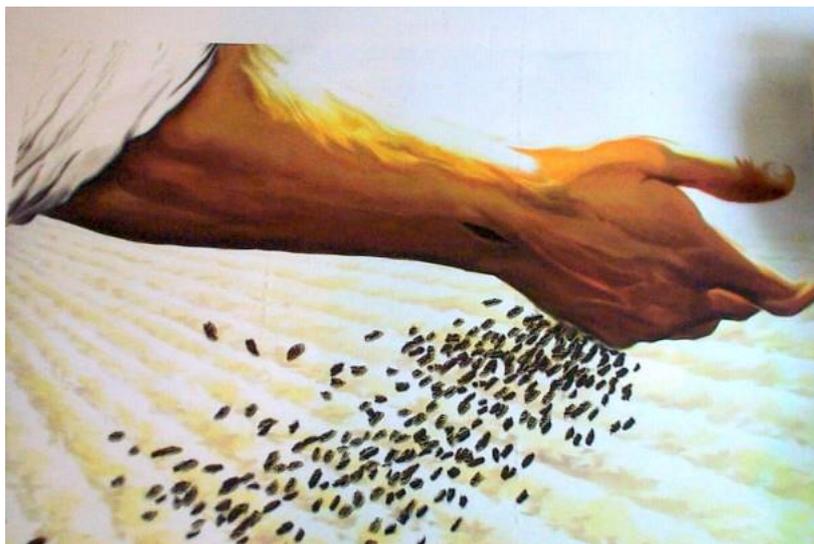

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Parish
Canterbury
(part of the Archdiocese of Southwark)

Our Parish Directory 2017/18

Sharing the Gospel



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

(Matt: 28.19)".

Introduction

This Directory has been produced for all who come to worship at St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church in Canterbury - those who have been faithful long time parishioners, those who are new parishioners and those who are passing through as students, tourists or pilgrims. All are welcome.

As a Catholic community united by faith in Jesus Christ, shepherded by God our Father, we are called to be "missionary disciples", proclaiming the kingdom of God. Nourished by the Eucharist and the Word, our parish family strives in company with fellow Christian communities to reflect the light of Christ.

As Catholic Christians we are all called to "go out and make disciples of all nations" and Pope Francis has renewed the call strongly in the 2013 apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* - The Joy of the Gospel.

The Directory aims to identify the very many ways our Parish is taking up the challenge of compassionately sharing our gospel in what is an increasingly secular world. My prayers and thanks are with all who volunteer to give their time and skills in these vital ministries.

Please take time to read through it carefully and to select the initiatives in which you - and perhaps your family too - would like to participate. All parishioners are invited to share in these areas of service in order to deepen our own faith and to learn how we can practically and effectively share that faith with those who do not yet know the love of God or have fallen away from practising their Christian faith.

Events will be publicised in the Sunday Newsletter and on our Parish website.

Canon Anthony Charlton
Parish Priest

Prayer of Cardinal John Henry Newman

The Mission of My Life

God has created me to do Him some definite service.
He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another.

I have my mission.

I may never know it in this life, but I shall be told it in the next.

I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons.

He has not created me for naught.

I shall do good; I shall do His work.

I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place,
while not intending it if I do but keep His commandments.

Therefore, I will trust Him, whatever I am, I can never be thrown away.

If I am in sickness, my sickness may serve Him,
in perplexity, my perplexity may serve Him.

If I am in sorrow, my sorrow may serve Him.

He does nothing in vain. He knows what He is about.

He may take away my friends.

He may throw me among strangers.

He may make me feel desolate, make my spirits sink, hide my future from me.

Still, He knows what He is about.

CONTACT INFORMATION

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church
The Presbytery
59 Burgate
Canterbury
CT1 2HJ

Website: <http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/stthomas/>

Email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com

Parish Directory email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com

The Presbytery Office is open Monday to Thursday between 9.00 and 15.00 hours and on Friday between 9.00 and 12 noon.

If you wish to make an appointment to see a priest please speak to our Parish Administrator.

