



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



St James – A shining light in Petts Wood

IN THIS EDITION | **November 2025**

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Pastoral Care Pillar

November 1st to 30th is the month of Holy Souls

The month of November is traditionally a time when the catholic community remember those who have died. It is related to the fact that the end of November is the end of the liturgical year with a new year starting the First Sunday of Advent – the 4 weeks prior to Christmas.

The two very important dates that are observed in November are the **feast of All Souls** and **All Saints**.



All Souls Day, the 2nd of November, officially the commemoration of the faithful departed, is a day of prayer and remembrance for the faithful departed, specifically those believed to be in purgatory who are awaiting full sanctification.



All Saints Day, the day before, a Holy Day of Obligation, honours all saints and martyrs both canonized and uncanonized who have reached heaven. It is a day to remember those who serve as models of holiness.

Both All Souls' Day and All Saints' Day are associated with the Catholic Church, but members of other Christian churches also observe these holidays. In some parts of the world, the celebrations incorporate indigenous traditions and beliefs as well.

All Saints' Day is also known as All Hallows' Day, the Feast of All Saints, the Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, and Halloween.



Another important day of remembrance in the month of November is **Remembrance Sunday**. This year **Remembrance Sunday is on 9th November** and is held at the Cenotaph in London as well as many places around Great Britain and the World. In the UK it commemorates the contribution of the British and Commonwealth Military and Civilian Service men and women in the two World Wars and later conflicts.

The red poppy symbolizes remembrance and hope and is worn by many at this time. It is a tribute to those who died in war as well as a symbol of support for the Armed Forces community. The poppy is linked with World War I and stems from the poem "Flanders Field" [John Mc Crae]

November, the 11th month of the year, marks the transition from Autumn to Winter in the Northern Hemisphere, with shorter days and cooler temperatures.

At this time of year some people may be affected by Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) which is a type of depression that people experience during particular seasons or times of the year. It usually starts in the autumn or winter when there is less daylight and improves in the spring when the days start to get longer. The nature and severity of SAD varies from person to person. For some, it may be mild while for others it can be severe and have a significant impact on day-to-day life.

Helpful contacts: [Mind.org.uk](https://www.mind.org.uk)

Here at St James we celebrate our annual Memorial Mass on Sunday 16th November at 3.00pm to remember our relatives and friends who have died during the past year.

The format this year will be slightly different to previous years. This year we will read out the names and prepare a votive candle for all those whose funerals took place at St James as from 1st November 2024. We will also send out invitations to the families involved.

If you would like to remember a relative or friend at this Mass please give the name of the deceased person to the Parish Office and the PCT will prepare a votive candle in advance and have it ready for you to collect at the Church entrance.



Pastoral Care Pillar

Or if you have a votive candle from a previous years' Mass please bring it with you.

Once the names have been read out everyone else will be invited to proceed to the Sanctuary to light their candle.

After the Mass the Community Centre will be open for light refreshments and everyone is welcome to join Fr. Daniel and the PCT.

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Memorial Stars: Remembering our Deceased Loved Ones in a Special Way during November and the Christmas Period.

On **1st November** the gold stars in the Baptistry commemorating our deceased loved ones will be moved to the Sanctuary and prayed over at all Masses during the month of special remembrance.

Please note that all stars from previous years have been retained so it is not necessary to write or request another star if you have done so previously.

If you would like a star prepared in memory of a deceased loved one, please either contact the Parish Office with the details or speak to a member of the Pastoral Care Team who will provide you with a star.

For Advent the stars will be transferred to our White Memorial Christmas Tree so that we can continue to commemorate our missed loved ones during the festive season. The tree will be lit during the Parish Carol Service on Sunday 21st December, 3pm.

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Month Of The Holy Souls

November is the month of Holy Souls, we are encouraged to pray for the deceased members of our families, friends and loved ones. Please pick up an envelope that can be found at the end of your pew and place the names of your deceased relatives for whom you wish to pray for. Holy Mass will be offered for them during the month of November. Please return the envelope to Fr Daniel or the Parish Office.



Finance Pillar



Congratulations to the October Winners

£100 Ben Cleave - Number 63

£50 - Madaleine Shawyer Number 42

£25 - Cheryl Cosgrave Number 23

£25 - Ann Huntington Number 194

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

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.

