



The Parish of St James's Elmers End

2nd August 2026 – 9.15am Parish Mass

18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

OPENING HYMN (CHFe 177)

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,

*Christ our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light.

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
pleasures pure and undefiled.

For each perfect gift divine
to our race so freely given,
joys bestowed by love's design,
flowers of earth
and fruits of heaven,

THE GREETING

✠ In the name of the Father, and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

PRAYER OF PENITENCE

The priest invites us to confess our sins

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary
ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me
to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us,
Forgive us our sins and bring us to
everlasting life. **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you,
we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

**Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,
only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of
the Father: receive our prayer.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus
Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the
glory of God the Father.
Glory to God, Glory to God,
Glory to God in the highest.**

THE COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing
kindness, that, for those who glory in
you as their Creator and guide, you may
restore what you have created and keep
safe what you have restored.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your
Son, who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever
and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord: 'Come, everyone
who thirsts, come to the waters; and he
who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price. Why do you spend
your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not
satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat
what is good, and delight yourselves in
rich food. Incline your ear, and come to
me; hear, that your soul may live; and I
will make with you an everlasting
covenant, my steadfast, sure love for
David.'

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 145(144):8-9. 15-16. 17-18. R cf. 16

**R You open your hand and fulfil us,
O Lord.**

The LORD is kind and full of
compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the LORD to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R**

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due
season.

You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing. **R**

The LORD is just in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.

The LORD is close to all who call him,
who call on him in truth. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Brothers and Sisters:

Who shall separate us from the love of
Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or
danger, or sword? No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors through
him who loved us. For I am sure that
neither death nor life, nor angels nor
rulers, nor things present nor things to
come, nor powers, nor height nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be
able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL (STAND)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew (14:13-21)
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Now when it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a desolate place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass, and taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and said a blessing. Then he broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

THE SERMON

We STAND to sing

THE CREED

I believe in one God
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible:

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father
before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the
Father, by whom all things were
made; who for us men and for our
salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy
Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us
under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand
of the Father.

And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the
dead:

whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father
and the Son, who with the Father
and the Son together is worshipped
and glorified, who spake by the
prophets.

And I believe one holy catholic
and apostolic Church.

I acknowledge one baptism
for the remission of sins.

And I look for the resurrection of
the dead, and the life of the world
to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

In the power of the Spirit and in union with the Son let us pray to the Father.

After each bidding is said:

Lord, hear us.

Lord graciously hear us.

at the end of the prayers

Merciful Father.

accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

OFFERTORY HYMN (CHFE 21)

**ALL my hope on God is founded;
He doth still my trust renew.
Me through change
and chance he guideth,
Only good and only true.
God unknown, He alone
Calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
Sword and crown betray his trust;
What with lavish care
man buildeth,
Tower and temple, fall to dust
But God's power, Hour by hour,
Is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
Deep his wisdom, passing thought:
Splendour, light and life attend him,
Beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore, From his store
New-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Still from man to God eternal
Sacrifice of praise be done,
High above all praises praising
For the gift of Christ his Son.
Christ doth call One and all:
Ye who follow shall not fall.**

THE PRAYER OVER THE OFFERING

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father.

May the Lord accept this sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:

... for ever praising you and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might:
Heaven and earth are full of your
glory, Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna
in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues

The mystery of faith:

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues until:

... for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.**

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**For the kingdom,
the power and the glory are yours
now and for ever.**

THE PEACE

Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your Apostles: Peace I leave you, my peace I give you, look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and graciously grant her peace and unity in accordance with your will. Who live and reign for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you
always
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

THE AGNUS DEI

**Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the
sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the
sins of the world, grant us peace.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you
should enter under my roof, but
only say the word and my soul shall
be healed.**

The people receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing, please bring this Order of Service with you.

