



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **February 2026**

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Finance Pillar

Collections in 2026

Evangelisation Pillar

New Meditation Group

JPIC Group

Clothing Collection

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 pettswood@rcaos.org.uk

 <https://stjamespettswood.weebly.com>

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Pastoral Care Pillar

February 2nd The Presentation of the Lord

The Presentation of the Lord is celebrated on February 2nd. Mary and Joseph took Jesus as an infant to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfil the Mosaic Law for purification and dedication.

This was Jesus' first entry into the Temple and brought to fruition the prophecies of Simeon and Anna.

Simeon called Jesus the 'Light for revelation to the Gentiles' as he held the infant Jesus. He described Jesus as the promised salvation that brings Divine Understanding and Glory, not just to Israel, but to all nations



Prayer for the Presentation of our Lord

Almighty God we humbly pray that as your Only Begotten Son was, on this day presented in the Temple, so may we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ Our Lord.

February 11th Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

February 11th is the Feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. It marks the first of 18 apparitions of the Virgin Mary to Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto in Lourdes, France in 1858.

Mary requested Bernadette to pray for sinners, dig and reveal the spring of water and wash and drink there. Mary also asked Bernadette to tell the priests that people should come here in procession and to build a chapel.

Very importantly, She revealed to Bernadette that She is the Immaculate Conception "Que soy era Immaculada Conception".

Lourdes has become a world renowned sanctuary, attracting millions of pilgrims seeking healing and spiritual renewal. There have been many verified cures.

This date has also been designated by Pope St John Paul II as the World Day for the Sick, highlighting the role of Mary as healer and patron of the sick.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Our Lady of Lourdes, heal the sick, convert sinners. Health of the sick, Help of the suffering, pray for us. Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.



Ash Wednesday February 18th

Ash Wednesday begins a period of fasting and reflection in preparation for Easter and many receive the Ashes on this day. It is a very important time in the Church's calendar. Lent begins and we start our journey towards Easter, the Passion, Death and Resurrection of Jesus.

Lenten Reflections

- Remembering Jesus' temptations: Praying for strength as we face our own trials, just as Jesus did in the wilderness
- Focusing on sacrifice: Using our fasting from food/ distractions/ luxuries as a reminder to rely on God, not self
- Practicing Compassion: Praying for the world's suffering, injustice, and for a spirit of generosity
- Contemplating the Cross: Meditating on Jesus' suffering and love through devotions like the stations of the cross
- Seeking renewal: Asking for a deeper conversion and renewed relationship with God

SPECIAL MASSES FOR 2026

Autism Awareness.	Sunday 12th April, 11am
Anointing Mass.	Monday 27th April, 7pm
Dementia Awareness Mass.	Sunday 10th May, 11am
Bereaved Parents.	Sunday 17th May, 3pm (Hall)
Grandparents.	Sunday 26th July, 11am
Suicide Awareness.	Sunday 6th September, 11am
Anointing Mass.	Monday 5th October, 7pm
Domestic Violence.	Sunday 25th October, 11am
Memorial Mass.	Sunday 15th November, 3pm



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the January Winners

£100 Fin Robinson **Number 73**

£50 Will David **Number 98**

£25 Brendan Fogerty **Number 179**

£25 Richard Clegg **Number 28**

85

87

41

Thank you to all parishioners that have renewed their subscription to the 200 Club. Only six numbers are available **85, 87, 41, 176, 177 and 200**

Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to NatWest Orpington:

Sort Code 60 16 03

Account number 77878736

Account Name St James the Great 200 Club.

Monthly draws take place on the second Sunday with four prizes totalling £200 paid to winners with two BIG draws in July and December with four winners and a total of £1000 paid out.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans by telephone **01689 851793** or the Parish Office **01689 827100**

Second collections in February

1st February - Building Fund

15th February - Clergy Support Fund

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Clergy Support Fund - CSF/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

NATIONAL AND DIOCESAN COLLECTIONS IN 2026

National Collections 2026

1. Racial Justice Sunday 1 February †
2. CAFOD (Lent and Harvest) 1 March/4 October
3. Holy Places of Palestine 2 April
4. World Communications Sunday 17 May †
5. Day for Life 21 June †
6. Peter's Pence 28 June †
7. Sea Sunday (Stella Maris) 12 July

8. Evangelii Gaudium Sunday (Home Mission) 20 September
9. World Mission Sunday (Missio) 18 October

Diocesan Collections 2026

1. Maintenance of St George's Cathedral 25 January
2. Sick & Retired Priests (Clergy Support Fund) 15 February
3. Poor Parishes 22 March
4. Priests Training Fund 26 April
5. Catholic Education Service 13 September
6. Archbishop's Appeal 8 November
7. Catholic Youth Services 22 November

Parish Collections 2026

1. Easter Offering 5 April
2. Christmas Offering 25 December

If you are gift aider and use envelopes you will find envelopes in your box for all the diocesan collections. The gift aid from these collections is processed by the diocese and comes back to the parish. This applies also to donations which you make through our bank account or by using one of the multi-purpose envelopes which are supplied in the church porch.