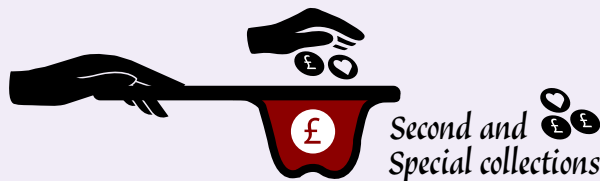
Monthly draws take place on the second Sunday with four prizes totalling £200 paid to winners with two BIG draws in July and December with four winners and a total of £1000 paid out.

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

Finance and Christmas

The building works are making great progress but it is unlikely that they will finish before Christmas. All the Christmas ceremonies will take place as usual but with regret we will be unable to hold the traditional Christmas fair.

Our Church fundraising initiative this Christmas will be focussed on a super large raffle with great prizes. Books of tickets will be given out after Mass as usual and tickets will also be on sale at Fr. Daniel's induction on Friday, 12th December. Please support our Christmas raffle generously, so we can maintain the income we normally receive from the fair and help pay for the building works being undertaken. You may be rewarded !



Second collections in November

9th November- Archbishop's Appeal

16th October- Building Fund

23rd - Catholic Youth Services

The second collection over the weekend of 8th/9th November is for the Archbishop's Fund. This fund has been launched to invest faith, hope, love and charity into the missionary work of the Archdiocese throughout South London and Kent, specifically in the areas of Youth and Evangelisation, Faith in Action and Clergy Care and Formation.

Over the weekend of 22nd/23rd November the second collection will be for the Catholic Youth Service, supporting youth work in the diocese and beyond.

Both these collections are diocesan collections so if you are an envelope user you will find a specific pink envelope in your box of envelopes. Otherwise you can use the one-off white envelopes or you can make a donation through the parish bank account or using the card readers. If you are a tax payer and you are not yet registered for gift aid you can easily register using the form on the parish website or by putting your home and email addresses into the card reader.

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

Archbishop's Appeal - AA/ Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Building Fund - Build/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Catholic Youth Services - CYS/ Gift Aid Number/ Surname



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 7th November**. 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.

First Holy Communion 2026

Children who are registered parishioners and are in school year three are invited to register to apply for next year's programme. Please contact the parish office via email pettswood@rcaos.org.uk for a registration form that will be sent to you.

ALL REGISTRATION FORMS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY **10TH NOVEMBER**. (Any applications after this date will be put on a waiting list for the 2027 programme).

Confirmation 2026

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions

start in December.

Please contact the Parish Office via email pettswood@rcaos.org.uk for a registration pack.

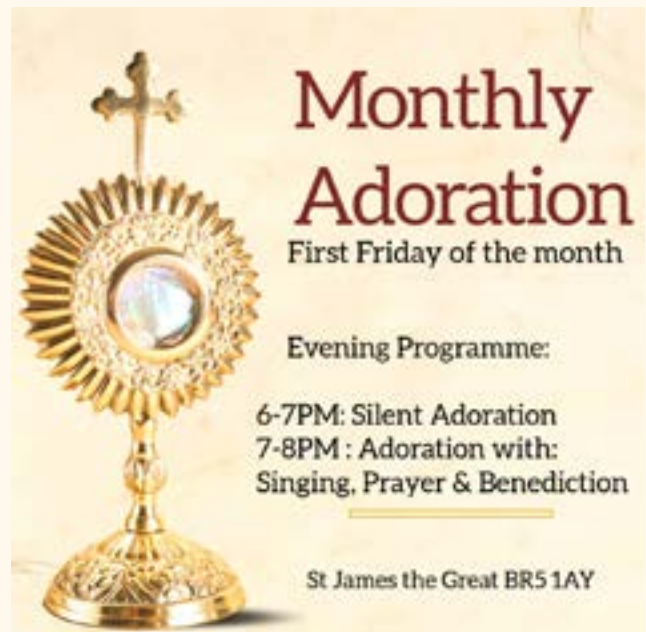
Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office as soon as possible.