COMMUNION HYMN (CHFE 478)

**Make me a channel of your peace.
where there is hatred,
let me bring your love.
Where there is injury
your pardon, Lord.
And where there's doubt
true faith in you.**

**Oh, Master, grant
that I may never seek
so much to be consoled
as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved, as to love,
with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
Where there's despair in life,
let me bring hope.
Where there is darkness only light,
and where there's sadness ever joy.**

**Make me a channel of your peace.
It is in pardoning
that we are pardoned,
in giving to all that we receive,
and in dying that we're born
to eternal life.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O
Lord, those you renew with these
heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing
care for them, make them worthy of
eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

The congregation **STAND**

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

✠ May Almighty God Bless you,
The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
Amen.

Go forth the Mass is ended.
Thanks be to God.

FINAL HYMN (CHFE 606)

PRAISE to the Holiest
in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

O loving wisdom of our God!
When all was sin and shame,
A second Adam to the fight
And to the rescue came.

O wisest love! that flesh and blood,
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against
their foe,
Should strive and should prevail;

And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine,
God's presence and his very self,
And essence all-divine.

O generous love!
that he who smote
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo;

And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach his brethren,
and inspire
To suffer and to die.

Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise,
In all his words most wonderful,
Most sure in all his ways.

PRAYERS

For those in need:

Bill, Roger, Derek, Pippa, Jeanette, Joyce,
Lucy, Vercilla, Pauline, Ross, Adrian, Jean,
Nick, Barbara, Pam, Daniel, Rolf, Mavis.
Jo, Christine, Barbara, Muriel, Joe

Recently departed:

Ronnie, Tony

Anniversaries of death:

- (1) Howard Smeeton, Joan Hood.
- (2) Florence Ling, Gregory Wilkins (Pr),
Judy Mansfield, Jack Manistre.
- (3) Len Dampier, Philip Lyndon (Pr),
Ida Pool, Edith Kelley, Winifred Hall.
- (4) Joan Challenger.
- (5) Jim Murphy.

THIS WEEK IN THE BENEFICE

Monday

Fr Russell's rest day

Tuesday

7.00pm (*St James*)

Wednesday

10.30am Mass & Coffee (*St Michael*)

Thursday

10.30am Mass & Coffee (*St James*)

Friday

7.00pm Mass (*St James*)

Saturday

9.00am Rosary (*St James*)

9.30am Mass (*St James*)

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES

19th September

11am - 3pm

Table Top Sale

St Michael's Church

Contact the Benefice Office
to book a table

27 September 5 pm

St. Michael's Patronal Festival with
Bishop Lindsay Urwin

NEW VICARAGE

Fr Russell has now moved into the new
Vicarage. The address is:
The Vicarage,
15a St James's Ave, BR3 4HF
020 4568 4525

AYLESFORD PILGRIMAGE

Saturday 29th August at 11.00am Mass
Bishop Luke will be the celebrant and
preacher.

Bring a Picnic Lunch
and a chair if you don't want to sit on
the grass

LIVING WELL FOODBANK

There is a basket for non-perishable food
and toiletries for the food bank at the
back of St. James's Church

TABLE TOP SALE

St Michael's Church will be holding a
Table Top Sale on Saturday 19th
September from 11am - 3pm

If you would like to book a table or
know someone who might contact Jo at
the Benefice Office to book. Table are
£20 with a £15 charity concession.

TRADITIONAL AFTERNOON CREAM TEA

1st August, 3.00 pm in the church
gardens

A glass of Prosecco or a soft drink will
be offered on arrival
Tickets £10.00

Please call Jan to book 07939 088820

PICNIC IN THE WEST GARDEN

There will be no Fellowship meeting in
August, but you are all welcome to meet
up in the West Garden on 7 August
from 1pm. Bring along a packed lunch.
Tea and coffee will be provided. Even if
you do not usually come to the
Fellowship meetings you are more than
welcome

GARDENING PARTY

We shall be working on the grounds on 8th August from 10am and would welcome anyone who would like to help us keep our outside area clean and tidy. Refreshments will be served.

TOP OF THE PEW KNOCKOUT COMPETITION

Sunday 9th August 7 pm. in the church hall. Please come along and cheer on our team as they take part in the next round of Top of The Pew. We have been drawn to play against St. Joseph's Church, Bromley. There will be a collection in aid of Bromley District Talking News for the Blind.

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BENEFACTANCE CONTACT INFORMATION

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