St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

Learning and Challenge Rooted in Faith

Newsletter No 7
Friday 16th October 2026

Harvest is a particularly special time in the life of our school, as we give thanks to God for the many blessings we receive. It is also an opportunity to put our faith into action by sharing what we have with those in our local community who may be experiencing hardship.

As we celebrate the gifts that God has given us, let us remember Jesus' call to love our neighbour and to care for those who are most vulnerable. Thank you, as always, for your incredible generosity and for helping our children to understand that faith is not simply something we believe, but something we live out through love and service.

'Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' – Matthew 25:40

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our Harvest Mass. Thank you to Fr. Joseph and to all the children who contributed by reading, singing, signing, playing instruments and serving. You all helped to make our celebration so special. It was also a lovely occasion to present badges to our new Mini Vinnies and to welcome our new Year 5 Pupil Chaplains.

Also, this week, St. Joseph's class enjoyed a local trip to experience a café. The children independently ordered from the menu and paid for their snacks. We look forward to seeing how this first-hand experience inspires their classroom role-play.

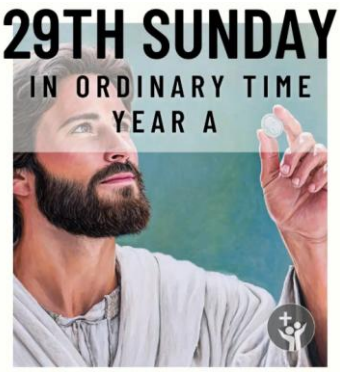
Congratulations to this year's Cross-Country Team, who competed at Medway Park on Wednesday. We are incredibly proud of their efforts and achievements!

Yesterday, the children thoroughly enjoyed a range of cultural activities with their 'Mati Mentor' buddies. The school was buzzing with music, dancing, collage, painting, performance poetry and mask-making. The children also developed some wonderful skills in Forest School, including making drums. The activities culminated in today's celebration assembly, where the children had the opportunity to share and celebrate their fantastic artistic creations and performances.

Have a blessed weekend,

Mrs McAlpine

Sunday 17th October 2026



"Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God."
(Matthew 22:21)

Prayer of the Month October

In October, we pray with Pope Leo for mental health ministry. Let us pray for people who are feeling very sad, anxious or lonely.

Contact Information | Email - office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk | Phone 01634 669700 | Website: https://www.st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk/

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 21st October
9:10 am Celebration of Achievement
(Invited parents only)
Parents/ Carers Evening

Friday 23rd October
INSET DAY (No children attend school on this day)

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Half Term
Monday 26th October - Friday 30th October

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Friday 13th November
Flu immunisation YR – Y6

Thursday 19th November
Used clothing collection

Friday 27th November
TAG Day (no uniform day)
(KS1 Chocolates/ KS2 Bottles)
2.30pm Rocksteady Concert (for those invited)

Thursday 3rd December
Year 3 Rochester Cathedral

Friday 4th December
2.30pm Advent Wreath Service

Wednesday 9th December
10 am Infant Nativity
Cross country Event
Christmas Market

Thursday 10th December
2pm Infant Nativity
Christmas Jumper Day

Friday 11th December
Grandparent's Tea Party

Tuesday 15th December
9 am Pre-school Advent Craft and Play
2.30pm EYFS Nativity

Wednesday 16th December
2pm Junior Carols
6pm Junior Carols

Thursday 17th December
Christmas Dinner
Christmas Parties

Friday 18th December
9am Gifts from God Assembly (for those invited)

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Our school is committed to safeguarding all members of our community

We have a detailed Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy and work hard to ensure that this is followed.

If you have a concern about a young person in school and believe that they may be suffering or are at risk of harm or abuse you should report it to the Designated Safeguarding Lead:

DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD (DSL):
Sarah McAlpine (Headteacher)

DEPUTY DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEADS (DDSL):

Becky Howell

Assistant Headteacher

Claire Read

Assistant Headteacher

Jayne Stuart

SENDCO

SAFEGUARDING GOVERNOR:

Lisa Brett

Please speak to us if you have any concerns.

