

## This Sun (22<sup>nd</sup> Feb) Readings

1st Reading –Genesis 2: 7-9; 3: 1-7

Psalm –51

2nd Reading –Romans 5: 12-19 11am For Hannah, Billy & Eden and welcome to Rowan Spellman

Gospel – Matthew 4: 1-11

## Intentions

6pm Pearce Family Intentions

9am The People of the Parish



# Parish Of St Simon Stock



22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026

1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent A

**Hymns for 11am Mass: 185, 81, 585, 663, 151, 398**

**Ent Antiphon** When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

**Psalm response:** *Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

**Gospel Acc:** *Glory and praise to you, O Christ. One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Glory and praise to you, O Christ.*

**Com. Anti:** One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Mon 10am Feria

Tue 10am Feria

Wed 10am Feria

Thu 10am Feria

Fri 7.15pm STATIONS OF THE CROSS

8pm Feria

Liturgy of the Word

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Birthday Blessings Brian Jerstice

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION 2PM TO 10PM**

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:**

Friday 7.15pm to 7.45pm Saturday 5.15pm to 5.45pm

## Next Sun (1<sup>st</sup> Mar) Readings

1st Reading –Genesis 12: 1-4

Psalm –33

2nd Reading –2 Timothy 1: 8-10

Gospel – Matthew 17: 1-9

## Intentions

6pm Allan Fowler RIP

9am Hilda Knight RIP

11am The People of the Parish

## Deaths and Anniversaries

Please pray for all those who have died recently especially Martin Galliers, and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time of year: Patrick Nolan, Molly Bridger, Elizabeth McGrath, Leonard Miller, Clare Hartley, Joyce O'Neill, Margaret Bushnell, Oliver Slack, Luke Barber, Albert Attwood & Stephanie Duffy. May their souls, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

**Sick and Housebound:** We pray for all those who are sick and the housebound., and all those in our parish and their families. **St Simon Stock, keep them in your care**

**Mass Intentions:** Please make cheques payable to St Simon Stock Church. See website for details of how to make a bank transfer.

**100 Club (Parish Lottery)** - Cash Prizes to be won monthly! Annual Subscription £12 per number. Feb Winners: £50 No 311 James Carmichael £25 No 276 Tracy & Kevin Leahy

**Parish Gift Aid Scheme:** If you wish your offertory and other donations to be gift-aided please contact Sandra Rocco on 07720 772089

**Welcome to Lent.** Ash Wednesday brought us face to face with the transience of things and our own mortality. We started Lent humbly, close to the ground, close to our earthiness. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return." But the ashes are not just to commemorate the transience of creation. Our ultimate destiny is not dust and ashes but sharing in the Lord's risen life, becoming conformed to the image of Christ. As we journey towards that destiny, we hear the call to grow fully into the image of God's Son, which is a call to turn away from sin, to repent. The ashes are a sign of our desire to do just that. While Lent speaks of self-denial it also recalls the waters of Baptism. It trains us like athletes, to throw off the sluggish and heavy drag of gloom and pessimism, to turn aside from false values, so that our best self may emerge. This reminds us of the words of Pope Francis: 'Life grows by being given away...' In fact, all the synoptic gospels are very clear who was behind Jesus' journey into the wilderness. It was the Holy Spirit who prompted him, who inspired and impelled him to go there. St. Matthew says it was the Spirit who led Jesus out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. Let's pray that during this Lent we'll be driven people, people driven by the Spirit. That He may be the driving force of all that we do: a greater love of God (prayer), a more generous love of neighbour (almsgiving) and a truer love of ourselves (fasting). **Fr Joseph Donkor**

**Part-Time Parish Cleaner** for the Presbytery. Applicant must have previous professional cleaning experience and current permission to work in the UK and must also provide a current reference. **Hours:** 4 hours per week (on one day) This will be a 12 mth fixed term contract. **Pay:** £13 - £14 per hour, depending on experience.

**Interested?** Job description can be obtained from Parish Office. CV and covering letter to be handed into Parish Office. **All applications must be in by 8<sup>th</sup> March.**

## Supporting Medway Foodbank in 2025

During 2025 our Parish donated 1,364.1kg of food and everyday essentials to Medway Foodbank. A wonderful achievement! This enables them to continue the important work of providing three days of emergency food to individuals and families who find themselves in a time of crisis. Thank you all for your kindness and generosity towards others throughout the year.

Fr Joseph Donkor, 5, Bleakwood Road, Walderslade, Kent. ME5 0NF. Email: josephdonkor@rcaos.org.uk

Deacon Martin Smith: [martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:martinsmith@rcaos.org.uk).