Tel: 01227 462896

Did you know that our church was opened in 1875 and was extended in 1963 incorporating our church hall. At the same time our sacristies were extended and above them is the Parish Meeting Room. Along with the room underneath the Presbytery known as the Club Room, there are plenty of places for us all to meet as a community.....



Sharing the Gospel through Outreach

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Here are some of the ways we do this as a Parish.

What & Who	When
<p>1. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) We are your charity working on your behalf offering help and support to those most in need in our society here in Canterbury. We help the lonely, bereaved, impoverished and those in need of a listening ear or emergency financial support. Volunteering gives an opportunity to become part of a network of dedicated people making a difference to people's lives. We are part of a wider international organisation. We are open to members of our church who can bring experience or skills to assist us in delivering support to our community. We meet at 7pm every Wednesday in the upper room (no meetings in August). For further information please contact us: Contact: By telephone: 07902 855622 or by E-mail: svpcant@gmail.com</p>	<p>7pm every Wednesday in Upper Room (except August)</p>
<p>2. Canterbury Food Bank This is an inter-faith, local initiative that distributes food to people in crisis. Every weekend Food Bank bins are available in our church for your donations, which a small team then take to the Food Bank depot on a Monday morning. Anyone interested in helping or wanting more information please contact: Contact: Roberta Johnson: 07985 565888 or email svpcant@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>3. 16th. Canterbury (St. Thomas') Scout Group Our Scout Group remains one of the largest Groups in the local District; our numbers at the moment are healthy. We have at the moment just over 100 young members, aged from 6 - 18 years old; we meet every Thursday at St Thomas' Church hall. We have many activities going on during the year for all sections with many events. Church Parades are part of the Scout ethos but also demonstrate our appreciation to St. Thomas' Church for the support the Church. This Scouting challenge is there for all our young people and we hope that this is accepted and leads to the well-rounded development of our youngsters and ultimately to the good citizens of the future. Contact: Pam Johnson - rosswoodcampsite@hotmail.com Tel. 01227 761421</p>	<p>Term Time</p>
<p>4. Hospital Visitors Helping to bring the love and healing of Christ in the sacrament to those who are in hospital, sick or housebound. Mass is held in the Hospital at 10.30am the 1st Friday of each month. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>5. St Thomas' Website Our website is an evolving and vital window on what St Thomas's Parish offers to the whole of our own Catholic community and to the wider community outside of our church. Up to date news and event details are given along with times of services and special worship and celebrations. A short history of St Thomas' Church is there with details of our relics. A "Who's Who" in the Parish has been started. The website is an on-going project for development and volunteers are welcome to help with this. Contact: webmaster Ghazwan Butrous via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>6. Churches Together in Canterbury (CTC) As CTC brings together Christians from the churches in Canterbury. The common projects listed are Christian Unity Week (18th to 25th each January), the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Street Pastors, the Food Bank and other new/one off projects. We are all encouraged to have the desire to have contact with other Christians in whatever way we can. Contact: John Renn via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>See Newsletter as events arise</p>