Value of the Week Next Week

We follow the teachings of Jesus.

Catholic Social Teaching (CST) Principle of the Week

Caring for God's gifts
Stewardship

Newsletters

Our Newsletters can be eaily accessed on the homepage of the school website.

Learners and Superstars of the Week

Year R

Learner: Bella for showing excellent resilience when writing her name. We are so proud of you.

Superstar: Louie-for being a great role model and following class rules. What a superstar!

Year 1

Learner: Our learner of the week is Lawrence! Well done Lawrence for trying so hard to write and order your numbers this week. Keep up the good work!

Superstar: Our learner of the week is Ara! Thank you for being a kind, caring and compassionate member of St. Michael's class.

Year 2

Learner: Natasha- for such super Math's work this week. You independently completed lots of examples and really showed your great understanding of your number bond families.

Superstar: Momore- for showing excellent engagement and enthusiasm when joining in and singing along to songs.

Year 3

Learner: Marco for brilliant maths with week. Marco always participates in class discussions, works diligently and challenges himself. Well done!

Superstar: La'Rosa for showing our school value of compassion. La'Rosa is such a super kind and compassionate girl who looks after everyone and makes them feel happy and loved.

Year 4

Learner: Mrs Edwards was so impressed with you during Geography this week Ezekiel. She said your work on investigating different land use in Africa was excellent.

Superstar: Stephanie was a fantastic buddy during our musical session yesterday. She showed patience and kindness in helping her buddy to play the instruments. Thank you.

Year 5

Learner: Our learner of the week is Vanessa for her increased confidence when sharing her ideas in class- especially in Maths!

Superstar: Our superstar this week is Grace for always showing compassion to others, for helping out when she can and for always being a ray of positivity in the classroom!

Year 6

Learner: Our learner of the week is Regan for working his socks off this week to improve his handwriting! He has shown fantastic determination and produced a lovely piece of writing that he should be incredibly proud of. I am so proud of the effort you have put in, Regan — keep it up!

Superstar: Our superstar of the week is Lily G. for embracing her role in the Lunch Crew with such enthusiasm and responsibility. Her help and support have been invaluable to the adults, who have been incredibly impressed with her dedication. You are a real asset to the team, Lily — well done!

Times Table Rockstars

Fastest Rocco Y6

Highest Score Audrielle Y5

Most Improved Bonnie Y5

Star of the Week Anabel Y6

Cello Lessons

There will be no cello lesson next week.

Breakfast Club

Some parents have been leaving their car in the middle of the car park when dropping their children off to Breakfast Club. This prevents other parents and staff gaining access to parking spaces.

Please ensure that you park in the parking bays and escort your child to the door of the hall. Thank you

All breakfast club sessions must be pre-booked using Arbor.

Parents Evening
Wednesday 21st October

Parent Evening appointments can be booked via the Arbor portal or app.

If you have difficulty booking your appointment, please follow the instructions in the following link:

https://support.arbor-education.com/hc/en-us/articles/203792102-Booking-Guardian-Consultations-Parent-s-Evenings-on-the-Parent-Portal-or-Parent-App

Children should not attend the parents evening.

Attendance Winners for Last Week

1st Year 2
2nd Year 3
3rd Year 4

Wet Weather Coats

Please ensure that your child brings a coat in to school to wear at break and lunchtimes.

School Uniform

A reminder that our School Uniform Policy clearly states no jewellery, including earrings, should be worn in school.
If a child has recently had their ears pierced and are unable to remove their earrings, they will not be permitted to take part in PE lessons for 6 weeks, after which time they will be expected to remove their earrings. Children who are not able or permitted to take part in the physical element of lessons will be required to take on a coaching role, observation tasks or take part in theory-based activities.