However, this does not apply for the national collections and the only way to apply gift aid is directly to each particular charity. You can use the special envelopes when they are supplied (eg for Cafod) or again the multi-purpose envelopes but you must give your name and address and sign that you wish the charity to add gift aid to your donation. Alternatively, you can give directly using the charity's website.

The collections marked † are taken together on June 14 th

For the collections organised for our JPIC projects the parish receives the gift aid through the diocese and then makes an equivalent donation to the charity.

Don't forget that the Christmas and Easter offerings which go to Fr. Daniel can also attract gift aid. The priest himself is not a charity so he cannot receive the gift aid but the parish is delighted to add it to our general funds !

For any enquiries about gift aid please do not hesitate to contact us through the parish office.



Evangelisation Pillar

Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 6pm till 8pm, one hour of silent adoration and another hour of Worship. The next will be on **Friday 6th February**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. **Mondays 11am – 12 noon**, except for Bank Holidays, meetings are via zoom. Please contact the parish office who will arrange the zoom link to be sent to you. All are welcome.

Prayer Meetings on Thursdays

Charism Thursdays exists to establish a weekly spiritual hour of rest and worship, open to anyone who is interested in Prayer Meetings and in deepening their connection with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

During charismatic worship songs, each member is encouraged to participate and share their spiritual gifts from a place of liberty and freedom. Rest and contemplation in the Agape love of God is primary, contributions in scripture reading, words of encouragement, pictures and prayer etc is secondary. Along with the main focus of group singing, we focus on practices of meditation and circling. These types of practices help to facilitate transformative experiences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have already enjoyed our first few meetings with a good response.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the **weekly event, starting at 7pm** in the church.

Our Lady Of Lourdes Pilgrimage

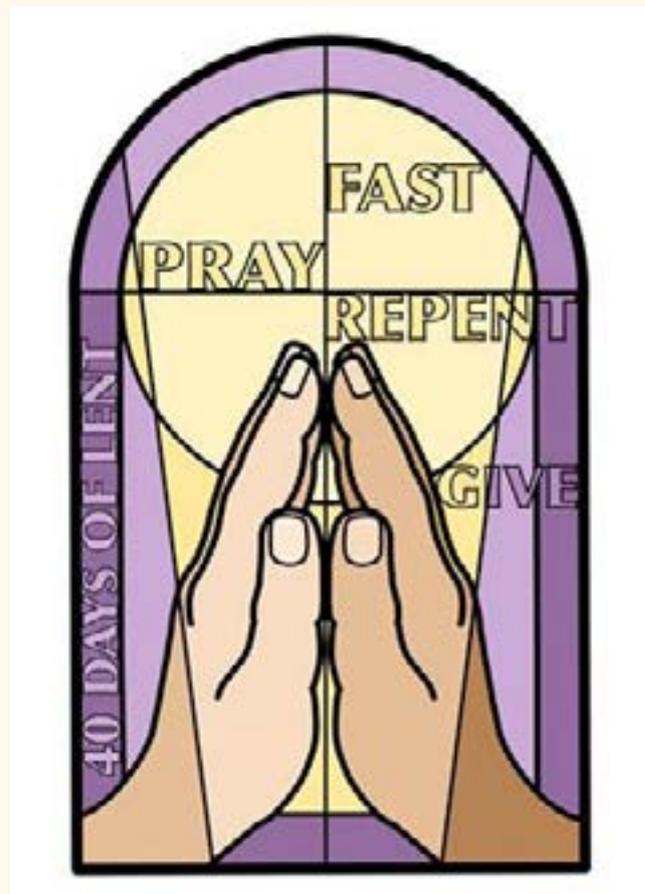
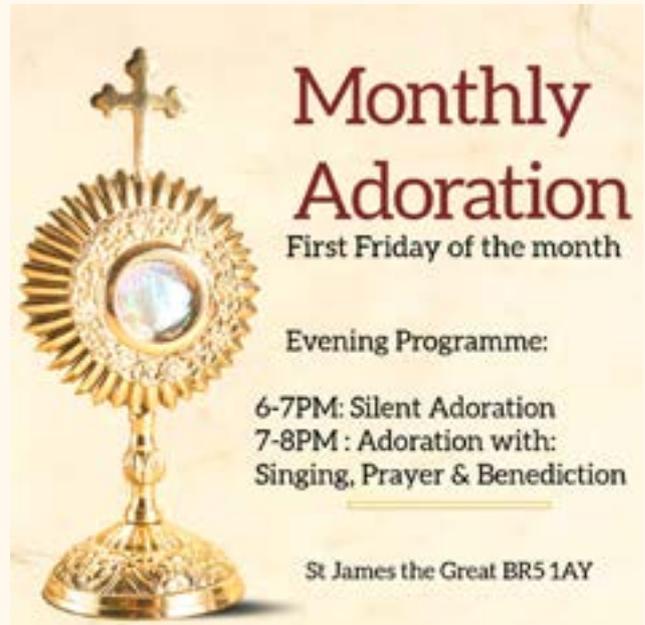
Join our pilgrimage to Lourdes travelling overnight by luxury coach from 9 to 14 February 2026.

