



**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: Lizzy Payne Wed, Thurs p lease call

07831252314

Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday – 10:30am – 2.00pm

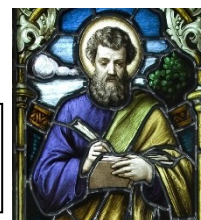


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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



TWENTY-THIRD (C)

Week commencing 7th September 2025 Mass Book Page 133

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18

Responsorial Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17 Response: O Lord, you have been our refuge, from generation to generation.

Second Reading: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. Let your face shine forth on your servant, and teach me your decrees. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 14:25-23

Saturday 6th September 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Vigil Mass	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 7th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass	Margaret (Peggy) Morris RIP
Sunday 7th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass	Private Intention
Monday 8th September	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed) The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
Tuesday 9th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Wednesday 10th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Thursday 11th Sacred Heart, Goudhurst		
Friday 12th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – The Most Holy Name of Mary	
Saturday 13th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	The Exaltation of the Cross Twenty-Fourth Sunday (C) Vigil Mass Second Collection-Catholic Education Service	
Sunday 14th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	The Exaltation of the Cross Holy Mass Second Collection- Catholic Education Service	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 14th 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	The Exaltation of the Cross Holy Mass Second Collection-Catholic Education Service	

REFLECTION, TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C)

Anything worthwhile in life comes at a cost; no true success comes without sacrifice and commitment. This is very true of discipleship, our whole effort to follow Christ. It is not without condition, so that we cannot hope to succeed unless we pay the price. It is not surprising therefore, that Jesus takes care in the gospel to lay down the cost of discipleship. As he says explicitly: "If any man comes to me without hating his father, mother, wife, children, brothers, sisters, yes and his own life too, he cannot be my disciple. Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

How can Jesus require us to hate rather than love? Is he not contradicting himself? How can he ask us to hate our loved ones who deserve our affection and care? Let us note that Jesus is not speaking literally here. The word "hate" as used in this context is the Semitic expression for "loveless". Understood in this sense, Jesus is not asking us to hate our loved ones in the literal sense. On the contrary, Jesus is actually saying we cannot love him less than our father, mother, wife, children, sisters and even the self. If we love him less than any of these, then we cannot be his disciples.

The point of Jesus, in other words, is that we cannot love anyone or anything more than we love him, if we truly claim to be his disciple. Not only must our love of him be primary, it must also supersede every other love such that no other love is in competition with the love of Christ. But, on the contrary, all other loves are subordinate to the love of Christ. We must love them less than Jesus. Yet if we must love our loved ones "less" than Jesus, rather than more than Jesus, we must be imbued with the spirit of detachment, as it enables us to prefer Christ to any other person or thing.

The basic truth is, that without the spirit of detachment, we cannot love God in all things and above all things. For it is detachment that enables us to let go of things and persons in moments of conflict and let God have his due place in our lives.

Clearly, therefore, discipleship is not a matter of sentiments but rather a matter of sacrifice and commitment; we cannot undertake the task of discipleship successfully without considering what is involved and whether we are prepared to pay the price. When we think through what is involved, we are more likely to succeed than when we rush into it without proper consideration. The question is: how much of God's love is there in my life? Are there persons or things that I treasure more than God, persons or things that take up the primary place of God in my life? Lord, help me to love you in all things and above all things.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading, Acts of the Apostles. Ch 9. 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 **13th 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. **Teas/coffees will be served after Mass on Sunday 7th**, together with the **100 club draw**. Please make sure your payments are up to date. This is the draw for August.
4. Many parishioners chose to sponsor the first volume of our parish mass books to a loved one, with their name printed on a decorated label on the inside cover. We have now moved on to the second volume of the six parts of the three year liturgical cycle and are offering existing and new sponsors the opportunity to dedicate this volume at the cost of £5 per copy. Please email the parish office to let us know if you would like to do this and, if so, to confirm to whose memory (or to whom, if the person is living) each mass book should be dedicated. Please also tell us how many of the remaining five volumes of the cycle you would like to sponsor.
5. **There will be a Second Collection on 14th September for the Catholic Education Service.**
6. **RIDE N' STRIDE** Please find the information at the back of the church and support this if you are able.
7. **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



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 John James Conlon, Margaret Thomasina Samuels, Patrick Sheridan, Peter Kohout, Gilbert Smith, Doris Coleman, Maud Stodart, Maud Micaleff, Anthony Stoneman, Gerard and Hilda Woolfe, Grace Hosking and Pat Tucker. *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