<p>7. Polish Community at the St. Thomas' RC Church The Polish Community in Kent (PAK) was established in 1984. The main objective of PAK was maintaining the Polish language and culture. Our mission today is not only to maintain but also share our traditions and culture through the active involvement in the life of our local community. Every second Sunday of the month at 4pm, the Mass in Polish is celebrated at St Thomas'. This is followed by a meeting at 5pm for tea/coffee and nibbles. Lent, Advent and other special celebrations are also held for the Polish Community. All are welcome. Contact: Marta Gocek: info@polskakent.org</p>	<p>All year</p>
<p>8. The Syro-Malabar Community in St Thomas of Canterbury The Syro-Malabar rite is one of the oriental churches within the Catholic Communion and traces back its origin to St Thomas the Apostle. This is the second largest oriental church within the Catholic Church and this community is mainly from Kerala, one of the south Indian states. There are around 45 families within the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury. They have the Syro-Malabar Rite Mass on very fourth Sunday of the month at 14.30hrs. Catechetical formation for the children of this community is conducted on the second Saturday and the fourth Sunday of every month. Contact: Mr Noby Mathew - mob: 07454 812983</p>	<p>Syro Malabar Rite Mass 2.30pm every 4th Sunday</p> <p>Children's Catechism every 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday</p>
<p>9. St Thomas' Church Shop The Church Shop continues to serve the needs of the Parish, as well as Parishes and religious communities from surrounding areas. We are now the only remaining Christian shop (apart from the Cathedral). As well as the usual supply of Missals, Catholic Bibles, Prayer Books & Rosaries, we stock a good selection of Cards for many occasions, and Gifts prove to be popular. Books and Vatican Publications are available. To work in the shop is a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to our Faith. To have the time and space to be a listener, to share in the joys and sorrows of the people we meet daily, is an added dimension to ministry within the Church Shop. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact: via Parish email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>10. Missio Red Boxes</p> <p>The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF) now known as Missio Red Box scheme collects donations to support the Mill Hill missionaries, the only English Catholic missionary society, and to directly aid various Catholic dioceses and projects in needy parts of the world. If you would like to become a supporter of this important missionary work, please contact me.</p> <p>Contact: Tony Grace via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
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Sharing the Gospel through our Worship

Attending Holy Mass on a Saturday Evening and Sunday is the one moment of the week that truly brings us all together as a Catholic Community. Here are the Ministries that help make this a special occasion for us all.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Our Altar Servers Serving in the sanctuary during mass is a great privilege and honour. Like priests and deacons, the altar server is serving not only Our Lord but also the People of God, the parish community. Boys and girls who have celebrated their First Communion and are regular members of the St Thomas' parish community are welcome to join the altar servers. Altar servers are required for all the Sunday masses, including the Vigil. Duties include cross-bearer, candle bearers (acolytes), thurifer and boat server. Teenagers and adults are also welcome to join. Anyone who wishes to serve at either of the weekday masses is especially welcome. Regular attendance at Mass is expected, arriving 15min-20min before mass commences. Training will be given. Contact: Fr. Daniel or stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>2. Eucharistic Ministers Extraordinary Ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion are properly formed, instructed and commissioned lay persons. EMHCs may be male or female. These ministers are appointed for a given parish community to aid in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick and homebound when ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are unavailable. New Ministers are always welcome. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>3. Readers Reading the holy scriptures during the first half of the mass, the Liturgy of the Word, is a vitally important part of the entire mass. It is the Reader and not the priest or a deacon who proclaims the Word in the first and second readings on a Sunday: the Reader is the authorised layperson for this role. It is a privilege to proclaim the Word of God since Catholics believe that Christ himself is present in the Word, since it is Christ himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in church. As the CTS leaflet "Being a Reader at Mass" states: "Do remember, being a reader at Mass is a service to the liturgy, the Church and community, and requires a spirit of humility and fidelity, for which we should pray." Do not be shy about coming forward to the priest after Mass and letting him know of your willingness to read. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>4. Sunday 11am Mass Choir An enthusiastic and committed group of singers leading the singing at a Mass which offers a more traditional approach to our musical celebration. Friday night is practice night. Contact: Ben Saul via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>5. Sunday 9.30am Mass Music Brief practice before Mass at 9.00. Music is varied with both traditional and more recent compositions. If you can hold a tune in your head or on an instrument, then please come and join us, we really would be delighted to have you. Contact Mike Lilford or John Renn via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com The Youth Band plays at the 9.30 Mass on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.</p>	<p>9.30am Sunday Mass on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month</p>
<p>6. Sunday 6pm Mass Music The music group meets at 5pm (instrumentalists) or 5:30 (singers) to prepare for mass. Our emphasis is on leading the congregation in song. Currently the instrumental line-up is guitar, mandolin, violin and piano and our style is towards the folk end of the musical spectrum. If you would like to join us please speak to a member of the group after mass. Contact: Philip Gascoyne via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>7. Flowers</p> <p>Ours is a rewarding ministry to join. In giving our time to God we have the chance to decorate His house and to pray with others. It provides a wonderful outlet for creativity, and the incomparable pleasure of working with beautiful flowers. We are fortunate in having the gift of companionship - belonging to a welcoming and supportive group. What better way is there of relaxing than working with nature, providing a release from the stresses and strains of life.</p> <p>Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>8. Welcoming Ministry</p> <p>A smile and warm greeting is given at all Masses as people are welcomed into the church and given the necessary mass leaflets and hymnals. St Thomas' has many tourists, pilgrims and transient worshippers as well as a large, faithful congregation and the welcoming ministry ensures all are made to feel at home in our parish worship. We know this is valued by our visitors. Please come and join us.</p> <p>Contact: Tessa Metcalfe: tessa.metcalfe@btinternet.com and Sheelagh Smith: sheelagh.smith@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>9. Sacristans</p> <p>A dedicated and constant Team of Sacristans carry out this essential ministry in opening and closing the church when required, and prepare the Altar and Sanctuary for church services. New members to this vital team are welcome.</p> <p>Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>10. Church Cleaning & Laundry</p> <p>We are always looking for help with cleaning the church brass and regular dusting of the statues and other church objects. We also need help with laundering the church linen.</p> <p>If you would like to help contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>