It is always a beautiful and deeply spiritual experience soaking in the Spirit of Jesus as we travel to honour Our Blessed Mother.

Leaving Slough and Ealing Broadway on 9 Feb 2026 and departing Lourdes on 13 February for a visit to the Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Rue de Bac, Paris on 14 February morning and arriving in London later on 14 February 2026

Full board, exciting festival devotional program, experience the Blessed Sacrament Procession of the Sick, the Candlelight Marian Rosary Procession and the International Mass on the Feast Day followed by Stations, Confessions

and Adoration with Hour of Mercy. Travel, full board and program cost £590. Call millie on 07957594646 for more info.





Evangelisation Pillar

New...Starting in Lent: A Meditation Group

Tuesdays (from 24th February 2026) 11.00-12.00 - St James the Great - In the Church

On Tuesday 24th February Mark Fagg from the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM) is returning to St James the Great to start us off in this new venture. We meet in Church, with an opportunity for coffee/tea at the back, afterwards. All welcome

MEDITATION

was practised in the Early Church in the desert and in the monasteries.

In the latter part of the 20th century the practice was revived by, amongst others, Benedictine John Main, whose work is continued by the World Community for Christian Meditation (WCCM).

'God speaks to us in the great silence of the heart.'
Augustine of Hippo

Now starting at
Church of St James the Great, Petts Wood, BR5 1AY

Every Tuesday (from 24th February 2026)
11.00-12.00

ALL WELCOME

Any queries, please contact Joanna on: 0208 467 2459



Evangelisation Pillar

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group



Thank you to all the parishioners who supported the work of the Missions on World Mission Sunday last year. There was a great response to our appeal for donations. The second collections raised £585.47.

Thank you to everyone that is supporting the Missions through "The Red Boxes". In the last financial year over £400 was collected in this way.

Also, many thanks to all those parishioners who contribute to the support of Brother Valentino Gowe. He is a Seminarian, who is studying for the priesthood in Malawi, one of the poorest countries on earth. The support of the group here at St. James is covering the costs of the final four years of his studies.

Thank you, most of all, for your prayers, which hopefully will continue throughout the year, for all involved in this vital work to spread the word of God throughout the world. You too are part of the Mission family.

Clothing Collection

During Lent the JPIC group are planning to collect Men's clothes for **The Bromley Homeless Charity**.

They are asking for three specific items, all for men, during this cold weather.

These are **waterproof jackets, warm jumpers and tops**.

There will be a black bin at the back of church for your donations. Thank you.



Thank you!

St James The Great Petts
Wood for donating
889.65kg

of food in 2025 to support the work of Bromley Borough Foodbank. Your generosity and compassion have made a huge difference to those in our community facing hunger and hardship.

Kate
Foodbank Manager

Tel: 0203 538 5959
<https://bromleyborough.foodbank.org.uk/>
Registered charity number 1167961. Registered in England and Wales.



The current needs are for:

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- UHT Milk
- Cooking Sauces
- Long Life Desserts
- Cereals/Sugar
- Washing up Liquid
- Shaving Foam/Gel

There are two baskets available for your donations: both are in the main church entrance



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account
Bank NatWest
Sort code 60-16-03
Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank
Account number 77879007
Reference STJAMESPW
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.



Communication Pillar

Please may we request that no food and drink is brought into the church during Masses. If needed for medical reasons there is water available from the Welcomers during the Mass. Thank You

Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

Parish Register

If you are new to the parish or you have not previously registered with the parish please do so via the parish website.

Safeguarding

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics, recognise as coming from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness.