Our policy follows national advice issued by the Association of Physical Education (AfPE). It is now felt that the taping of earrings 'creates a perception of safety and is not recommended'.

The most recent guidelines state: 'All jewellery should be removed prior to a physical education lesson due to the increased risk of it becoming caught or causing injury to the wearer or fellow learner. The wearing of any jewellery increases the risk of injury significantly.'

If you are considering piercing your child's ears, please do this at the start of the summer holiday so it does not impact their access to the curriculum.

School Dinners

Please remember to pre-order your child's school dinner each week. **You must check out the basket** after you have made your choices for them to submit to our system.

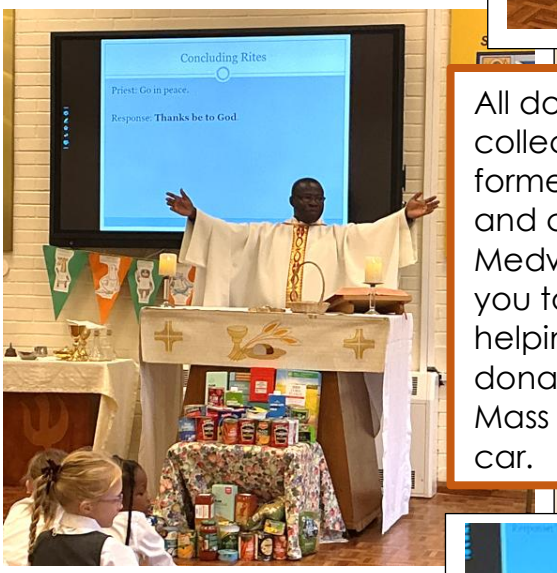
Foxes Den-After School Care

If you are registered for wrap-around-care, you are now able to book for the next term (Term 2) in Arbor. This is a change to the way you booked in Term 1.

You must have the funds in your Arbor account to pre-book the sessions, so if you pay via DFE tax free method, you must ensure you pay this in time for us to process the voucher once it has reached our bank account.

Cancelled or moved sessions will not be refunded (the system does not allow this) so ensure you have the correct dates you require when booking. Thank you.

Harvest Mass – Medway Foodbank



All donations have now been collected by Trish Mineham, a former St. Benedict's governor and current volunteer at Medway Foodbank. A big thank you to our Mini Vinnies for helping to organise the donations following our Harvest Mass and loading them into the car.

The children are continuing to enjoy celebrating Black History Month in October by listening to a range of different genres of music outside at lunchtime. This week, they listened to Soul and Motown.

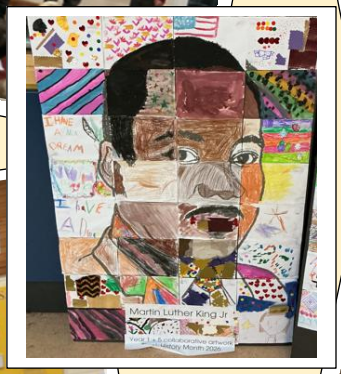
Year 1 African Rhythm Dancing

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Mrs Franklin's Geography Club with Year 4 and Year 5

To celebrate Black History Month, we learnt a West African dance and the changes Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King and Mary Seacole fought for.

The Arts Oracy Celebration



Year R - Walk to Local Café

CROSS-COUNTRY

Wednesday 14th October 2026

Medway Park

Year 5 Girls (54)

3rd Bonnie	5 minutes 55 seconds
51st Anjola	9 minutes 07 seconds

Year 5 Boys (51)

24th Malakai	5 minutes 56 seconds
31st Zion	8 minutes 53 seconds

Year 6 Girls (41)

34th Jasmine	7 minutes 37 seconds

Year 6 Boys (55)

6th Olly	5 minutes 15 seconds
26th Rocco	5 minutes 47 seconds
41st Frankie	6 minutes 32 seconds
42nd Yan	6 minutes 55 seconds
46th Korede	7 minutes 31 seconds
50th Cameron	7 minutes 58 seconds

Pupil Survey 2026 Results

Do you feel safe when you are at school?
99% of children agreed.