**Please note: Parish Office is located in the new church extension**

Tel: 01634 862910. Mob: 07305 831925, Website: [www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk](http://www.stsimonwalderslade.co.uk)

Email: [walderslade@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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

## Parish News

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS FRIDAYS 7.15PM DURING LENT

If you would like to lead this please contact the parish office to book a date. Dates available are 6<sup>th</sup> March, and 3<sup>rd</sup> April. Fr Joseph will also hold the Stations of the Cross on Mondays after 10am Mass during Lent.

### UCM FAMILY FUN QUIZ IN AID OF MARY'S MEALS

This year the theme is UK Railway Stations. Sheets will be on sale after all weekend masses next week and week after. Answers to be handed to a UCM Member or to Parish Office by 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Winners will be informed by 27<sup>th</sup> March and Answers will be available in Church and on Website by 28<sup>th</sup> March. Quiz Sheets cost £2

### PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Stella Maris are organising their inaugural Lourdes Pilgrimage, which will take place at the end of May. The Pilgrimage is open to sick, retired and active seafarers and fishers from the UK and EU, and there are still spaces available. If you know anyone who might be interested in joining us, please contact Deacon John Fogarty on 07851 019134

### DROP IN SESSIONS WITH FR JOSEPH

Tues 7pm to 9pm for anyone who wishes to see him about anything. Virtual session is available also for all parishioners living in London and those who maybe cannot get to church as easily. Ring Josie, Sandra, and Tanya in the office to make appointment'.

### BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSIONS 2026

these will run on Saturday mornings, 10.00 – 13.00 approx. on 18<sup>th</sup> April, 11<sup>th</sup> July and 17<sup>th</sup> October. If you would like your child to be baptised please let the office know which session you will be attending.

### PRAY THE ROMERO ROSARY AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL.

every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion on Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm, and again on Friday 6th and Friday 27th March. Let the rosary connect you to the Lord Jesus this Lenten season. Find out more at: [rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

### 100 CLUB SUBS

All subs need to be paid by the end of February £12 per number. Please either bring an envelope marked 100 Club with your name on to the parish office or pay by bank transfer to St Simon Stock Roman Catholic 60-50-01 79144055

### COLLECTIONS

15/2/26: 1<sup>st</sup> Coll GA £66, Non-GA £187.67

2<sup>nd</sup> Coll GA £24.50, Non GA £94.44 Clergy Support Fund

**Our budget that has been set for 2026 is £84,450. This is not money that we have, it is what we need to find through our weekend collections.**

## Community Events

Sun 22 Feb	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection for the Development Fund <b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS</b>
Mon 23 Feb	Cubs in the parish Hall 5.30pm to 7pm Rosary on Zoom at 6pm RCIA in parish office at 7.30pm
Tue 24 Feb	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm
Wed 25 Feb	ADORATION 2PM TO 10PM
Thu 26 Feb	Beavers & Scouts in the parish hall 5.45pm to 9pm Adult choir at 8pm in the Church
Fri 27 Feb	Confirmation Class in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm
Sat 28 Feb	Legion of Mary Meeting at 10am in the Parish Office <b>FIRST COMMUNION CLASS IN CHURCH &amp; HALL AT 10AM</b>
Sun 1 Mar	2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection for CAFOD
Mon 2 Mar	Cubs in the parish Hall 5.30pm to 7pm Rosary on Zoom at 6pm RCIA in parish office at 7.30pm
Tue 3 Mar	Evening Prayer on Zoom at 6pm UCM in the parish hall at 7.30pm
Wed 4 Mar	Funeral of Elizabeth Pollitt at 10am ADORATION 2PM TO 10PM
Thu 5 Mar	Beavers & Scouts in the parish hall 5.45pm to 9pm Adult choir at 8pm in the Church
Fri 6 Mar	Confirmation Class in the Parish Hall at 6.30pm Stations of the Cross at 7.15pm
Sat 7 Mar	Legion of Mary Meeting at 10am in the Parish Office
Sun 8 Mar	No 2 <sup>nd</sup> Collection <b>CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT 11AM MASS</b>

### Prayer for Peace

Father in Heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world! You sent Your Son, the Prince of Peace, for the salvation of the world. We pray that the Peace of Christ will reign in the whole world. Please protect and send aid to those who are at-risk. We pray for peace - we pray for all who are working towards it and for all who are in danger from these conflicts. We pray for an end to violence and war, we pray for wisdom for all leaders who have a hand in this. Lord God, please help those in most need of your mercy. Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, pray for us! Saint Joseph, Protector of Mary, Jesus and the Church, pray for us! Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, may your kingdom reign in all the world. Amen

### When I need help...



In these difficult times when finances are stretched to the limit, it is our Christian duty to help others. If you need financial support, please call Fr Joseph on the parish mobile or speak to him confidentially in person.