Our Parish and community must be a place of welcome, where each person is respected and loved, and in which everyone receives and shares their unique gifts. We support and protect each other and take care of those who may be vulnerable because of age, illness or disability or who may be vulnerable because of current or past life experiences.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of those who worship in our church or who join us for any activity facilitated by church members.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the Parish, please contact the Parish Office so that we can complete the DBS process.

If you would like to contact the Parish Safeguarding Team or the Central Safeguarding Office at the Diocese, contact details are:

Parish Safeguarding Team:

Contact via the Parish Office or:

Kate Charlesworth pettswoodsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk
07591 082743

Central Safeguarding Office safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk
0207 261 1606

Help Needed

Would you like to become a Welcomer? We would love some families who would be willing to come to Mass a little earlier to help hand out hymn books and Mass sheets.

We urgently need more welcomers at the Sunday 9.15am masses.

Do you have half an hour spare to help run the Repository (shop) after the three weekend Masses, 6pm, 9.15am and 11am Masses.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to help.

Holy days of Obligation 2026

Thursday, 14th May	The Ascension of the Lord
Sunday, 7th June	The most holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
Sunday, 28th June	Saints Peter and Paul
Sunday, 16th August	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Sunday, 1st November	All Saints
Friday, 25th December	The Nativity of the Lord

Wednesday Lunches

The next Wednesday lunch is scheduled for **Wednesday, 25th February**, from 11.45am. Please join us for a light lunch.

We are looking to add to our team of helpers. Please contact the parish office if you can help serving a light lunch to parishioners once a month.

The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos & indoor curling. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the **Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month**. Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people. Doors open **1.30pm**. All welcome.

New Girlguiding Leaders needed

We desperately need volunteers to help with our Girlguiding packs - Brownies, Guides and Rangers. Please help to keep these wonderful groups going. Contact Suzanne in the parish office if you would like more information.



Communication Pillar

Advent Wreath Making

A big THANK YOU to all those who supported our Advent Wreath Making Session on 26th November. There was a lovely atmosphere and you all seemed to enjoy yourselves. Everyone shared greenery, expertise and equipment, and produced a wonderful array of wreaths; each one unique, creative and different. We rounded up the event with a short Prayer of Blessing, and prayed that we would be living signs of the HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE that these Wreaths represented. A great way to make new friends, have fun and mark the start of the Advent Season! Put it in your diary for next year!

Joanna Longhurst



Petts Wood CWL

Petts Wood CWL would like to thank everyone for their donations and help in packing over 60 rucksacks for prisoners on their release.

On Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 1pm in the Community Centre CWL will be holding their February Section Meeting. We will be having a fun quiz about puddings and desserts. Please come along and join us.

Beetle Drive

On Saturday **28th March** CWL will be organising a Beetle Drive 7.15 for a 7.30 start in the Community Centre. This is a fun evening for all ages. Children are welcome if they are able to join in and play.

Tickets are £5. The Bar will be open and there will be a raffle. All profits will go towards Charities supported by CWL.

For more details please email: cwl@stjamespettswood.org

Film Night

Thank you to everyone who braved the cold weather to attend our Film Night on 10 January. We raised a generous £75 in donations for Living On Bereavement Service (livingon.org.uk), a local charity which offers individual, bespoke support to children & their families when someone they love has died. We have since received a warm response of gratitude to everyone for their generosity.

Our next film on Saturday, 7 February will be "Viceroy's House", starring Hugh Bonneville who, as Lord Mountbatten, arrives in Delhi with his wife Edwina (played by Pamela Anderson) to serve as the last Viceroy of India. His mission is to oversee the dissolution of the British Raj & India's transition into an independent nation, a task which presents him with numerous challenges.

The running time is 106 minutes. As usual the Community Centre doors & the Bar will be open from 7pm with the film starting at 7.30pm.

Advance Notice: Saturday 14 March

Our film will be "Witness For the Prosecution", based on Agatha Christie's murder mystery, starring Toby Jones. More details to follow in the March Newsletter.

Lead Volunteer wanted for our Scout Group

Can you help to create a space where young people can try new things, build confidence and discover their potential. We are looking for a positive, friendly Lead volunteer to help guide our Scout group and support the brilliant team who make weekly adventures possible.

No Scouting experience needed

No specialist skills

No huge time commitment (approx 3 hours)

Just bring enthusiasm, willingness to learn, and a desire to make a difference to young people.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Parish are in need of volunteers to help with:

Weekday Readers

**Making Teas and Coffees after
9.15am and 11am Masses**

Repository helpers to serve in the shop.