Are there adults in school who help you feel safe?
100% of children agreed.

Do you know who to talk to if you are worried about something or feeling unsafe?
99% of children knew who they could talk to.

Do the children treat each other with respect at school?
93% of children agreed.

Do you feel happy coming to school?
98% of children agreed.

Does our school help you understand how to use the internet safely?
96% of children agreed.

Do children respect each other's differences?
98% of children agreed.

Do you feel that everyone belongs at St. Benedict's?
98% of children agreed.

Do you feel that adults listen to your ideas and opinions?
92% of children agreed.

Do you think pupils help make our school a better place?
94% of children agreed.

Christmas Card Design Competition

This competition is, as always, open to **all** pupils, and there are just a few rules/guidelines for entries:

- Card designs can be hand-drawn or created using computer design
- Card designs must be no larger than A4 in size
- Card designs must be flat (3D designs and pop-up designs are wonder cannot be reproduced by our printers unfortunately)

SBA Bingo AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended our SBA Bingo AGM on Wednesday night. It was great to welcome new faces too! I am pleased to announce the Committee for this school year are:

Chair – Natalie Pastore
Vice Chair – Lauren Kondowe
Treasurer – Michaela Doyle
Secretary – Cat Beatty

St Benedict's Association
Our Schools Family

We would like to extend a big thank you to our amazing Committee for agreeing to stay on in their roles and all the parent volunteers for the brilliant events and fundraising that took place last year. Your energy and commitment continue to make a real difference to our school community and help support and enrich the education of our children. All parents are warmly invited to join this friendly group of parents and teachers, working together towards a common goal: supporting the children and strengthening our school community. Plans are already underway for the forthcoming year which will be shared very soon!

St. Benedict's Catholic Primary School

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2026/2027

School Tours for September 2027

for children born between 1st September 2022 and 31st August 2023.

Parents of children of all faiths are invited to visit the school for a tour with our headteacher, Mrs McAlpine.

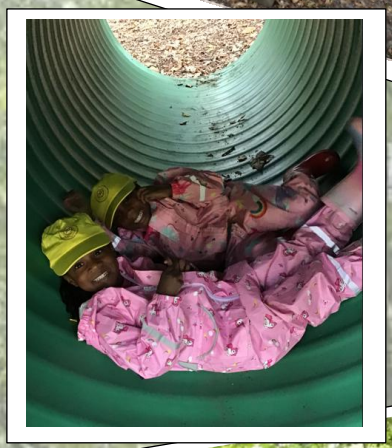
Dates and Times of Tours:

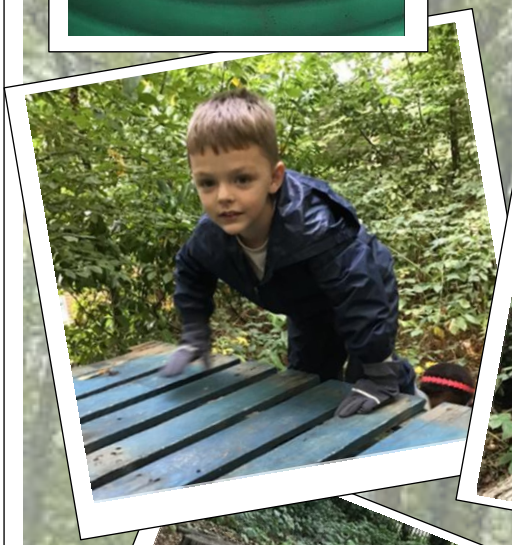
Thursday 1st October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 15th October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 22nd October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 5th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 12th November 2026	9:30am
Thursday 26th November 2026	1:15pm

Please book via the office:
01634 669700
office@st-benedicts.medway.sch.uk

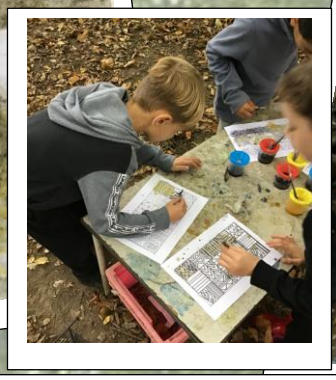
Kent Catholic Schools Partnership

Forest school Year R





Forest School Year 3



To celebrate Black History Month, Year 3 made African masks, played rhythms on saucepans and made African themed patterns in Forest School.