Rooted in Love - an opportunity for married and engaged couples

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a monthly online meeting where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ.

Gathering monthly on Zoom Thursdays: 30 October at 8:30pm, 27 November at 8:30pm, 11 December at 8:30pm

Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information



A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 8 November 2025 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>



Evangelisation Pillar

St Carlo, my friend in heaven

"To be always close to Jesus, that's my life plan."

St Carlo Acutis

We were blessed to have the Relic of St Carlo Acutis visit our parish, at the end of September.



It was a truly beautiful, Spirit-filled weekend full of different activities focused on Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We began with a mass of welcome of the Relic; had talks about St Carlo's spirituality by Anna Johnstone, the Guardian of the Relic; a film night about his life; a service of veneration; a moving visit of the Relic to St James's school; and a powerful youth retreat with Anna (you can read more about this in the Youth pillar section). We finished by praying the rosary together and enjoying tea and cake, courtesy of the CWL.

Concurrently, we also mounted an exhibition in the church of The Eucharistic Miracles - created by St Carlo himself. You can see them again here: www.miracolieucaristici.org (and select the English version). Anna gave us a guided tour, explaining about more than one hundred church-approved miracles which help explain and affirm our faith that Jesus is really and truly present in the Eucharist at every mass.

The whole weekend was drenched in prayer, with four Abide in Me sessions of prayer, faith sharing and catechesis in the lead up to the event, with the final session led by Anna.

Scores attended from our parish community and from other neighbouring parishes, with one person travelling all the way from Bristol to join us. Many came to tell me how spiritually enriching they had found the weekend, with one person sharing that it was "life transforming" - praise God for that.

St Carlo said: *"The Eucharist is my motorway to heaven."*

Come for quiet time with Jesus in Adoration every Wednesday after the 10am mass and the first Friday of the

month, 6-8pm – drop in and stay for as long as you wish.

St Carlo, pray for us

Esther Theodore - On behalf of the Evangelisation pillar





Evangelisation Pillar

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group

REPAIR CAFE

Don't bin it, bring it to:

**Petts Wood Repair Café, St Francis Church Hall,
Greencourt Rd, Petts Wood BR5 1QW**

Autumn date: Saturday 29 November, from 2 to 5 pm. There is no Repair Café in December.

For a donation of either cash or card bring one item such as an electrical or electronic item, clock, bicycle, toy, or clothing for repair. The Repair Café can also sharpen knives and tools. Unfortunately flat screen TVs cannot be repaired because manufacturers do not supply spares parts.

Enjoy coffee and cake while you wait but please bear with them if you have a wait as demand can be high.

Contact: pettswoodrepaircafe@gmail.com.



The Orpington Repair Cafe is a charity with skilled volunteers who help to repair household items. Bring along any broken items like kettles or toasters or clothes that need mending.

We extend the lifespan of products, actively reduce waste

and have a positive impact on our environment.

The volunteers will do their best to fix it for you for FREE while you enjoy a cup of a tea and a slice of cake.

Join us on 15 November from 10am - 1pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Worlds End Lane, Green Street Green, BR6 6AG.

Currys - Cash For Trash – £5 off voucher

At Currys' stores you can recycle for free your old small electrical goods and tech (working or not) and whether it was bought from Currys or elsewhere. Eligible recycling items may entitle you to a £5 voucher off your next eligible purchase. There is a minimum £25 spend to redeem the £5 voucher. Terms and Conditions apply. See <https://www.currys.co.uk/services/delivery-installation/recycling.html#how> and track down the page for the information about Cash for Trash.

Parish Overseas Project Rainwater Harvesting In Tanzania

Firstly thank you for your tremendous generosity during this last year which has meant that two parishes in Kenya have benefitted from access to clean water from the installation of the rainwater harvesting tanks.

£3,500 for 4 Tanks for Water Harvesting at Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent - Tabora, Tanzania

The next phase of our current parish overseas project will fund the installation of four very large rainwater harvesting tanks at Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Tabora, Tanzania. The gutters are already fixed to the convent buildings but the rainwater harvesting tanks need to be installed. The rainwater collected in three of these tanks will be used by the convent and the fourth tank will be used specifically by the students of the nearby school who frequently come to the convent seeking drinking water during the dry season.