Wednesday Lunches helpers

Ushers for all three weekend Masses

Girlguiding and Scout Groups

If you have any questions and are interested in one of the Volunteer Opportunities listed above, or if you are eager to get involved in the Parish and nothing listed above appeals to you, please contact the Parish Office on **01689 827100** or via email at pettswood@rcaos.org.uk





The Big Bash!



JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS

ONE STORY WAS ABOUT A RICH MAN WHO DECIDED TO HAVE A PARTY

HE SENT OUT LOTS OF INVITATIONS

OH! NO!!

BUT PEOPLE STARTED MAKING EXCUSES

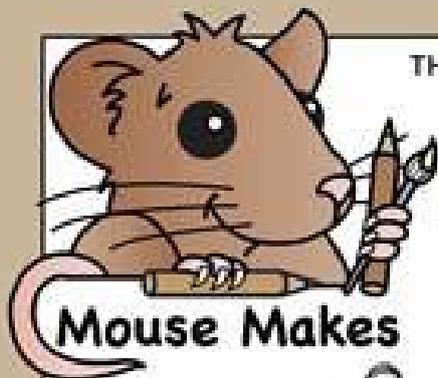
ONE MAN SAID HE HAD BOUGHT A FIELD, BUT NEEDED TO MEASURE IT

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE NEEDED TO TEST DRIVE THE OXEN HE HAS JUST PAID FOR

ANOTHER MAN SAID HE HAD JUST GOT MARRIED - AND HIS WIFE WOULDN'T LET HIM OUT!

SO THE RICH MAN INVITED ALL THE POOR AND NEEDY INSTEAD.

THE PARABLE MEANS WE SHOULDN'T MAKE EXCUSES FOR NOT FOLLOWING JESUS.



Mouse Makes

Read the story in
Luke 4:1-13



THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

After Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan where did the Holy Spirit lead him to? v1

How many days was Jesus being tempted by the devil? v2

What did Jesus eat? v2

What did the devil tempt Jesus to turn a stone into? What did Jesus say? v3-4

What did the devil offer Jesus if He worshipped him? What did Jesus say? v7-8

What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9

FIRST TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son order this stone to turn into bread."

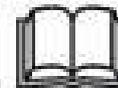
JESUS REPLIED:

"Man shall not live on bread alone."

Read Deuteronomy 8:3

WE LEARN:

Read the Bible
Learn God's word.



SECOND TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"I will give you power and wealth if you worship me."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Worship the Lord your God and serve only Him."

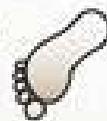
Read Deuteronomy 6:13

WE LEARN:

Put God first
Worship only Him.



What did the devil ask Jesus to do? What did Jesus say? v9



T W L D G
R O G L O R Y L O
I B A P T I S E D
V O F O O T H D



F O R T Y D A Y S S O N K L O R D N H
T D O W N O N W O R S H I P
T E S T W O R L D L T U N B
L V T E M P T A T I O N G R
E I A M J E S U S F N G D E
N L K P D E S E R T E R O A
T H O L Y S P I R I T Y M D
I M J E R U S A L E M F S J
W I L D E R N E S S J U M P

JESUS • BAPTISED • RIVER • JORDAN • HOLY SPIRIT • LED
WILDERNESS • DESERT • FORTY DAYS • HUNGRY • DEVIL
TEMPTATION • STONE • BREAD • WRITTEN • SON • WORLD
KINGDOMS • GLORY • WORSHIP • SERVE • GOD • HIGH



JERUSALEM • TEMPLE • SON • JUMP • DOWN • LIFT • FOOT • LORD • TEST • LENT

THIRD TEMPTATION

THE DEVIL SAID:

"If you are God's Son throw yourself down, the scriptures say God will take care of you."

JESUS REPLIED:

"Do not put the Lord your God to the test."

Read Deuteronomy 6:16

WE LEARN:

God cares, trust
Him do not test Him.





ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Pets Wood

February Calendar 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom	3 2pm to 3.30pm Memory cafe 8pm Table Tennis	4 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club	5 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding 7pm Thursday Prayers in church	6 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting 6pm to 8pm Adoration in Church	7 7pm Film Night	8
9 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom	10 2pm to 3.30pm Memory cafe 8pm Table Tennis	11 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm to 9pm Book Club	12 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguiding 7pm Thursday Prayers in church	13 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting	14	15
16	17 1.30pm Companion Club 8pm Table Tennis	18 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 7.30pm Catenians meeting	19 7pm Thursday Prayers in church	20	21	22
23	24 11am to 12pm Meditation in Church 1.30pm Companion Club 8pm Table Tennis	25 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 11.45 to 1pm Wednesday Lunches	26 7pm Thursday Prayers in church	27 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting	28	