KENT AUTUMN / WINTER MENU 2026-2027

caterlink
feeding the imagination

		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WEEK ONE 02.11.2026 23.11.2026 14.12.2026 18.01.2027 08.02.2027 08.03.2027	**Option One**	Tomato Pasta with Garlic Bread	Pork Hot Dog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Roast Chicken, Stuffing, Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Beef Tortilla Stack with Rice	Fishfingers or Salmon Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Autumn Vegetable Lasagne With Garlic Bread	Veggie Hotdog with Potato Wedges & Tomato Sauce	Vegetarian Wellington with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Vegetable Pasta Bake	Cheese Whirl with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Baked Beans & Peas	Carrots & Swede	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Cheese and Crackers	Apple Crumble with Cream	Fruit Medley	Syrup Sponge With Custard	Jelly With Mandarins
WEEK TWO 09.11.2026 30.11.2026 04.01.2027 25.01.2027 22.02.2027 15.03.2027	**Option One**	Classic Cheese and Tomato Pizza With New Potatoes	Spaghetti Bolognaise	Roast Gammon with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken Meatballs in Tomato Sauce with Rice	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Mild Mexican Chilli with Rice	Veggie Spaghetti Bolognaise	Quorn Fillet with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Creamy Chickpea and Coconut Curry with Rice	Veggie Sausage with Chips and Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Baked Beans & Peas	Sweetcorn & Green Beans	Cabbage & Carrots	Vegetable Medley	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate Brownie with Chocolate Sauce	Fruit Salad	Sticky Toffee Apple Crumble with Custard	Golden Syrup Snap
WEEK THREE 16.11.2026 07.12.2026 11.01.2027 01.02.2027 01.03.2027 22.03.2027	**Option One**	Macaroni Cheese	Chicken Wrap with Paprika Wedges	Sausages with Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Chicken & Sweetcorn Pie with Crushed Potatoes & Gravy	Fishfingers with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Option Two	Sweet Potato & Lentil Curry with Rice	Vegetable Wrap with Paprika Wedges	Veggie Sausage and Roast Potatoes and Gravy	Tomato Pasta	Cheese& Bean Puff with Chips & Tomato Sauce
	Sides	Green Beans & Sweetcorn	Vegetable Medley	Carrots & Cabbage	Peas & Swede	Baked Beans & Peas
	Dessert	Oaty Cookie	Fruit Crumble with Custard	Fruit Salad	Ginger Cake with Custard	Jelly with Mandarins

MENU KEY:

- Whole grain
- Plant based
- Added plant protein
- Chef's Special

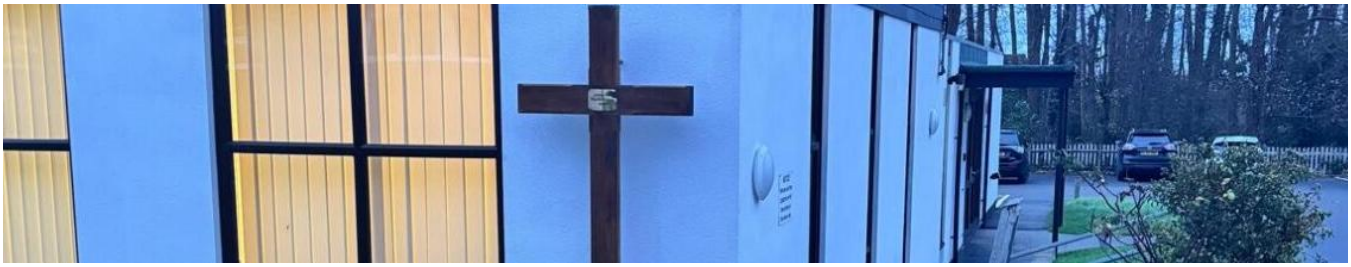
AVAILABLE DAILY: Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings, Salad Bar, Freshly Baked Bread, Fresh Fruit, Yoghurt

