



**Parish of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Goudhurst TN17 1DN
and St Barnabas Catholic Chuch Hawkhurst, Kent TN18 4AH**

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** Livestreaming : Kentchurches.com

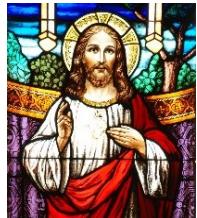
Website: <https://sacredheartgoudhurst.org.uk>

Parochial Administrator : Fr Damian Ildigwe

Parish Secretary: Lizzi Payne (Emergency no 07831252314)

Office Hours: Tuesday and Friday 10.30 – 2.00pm

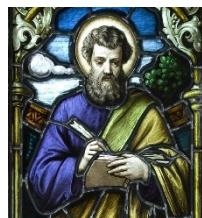
Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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



Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)
Week commencing 21st December 2025

Mass Page 90

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading : Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm:24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 Response: Let the Lord enter; he is the king of glory.

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel - which means, God with us. Alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Saturday 20th December 5.30pm **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) Vigil Mass Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	
Sunday 21st 8:30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	Missa Pro Populo
Sunday 21st 10:30am **Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) Holy Mass including the Nativity Play Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers	Vincent Brian Martin RIP
Monday 22nd	FATHER'S DAY OFF	
Tuesday 23rd 6.00pm Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	Weekday Mass – Feria	John Morris RIP
Wednesday 24th 6.00pm ** Livestreamed 11.30pm ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	NATIVITY OF THE LORD Christmas Carol Service and Vigil Mass – Mass book page 95 Mass during the night - Mass book page 98	
Thursday 25th 08.30am St Barnabas, Hawkhurst 10:30am ** Livestreamed Sacred Heart, Goudhurst	NATIVITY OF THE LORD – Mass at Dawn, Mass book page 101 NATIVITY OF THE LORD – Mass during the day, Mass book page 103	
<i>We wish you and your family a holy, healthy and grace filled Christmas and New Year. God bless you. Father Damian, Sacred Heart Parish</i>		

REFLECTION, Fourth Sunday of Advent (A)

We are reminded today of the need to always say yes to God even when we do not understand his plans for us. No matter how inadequate we feel about ourselves we should never ever say No to God. It is important to trust God and abandon ourselves to his providence. If we are truly open to the grace of God and desire to do his will, God will empower us to let go and accept his invitation.

Mary's initial response to God's invitation to be the mother of the saviour was one of confusion. She could not see herself in the light the angel cast her. The angel sensed her confusion and sought to diffuse this by casting light on how it was going to happen. She took time to explain to Mary, that although she was a virgin this will not constitute any obstacle in realization of God's plan, since the child will be conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. To encourage her to accept the offer and yield herself to this project, the angel presented for her consideration the case of her cousin Elizabeth who was well known to be barren. The angel impressed it on Mary's mind that through divine intervention she has since conceived and is in her sixth month of pregnancy.

The care the angel took to explain to Mary and secure her consent to this divine plan tells us how God treats us. Even though he is our creator he treats us with respect and never forces us to do anything, realizing that there is no value in any service that is not undertaken freely. Thus, the angel will not coerce Mary into accepting the invitation. He will leave Mary the space to consider the matter herself and make up her mind. Once she has completed her explanations, presenting her with all the elements she needed to make up her mind, the angel would leave her to respond.

This moment of waiting for Mary was a painful one, since, as a consequence of her freedom she could turn down the offer or accept the offer. She was not under any compulsion to accept. But the expectation of the angel and the entire heavenly court was that Mary will accept. Indeed, after some moments, Mary's answer came forth and, quite gratifyingly, it was affirmative, as she said in response to the invitation, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word." Mary's declaration of her consent here has been understood as the acme of the expression of her faith in divine providence.

The great lesson we must learn from the annunciation event, especially Mary's reception of the angel's message, is the need to be generous in giving ourselves to the service of God. No matter the difficulties involved, it is better to say yes to God. Saying yes to him concretely demonstrates our love for him, making it clear that we prefer his will even to our will. As we eagerly await the birth of our Saviour, let us be guided by the example of Mary's faith. Let us make her Yes, our Yes by letting go and letting God. The saviour wants to be born afresh in our hearts and rule over us, let us ask him to come and make his home in us. If, like Mary, we unite ourselves with the mysterious will of God, the word incarnate will come to dwell in us and fill us with his joy and peace. Nothing is as wonderful as having God to dwell with us

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Christmas and New Year Mass Times:

Friday 26th December: 10.30am St Stephen's Mass at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst

Saturday 27th December: 5.30pm at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst ** Livestreamed

Sunday 28th December: The Holy Family Mass: 08.30am at St Barnabas, Hawkhurst and 10.30am at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst which will be livestreamed **

Wednesday 31st December: Morning Mass: 10.30am at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst

Crossover Mass: 11.30pm at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst

Thursday 1st January 2026: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 10.30am Holy Mass, at Sacred Heart, Goudhurst, **Livestreamed

Tuesday 6th January: The Epiphany of the Lord: 9.30am Sacred Heart, Goudhurst, **Livestreamed Check time of Mass****

NB. Please give generously to your Priest on Christmas Day, as all donations will go to thank him for his care of our Parish.

If you need to contact Father urgently over the Christmas period, please use telephone number 07831252314.



Please continue to keep in your daily prayers the sick of our parish family, Noelle McFadden, Hannah Oliphant-Morgan, Jackie and David, Michael Kenny, 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 May Roberts, Edward Martin, Michael McRory, Desmond Cluley, Arthur Nutt, Mike Taylor, Norah Hudson, Betty Bennett, Martin Jackson, Maxine Hayes, Maria Roberts, Jean D'Arcy and Timothy Noel Sheehan. *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: 07717312571

Kveta Waterman, Tel: 07732 785517