According to the UNICEF Data Warehouse report for Tanzania in 2024 only 31% of the population were using safely managed drinking water services. Government water bills are very expensive in Tanzania and the quality of this water is not guaranteed so the convent really struggles to afford this additional financial burden. Almost half of its 53.4 million people live on less than \$1.90 per day and life expectancy is just 61.71 years.

The rainwater harvesting tanks will be installed at the end corner of the building



The school of 1576 pupils will benefit from the convent's water tanks.

The first collection for Our Lady of Good Counsel Convent, Tabora, Tanzania and its nearby school to fund the installation of four 10,000 litre water tanks will take place on the weekend of 29/30 November.





Evangelisation Pillar

Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group



The current needs are for:

- Sugar
- Sweets/chocolate
- Fruit Juice (Long Life)
- Bars of soap
- Ladies deodorant
- Tinned Desserts

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.

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

Church Carpark

During the remedial works which started on 1st September, the top car park will be out of action during the week days as this will become the contractors access point.

Wednesday Lunches

The next Wednesday lunch is scheduled for **Wednesday, 19th November**, from 11.45am. Please join us for a light lunch.

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, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. 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!

November's dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

Wednesday 5th and 12th

Tuesday 18th and 25th

Doors open **1.30pm**. All welcome.

Scout Group

If you have a child that has just started reception and you would like to put their name on for Beavers when they are 6 years old please email 3pwwaitinglist@gmail.com now.

Primary School application forms (Catholic Certificate of Practice)

If you are applying for a place at a Catholic Primary School and you need Fr Daniel to sign the form, could you please ensure that all paperwork and a family photo is provided to the Parish office by Friday 5th December at the latest.



Communication Pillar

Repository



Welcome to our new look Repository. Please feel free to pop in and browse our new stock. Christmas Cards and Advent Calendars are now on sale.

My Day By Day Booklets - Advent 2025 and January-February 2026's Day By Day booklets are now on sale in the repository at £1.50 each.

If there is anything you would like us to order we are happy to do so.

Film Nights November & December

First of all a big thank you to all supporters of the Film Nights! On account of your generosity, together with the £60 raised earlier this month, we have accumulated sufficient funds to cover the purchase of a beautiful Cope for Fr Daniel to wear on certain celebratory occasions. He is delighted with it & wore it for Baptisms on Sunday, 19 October!



Our film on Saturday, **8 November** will be "Military Wives", starring Kristin Scott Thomas, which follows a group of women whose partners are away serving in Afghanistan. They join together to start a choir & unexpectedly find

themselves at the centre of a media & global sensation.

The running time is 112 minutes. All donations raised will be sent to Bromley Foodbank to help them meet the increased demand in the run-up to Christmas."

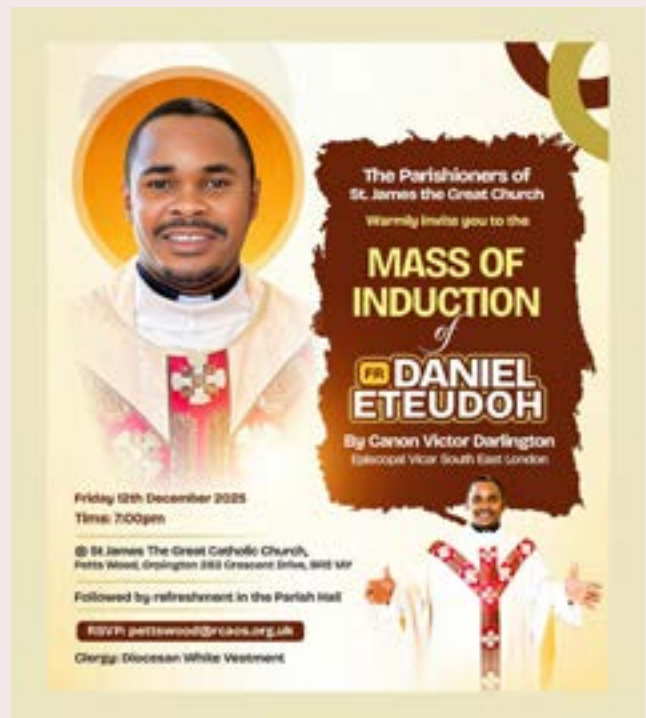
Our Christmas Film Night (with complimentary mince pies & mulled wine!) will be on Saturday, 6 December. Our feature will be "The Nativity Story" which is based on the accounts of the events leading up to the birth of Christ contained in the Gospels of Matthew & Luke.