If you would like to know about particular allergens in foods, please ask a member of the catering team for information. If your child has a school lunch and has a food allergy or intolerance you will be asked to complete a form to ensure we have the necessary information to cater for your child. We use a large variety of ingredients in the preparation of our meals and due to the nature of our kitchens it is not possible to completely remove the risk of allergen cross contact.

Please note Christmas dinner will be served on Thursday 17th December.

Please be advised on this day jacket potatoes or sandwiches/baguettes will not be available.

Parish News



COMMUNITY FUND

Parish Of St Simon Stock

11th October 2026 **28th Sunday Year A**

This is the QR Code for First Collections for your convenience and flexibility. Please scan to donate. You can still donate using the gift aid envelopes or the contactless machines in the church lobby (please insert your card in this one) and the hall, or just by putting money in the offertory bag.

Continuing the theme of last week's parable, the vineyard becomes a wedding Feast. We have all been invited to God's banquet. This Sunday gospel urges us to take that invitation seriously. "For the hand of the Lord rests on this mountain" (Isaiah 25:10).

The Parish Pastoral Team and Council therefore request the pleasure of your company & friendship! We invite you, your family and friends to join the welcome Mass on Sunday, 18th October. We will be glad to see you!

I will be away for annual leave from Tuesday, 19th October to Monday, 16th November to visit my family and friends in Ghana. In my absence, Fr Michael Ryan and the Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will cover Sunday Masses and Weekdays Liturgy of the Word respectively. For emergency sick calls, do ring the parish office or Deacon Martin. *Fr Joseph Donkor*

PARISH HARVEST COLLECTION FOR MEDWAY FOODBANK 2026.

This weekend Oct 10th/11th we will be having our annual Parish Harvest Collection. You can use the new Shopping List which is inside your newsletter, to donate items that are currently needed in our warehouse. Please put your donations in the red Medway Foodbank Collecting Boxes in the church foyer. Thank you for your continued support and generosity to help others in Medway who find themselves in a time of crisis.

Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk
Deacon Martin Smith.
Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension
Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925, Website.
Email: walderslade@rcaos.org.uk Parish Secretary: Mrs Josie Ryder
Primary schools St Benedict's Mrs. S. L. McAlpine 01634 669700
St Thomas More Mrs. P Le Breton 01634 864701

St Simon Stock RC Church

Tel: 01634 862910 Mob: 07305 831925

KEY DATES & EVENTS 2026-2027

Archbishop's July 2026 Pastoral Letter states that focus on the youth is key, so the 1st Sunday of every month at 11am will be Youth Mass except in October

October 2026
- Sunday 11th October – Youth Mass (11am)
- Sunday 18th October – World Mission Sunday: Welcome Mass for New Parishioners (11am)
- Refreshments to follow in the Parish Hall

November 2026
- Saturday 21st November – Christmas Fayre 11am – 3pm
- Saturday 28th Sunday 29th November – First Sunday of Advent

December 2026
- 14th – 19th December 7.30pm – 8.30pm Holy Family Week (NB): Weekly Masses at 10am except on Friday – 8pm; Wednesday Adoration 2pm to 10pm
- Monday 21st December – Advent Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Thursday 24th December – Children's Nativity Mass 6pm Midnight Mass 11am
- Friday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord Mass 9am, 11am
- Sunday 27th December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph & Renewal of Marriage Vows at all Masses
- Thursday 31st December Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament (10pm) & Vigil Mass (11pm)

January 2027
- Friday 1st January – New Year Mass 10am, 8pm
- Sunday 10th January – Epiphany Carol Carol Service 3pm
- Saturday 9th January – First Reconciliation Service 11am
- 11th – 17th January – Fr Joseph's Christmas Break

February 2027
- Wednesday 10th 06 February Ash Wednesday Mass (10am and 8pm), Adoration 2pm – 10pm)
- NB: During Lent, there will be stations of the Cross on Mondays after 10am Mass and on Fridays at 7:15pm.

