



**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

Tel : 01580211268 E-Mail: goudhurst@rcaos.org.uk

** 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 and Friday – 10:30am – 2.00pm

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050

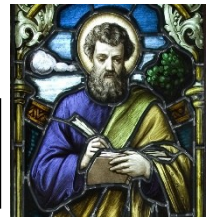


ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY 9:00am – 9:30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacred Heart, SATURDAY 5:00pm before Mass
St Barnabas, SUNDAY 8:00am before Mass



TWENTY- FOURTH (C)

Week commencing 14th September 2025 Mass Book Page 136

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14

Responsorial Psalm 50:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19 Response: I will arise and go to my father.

Second Reading: 1 Timothy 1:12-17

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia

Gospel: Luke 15:1-32

Saturday 13th September 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Vigil Mass Second Collection-Catholic Education Service	Paul and Barbara Cookson for their speedy recovery
Sunday 14th 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Holy Mass Second Collection-Catholic Education Service	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 14th 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Holy Mass Second Collection-Catholic Education Service	
Monday 15th September	FATHER'S DAY OFF (Office closed) Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial	
Tuesday 16th 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Saints Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, Memorial	
Wednesday 17th 09.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Thursday 18th Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	LIGHT A CANDLE Between 10.00am and midday.	
Friday 19th 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	
Saturday 20th 5.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Twenty-Fifth Sunday (C) Vigil Mass Second Collection, Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 21st 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Holy Mass Second Collection, Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization	Private Intention
Sunday 21st 10.30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Holy Mass Second Collection, Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization	Special Intention

REFLECTION, THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

The three Parables in today's gospel clearly illustrate the infinite worth of the sinner and the fact that on the part of God no sacrifice is too much in order to save the sinner otherwise how else do we account for the fact that a man with a hundred sheep will leave ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the missing one? The huge risk involved here is incalculable and from the standpoint of sound economics, it is not worth it.

Instructively, the same extravagance we witness on the part of the shepherd, in relentlessly pursuing and recovering the lost sheep, recurs in the parables of the lost coin and the prodigal son. In respect of the lost coin, the woman temporarily shifts her focus away from the nine out the ten coins and proceeds as if the lost coin was the only coin she had. But in the end her huge sacrifice is rewarded as she finds the lost coin, with the development provoking a celebration with his neighbours. In the parable of the prodigal son, the extravagance assumes the form of relentlessly wishing the return of the son, despite his misbehaviour, to the point that the father was almost looking out every day to see whether the departed son was returning. It is easy to underestimate the import of this looking out unless we understand the huge emotional resources it involved. It is more or less an indication that the father was no longer himself without his son. Once his son had departed, he became restless and all the time his thoughts were on him. True he did not quite set out to search for him. Yet the longing for his return was already a form of a search and the huge resources expended in this emotional longing cannot be underestimated.

What is evident therefore is this: whether it is the parable of the lost sheep, or the parable of the lost coin, or the parable of the prodigal son, the message is the simple one that the sinner is precious to God. Despite the pains our sins cause God, God is relentless in his effort to save the sinner from self-destruction and the recovery of the sinner is always a moment of celebration in the divine court. Perhaps, the greatest challenge that God's attitude to the sinner confronts us with, is the need never to write anyone off or ourselves. We should never give up on anyone nor give up on ourselves no matter how hopeless we might think the situation is.

If we understand that God never gives up on anyone but is prepared to stake everything as the parable of the lost sheep indicates, we will never despair of God's love. No matter what we have done or how grave our failing may be, we will understand that God is always there for us; God never shuts the door against us, but always leaves it open, thus allowing the possibility of our return. But more than just allowing for the possibility of our return he is also expecting us to return as the parable of the prodigal son indicates. It is one thing to leave the door open, it is another thing to expect our return. Expecting our return involves a more active engagement and that is what we see in God's attitude to the sinner. If we understand that God not only keeps the door open but actively longs for our return, we should not delay in returning to his love once we realize we have departed from the path of righteousness.

The point is, if we realize how much God loves us, we shall be quick to return to his love: memories of his immense love for us will also lead us to hate to offend him. Love is the cure for disobedience. If his love really dwells in our hearts, his love should move us to prefer him to self and indeed to every other thing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Bible Reading, Acts of the Apostles. Ch 10. If anyone has any questions, please contact Father Damian by email or phone.
2. **Please remember RIDE and STRIDE this Saturday 13th September.**
3. **We are pleased to announce that His Lordship Bishop Paul Hendricks will be visiting us on Sunday 28 September at the 10.30 Mass at Sacred Heart Church, Goudhurst.**
4. **Light a Candle, Thursday 18th September between 10am and midday** at Sacred Heart Church, Goudhurst.
5. **The Presbytery garden** – A big thank you to all who came on Saturday to help clear the garden. Father is extremely grateful. There are still some apples left at the top of the tree for picking!
6. 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.
7. **There will be a Second Collection this weekend and also on 21st September for the Catholic Agency for the Support of Evangelization.**



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 Walsh, Elizabeth Komber, E W Sharples, Christian Raynor, John Watts, James Martine, Alan Potter, Marie Adamkova and Cora Newton. *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 Aid: Please add your envelope number & name as a reference

SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVES

If you wish to report any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our representatives:

Katherine Lawson Tel: 077170312571

Kveta Waterman, Tel: 07732 785517