The running time is 101 minutes. Any donations raised will be channelled towards something specific for our Parish.

As usual the Community Centre doors & the Bar will open at 7pm & the films will start at 7.30 pm

Save The Date

Fr Daniels Induction into the Parish will be on **Friday 12th December at 7pm**. All Parishioners are invited to attend the Mass followed by a celebration in the Community centre. Please add your name to the sign up sheet at the back of the church if you would like to attend (for catering purposes).





Communication Pillar

Advent Wreath Making



A chance to join others in the Community Centre to make your own Advent Wreath. It's a great way to start your Christmas preparations!

Come along on **Wednesday 26th November** 11.00 - 12.30 (or straight after Mass). Coffee and tea are available.

You will need to bring 1 oasis ring (preferably pre-soaked) 4 candle holders (optional but helpful) and 4 candles.

Please also bring your own secateurs and any greenery to share.

NB Children are the responsibility of parents and carers at all times

There is a sign up sheet in the Church Lobby if you are having difficulty sourcing your own oasis ring (£3 cash payable on the day) or candle holders (50p same). Deadline for orders midday Wednesday 19th November.

For further details please see posters and fliers at the back of Church.

Any queries please contact Joanna: 0208 467 2459

Christmas Day lunch with Fr Daniel

Would you like to help organise Christmas lunch for Fr Daniel and his parish guests in the Community Centre this year? If you would like to help please contact Suzanne and Caroline in the Parish office.

St Catherine's Catholic Girls School have the following vacancies:

Teacher of Science, Teacher of Psychology (and Sociology) (Maternity Leave), Teacher of Geography (Fixed term), Teacher of Science (Maternity Leave). For full job descriptions and person specifications please visit www.stccg.co.uk/vacancies. Thank you.

The Parish Office is collecting any unwanted sleeping bags so we can donate them to a homeless charity.

Petts Wood CWL November News

PACT - Backpacks for Prisoners as they are released from prison.

We are planning on packing the backpacks on Saturday 22nd November 11am - 1pm in the Community Centre. Please do come along and help. We will provide tea, coffee and biscuits. We will leave a box for donations for the backpacks at the back of church.

Contents needed - notepads and pens/pencils, toothbrush, toothbrush holder, toothpaste, sponge bag, flannel, soap dish, soap, shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, new pants, new socks, gloves, hats, protein bars. We will aim to provide packs for both men and women.

The packs show the prisoners that people are thinking of them as they start out on the next stage of their life as we include a card wishing them well.

November Meeting

This will be held at 1pm on Wednesday 26th November in the Community Centre. It will be followed at 2pm by a talk by local author, Kerry Barrett. Please come along to our meeting or join us at 1.45 for refreshments and the talk.



ST JAMES THE GREAT
Catholic Church in Petts Wood

November Calendar 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
					1 9.30am to 4.30pm Building a better marriage	2
3 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom	4 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers 8pm Table Tennis	5 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club	6	7 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings 6pm to 8pm Eucharistic Adoration	8 7pm Film Night	9
10 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom	11 2pm Memory cafe 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers	12 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm Book Club	13 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguides	14 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	15 10am to 4pm Journey In faith Retreat 7pm Youth Choir	16 3pm Memorial Mass for Deceased Relatives and Friends
17 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom 6.30pm Knights Meeting	18 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers	19 10.45 - 11.15am Adoration 11.45am Wednesday Lunches 7.30pm Catenians Meeting	20 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguides	21 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	22 11am to 1pm CWL PACT	23
24 11.00am Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom	25 1.30pm Companion Club 7pm - 7.45pm Firm Believers	26 11am to 1pm Advent wreath making 1pm CWL Meeting	27 4.30pm to 9pm Girlguides	28 5pm to 9.30pm Scouting meetings	29	30