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup></b> <b>5.30pm ** Livestreamed</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	Twenty-Second Sunday (C) <b>Vigil Mass</b>	Missa Pro Populo
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>08.30am</b> <b>St Barnabas, Hawkhurst</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>10.30am **Livestreamed</b> <b>Sacred Heart, Goudhurst</b>	<b>Holy Mass</b>	Private Intention

## REFLECTION, TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY (C)

Whatever we go through in life is a means through which God forms us. What we go through may inconvenience us or even embarrass us. The problem is that often we tend to look for the easy way out, forgetting that the easy way is not necessarily the solution. Indeed, in many cases we discover that the difficult experiences of life turn out retrospectively to be the best, thus reminding us that we should not be too quick to give up on difficult challenges on account of the stress they cause us.

We really have to be realistic and understand that we cannot run away from challenges of life. Yet the basic truth is that no situation can overwhelm us if we relate with it constructively. Indeed, we have the capacity to overcome any situation if we allow our faith to guide us. The readings of today are clear about this point. In the gospel Jesus is asked whether only a few people will be saved. Interestingly he does not address the question directly, but simply answers that one should "strive to enter by the narrow door; for many, I tell you will seek to enter but will not be able." Many will seek to enter but not succeed, not because they do not desire to enter, but because they refuse to pay the price, because they seek to enter through the wrong route – the broad road.

Of course, as scripture tells us God's desire is that no one is lost but that everyone is saved. But no one will be saved unless we live as God wants us to live. That is the point of Jesus. Our salvation is not a matter of sentiment. It is not a matter of living just as we want. Rather it is a matter of living as God wants us to live and sometimes this can be quite demanding, given that we live in a world full of distractions that can pull us away from God, so that unless we are prepared to follow the narrow way, we may miss the road to salvation. The truth is that, while the narrow way may be hard and only a few follow it, it is nonetheless the way to salvation. Just because many follow the broad and express way of convenience, does not mean it leads to salvation. Consequently, because many people embrace a particular way of life, it is not a reason for us to endorse it. We must always ask whether it is in conformity with the will of God.

No matter the inconvenience associated with the narrow way we must see the experience as corrective and formative as the second reading urges. The basic truth is that there is nothing like mere suffering, as suffering has a redemptive value and it is an instrument of formation which God uses to bring out the best in us. Suffering may be painful in its contemporary situation and this tempts us to flee from it. Nonetheless, it leaves a wholesome effect in the end so that, if we are realistic, we will persevere in putting up with the pain in view of its promised succour. Lord help us to appreciate the redemptive value of the narrow way and always approach it in faith and through faith.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading, Acts of the Apostles. Ch 7. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
2. **HELP! The Presbytery garden** is looking somewhat overgrown and it would be great if we could get together for a garden **work party** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September between 10.00am to 12.30pm. I will provide tea/coffee, soft drinks and goodies to help you along! Please bring garden gloves, spades, forks, secateurs, tree cutters, strimmers etc and plenty of enthusiasm to get the work done! Thank you everyone.
3. The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.
4. Join March for Life UK on Saturday 6th Sept in London! The right to life underpins every other right we have and without it every other right is rendered meaningless. Abortion denies the most vulnerable in our society their most basic right, the right to life, which is why this year's theme is 'Human Rights for All Humans'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event where we recognise the value of life from conception and stand up for all those who have been impacted by abortion. Find out more at [marchforlife.co.uk](http://marchforlife.co.uk) or email [info@marchforlife.co.uk](mailto:info@marchforlife.co.uk)
5. Youth retreat- on Saturday 13 September, 11am- 4pm, for 13-17 year olds including talks, prayer and Eucharistic Adoration. Location St. George's Cathedral Primary School. Details at Youth Retreat - 13 September: Archdiocese of Southwark
6. The Southwark Catholic Youth Service runs a Young Adult Mass at 12.00 pm at St George's Cathedral, followed by a social at Amigo Hall. The next dates are; 3 August; 7 September; 5 October; 2 November; 7 December
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, Maureen Allanson, Lorraine Smith, Marion Weeks, Geaft Weeks, Jenny Doyle, Chris Davis, Jasmin Cameron and Vilma Fernandez.

## ANNIVERSARIES

† Please pray for the repose of the Souls of Olga Gudimenko, Zoe Schurmann, Margaret Oczkowska, Peter Cornelius, Lucy Watson, Henry Hayward, Leonard Board, Peter Ryan, Bert Bellingham, Andrea Abbott, Tine van Wakeren and Frank Johnson. *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***