

Parish of St Theodore Cranbrook, Kent
together with
Benenden, The Chapel of Our Lady and St Joseph

Together with Staplehurst, Sissinghurst and Sandhurst

Priest: Fr Barry [Baz] Grant EMAIL-barrygrant@rcaos.org.uk

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Newsletter

✠ SUNDAY 22 February 2026- First Sunday of Lent- (A) – p 153

First Reading- Genesis: 2: 7-9, 3:1-7; *Psalms-* 51 (50): 1-18; *Second Reading-* Romans 5: 12-19; *Gospel-* Matthew 4: 1-11

Saturday St Theodore's 18.00 [for Sunday] –

SUNDAY Our Lady and St Joseph's 09.00 –

St Theodore's 11.00

1. **Missal Guide-** Intro- **523**; Creed- **541**; Each Prayer I- **593**, II- **605**, III- **613**, IV- **623**; Communion Rite- **633**
2. **Get Involved in Parish Life!** - You're warmly invited to join one of our parish teams – the Prayer Group, Tea and Coffee Ministry, Church Cleaning Team, Flower Decoration Group, or becoming a Lay Reader.
3. **Tea and coffee** after the Sunday masses next week - thanks to the tea and coffee-makers.
4. **Have you made your Lenten resolutions yet?** No worries if you haven't — there's still time! Try this simple formula to make your Lent meaningful and uplifting:
 - a. **Let go of one spiritual distraction-** Choose something that clutters your heart and gently set it aside — possibly doom-scrolling, comfort eating, or complaining. Think of it as making a little more space for peace.
 - b. **Add one life-giving habit-** Pray the Rosary each day, offer one intentional act of kindness, or watch the Archdiocesan *Ambassadors for Christ* videos to be inspired. Small daily steps can lead to big spiritual growth.
 - c. **Courageously face one weakness-** Pick one habit you're ready to loosen your grip on — gossiping, pride, swearing, or whatever tugs at your heart. With God's grace, even tiny victories count! Lent isn't about perfection — it's about progress, hope, and drawing closer to Christ with a joyful heart
5. **Join Archbishop John Wilson** and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent- see [Pray the Romero Rosary with Archbishop John this Lent: Archdiocese of Southwark](#).
6. Sign up to daily Lenten reflections from the **Southwark Spirituality Commission**. The email will arrive in your inbox each morning, featuring thoughts, Scripture and prayer- see [Lent reflections 2026: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)
7. In preparation for Lent, the **Catholic Truth Society** produces various books. *A Blessed Lent* by Father Bochanski uses the daily liturgy to help the reader to find a deeper understanding of Lent and Easter. See [A Blessed Lent | Catholic Truth Society](#).
8. Next Friday is the **Fast Day** to raise funds for CAFOD- [Lent Appeal 2026](#)
9. **Foundation Governors for St Simon Stock School-** There are currently two vacancies for positions as Foundation Governors (who must be practising Catholics) for St Simon Stock Catholic School. If you are interested in the role, please contact the Clerk to the Local Governance Committee: Avenziayau@kcsp.org.uk

Dates for your diary?

1. The Southwark Catholic Youth Service runs a **Young Adult Mass** at 12.00 pm at St George's Cathedral, followed by a social in Amigo Hall. The next dates are: 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 2 August
2. **World Day of Prayer 2026** takes place on Friday 6 March, when Staplehurst United Reformed Church at 3.00 pm. The service has been written by Christian women from Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come". These annual services are always enlightening and enjoyable and everyone is welcome to come along.
3. There will be a **Reconciliation Service** at St Francis, Maidstone, on Wednesday 11 March at 7 pm.
4. Join our **2026 Young Adult Pilgrimage** (ages 18–35) to Lourdes, led by Archbishop John, from 7–13 June. For details see <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/LD1006/>.

As always, I ask for **your prayers** for the wellbeing of the sick of this parish -----

God bless you all– Father Baz

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Monday St Polycarp (d.c. 155 AD), Martyr and Bishop of Smyrna
Tuesday St Adela (d. 1137)
Wednesday St Ethelbert, King of Kent (d. 616) or St Walburga (d. 779)
Thursday St Isabel of France (d. 1270)
Friday 10:00 -Mass at St Theodore's
10.30 - Rosary
Saturday St Theodore's 18.00 [for Sunday]

☒ SUNDAY 1 March 2026- Second Sunday in Lent - (A) – p 159

Second Collection for donations from the CAFOD Fast Day on Friday 27 February

First Reading- Genesis: 12: 1-4; *Psalms-* 33 (32): 4-5, 18-22; *Second Reading-* 2 Timothy 1: 8-10; *Gospel-* Matthew 17: 1-9

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NOTE: *Weekday Masses are held in the Presbytery at 10am, unless otherwise stated*

For details on feasts- - for St Polycarp see [St. Polycarp - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#); St Adela see [St. Adela - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#); for St Ethelbert, King of Kent see [St. Ethelbert of Kent - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#); for St Walburga see [St. Walburga - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#); for St Isabel of France see [CATHOLIC ENCYCLOPEDIA: St. Isabel of France](#);

Parish Contacts [all 01580 – except Tony and Margaret(A-M) which are mobile numbers]

Welfare Group: Father Barry 713364 or Judy on 892159. If you, or you know anyone who needs help, or Someone to talk to, please contact us and we will do all we can to help.

Preparation for Sacraments: Father Barry 713364 or Margaret 891187

Prayer Group: Thea 713882; Marie 713712; Tony 07812 159353; Judith 892159 Margaret (A-M) 07871 346343; Eileen 713126; Sheila 481260; the intention of the group is to pray for the same request on the same day. Telephone any member and your prayer request will be passed on to all the other members

Rosary Group – every Friday at 10.30 am [following the 10 am Mass]. If anyone would like to attend, please do come along, we would love to see you. Do come if you can.

Amazon- Support the Archdiocese of Southwark when using Amazon see <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/donate/support-as-you-shop/>



To set up Gift Aid for the Parish-

Facebook page- This content is not available at the moment

Newsletter- cranbrookgac@rcaos.org.uk - if you would like to receive an electronic copy please send your email address to editor or fill in the slip at the back of the church *Newsletter- 220226f*