March 2027
- Monday 1st – Saturday 6th March Mothers's Week (UCM facilitators)
- Sunday 7th March Penitential Service & Confession 7.30pm
- Holy Thursday 25th March – Mass of the Lord's Supper 10am
- Good Friday 25th March – Children Stations of the Cross (10am): Celebration of the Lord's Passion 3pm; Stations of the Cross 7pm (led by KSC)
- Saturday 27th March – Easter Vigil Service 8pm
- Sunday 28th March – Easter Sunday Mass 9am – 11am
- 29th March to 4th April Fr Joseph's Easter Break

May 2027
- 6th May Ascension of the Lord – 10am and 8pm Mass
- 7th – 15th May Pentecost Novena (Programme will be available nearer the date)
- 11th May – Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11a
- 16th May Pentecost Sunday & Confirmation Mass at 11am (Bishop Paul Hendrick to Preside)

Feast of St Simon Stock
- Saturday 22nd May – Vigil Mass 6pm
- Sunday 23rd May – Mass 10am followed by Parish Celebration until 3pm
- Friday 28th May – FHC (Group 1) Rehearsal & Reconciliat 5pm
- Saturday 29th May – FHC (Group 1) Mass Noon
- Sunday 30th May – Corpus Christi Mass

June 2027
- Friday 4th June – FHC (Group 2) Rehearsal & Reconciliation 5pm
- Saturday 5th June FHC Mass 12 Noon (Group 2)
- Sunday 13th June FHC Thanksgiving Mass 11am (Group 1 and 2 to attend)
- Monday 14th – Saturday 19th June Fathers Week (KSC facilitators)
- Sunday 20th June Father's Day Mass (11am)

August 2027

Fr Joseph's Annual Leave

A welcoming community centred around Christ, seeking to help the people grow in faith, live in hope and love.

E-scooters

Enforcement

The police are obliged to take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances, the police have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act.

You risk a £300 fine, six penalty points endorsed on your driving licence and the E-Scooter being seized. If you do not currently hold a driving licence at the time of the offence, you may be prosecuted and may have to go to court, whereby the fine can increase and your ability to obtain a driving licence in the future may be affected. If you purchase an E-Scooter, it can only be used on private land with the landowner's consent.

Fire Safety

Kent Fire and Rescue Service always advise people to use, charge and store lithium-ion batteries safely and responsibly to help reduce the risk of a fire.

Lithium-ion batteries, or li-ion batteries (sometimes called LIBs) are found in many household items, including mobile phones, laptops, e-bikes, e-scooters, vaping devices, and vacuums.

If used or stored incorrectly, there is a risk these batteries could ignite or start a fire.

To help avoid an emergency, remember to:

- Buy electrical items from a reputable retailer
- Follow the manufacturer's guidance on charging and storing
- Only charge during the day when you are at home, and on a non-flammable surface
- Always unplug after use or when charged
- Avoid storing, using or charging batteries at very high or low temperatures
- Protect batteries from being damaged, such as being crushed, punctured, or immersed in water. If a battery has been damaged, don't use it.

And make sure to register electrical items at www.registermyappliance.org.uk/.

Additional information

For further detailed information regarding e-scooters please visit GOV.UK:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/powered-transporters/information-sheet-guidance-on-powered-transporters

Kent Police | Kent County Council kent.gov.uk | Kent Fire & Rescue Service | together Medway Council Serving You