Witnessing Our Catholic Faith

In an increasingly secular world we should be openly proud of being Catholic. Public affirmation of our faith and strengthening our faith through praying with each other is vital to the health of our Catholic Community. Below are some of the ways we do this as a Parish

Who & What	When
<p>1. Baptism Preparation Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life and the gateway to the life of the Spirit. It is the door that gives access to the other sacraments. It is always a great joy when our parish Children is brought forward for Baptism. Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday at 12.15 or during a Sunday Mass. Please fill an enquiry form - available through our website or at the back of the Church if you want your baby baptised. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>During a Sunday Mass or after the Sunday Mass at 12.15pm as needed</p>
<p>2. First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Programme Led by Fr. Anthony and supported by four catechists. This year, lessons will be scheduled for Sunday morning at 9am so that the children could also take part in the 9.30 Parish Mass. First Communion day will be celebrated on Sunday May 13th 2018 and the Going Forth Mass the following week. Contact: Kathleen Kerr & Annie Kean via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Parents Meeting 4th December 2017</p> <p>Children's Programme starts 14th January 2018</p>

<p>3. Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) The RCIA is the liturgical and catechetical process designed for adults attracted by Christ and his teaching. It supports them as they seek to respond more deeply and to enter into the Communion of the Church. Sponsors (and occasionally Godparents) may be sought from our parish community. Contact: Louise Beesley via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Programme Starting 4th October 2018</p>
<p>4. Confirmation Programme Baptism, the sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist constitute the 'sacraments of Christian initiation.' Confirmation represents the completion of baptismal grace: by confirmation, the baptised are 'more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285). In short, the sacrament of confirmation completes the sacrament of baptism: it is a coming of age. Here in the Parish, the confirmation formation programme runs from Advent to Pentecost each year. The programme is attended on a Thursday early evening, with an hour of catechesis. After the sacrament of Confirmation, the programme continues until Pentecost. Contact: Fr Daniel at stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Programme starts September 2017</p> <p>Sacrament of Confirmation 28th January 2018</p>
<p>5. Breakfast Mass Group After 7.30am Mass each Wednesday we meet to share breakfast at Weatherspoon's. It's good to talk and the food is plentiful, good and cheap! All are welcome. Contact: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>6. Sunday Coffee after the 9.30 Mass Come and meet fellow parishioners after the 9.30 mass for a mug of tea or coffee. There are refreshments and games available for the children. If you would like to help the preparation team: contact John and Marie-Claire Renn Telephone: 01227 768848 or via the presbytery email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year (except August)</p>

<p>7. Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) Catholic women join The UCM for a variety of reasons as meetings provide fellowship and friendship and are a blend of social and spiritual activities. The UCM meeting, literature and contacts provide ongoing fresh interests. There are opportunities for varied and valuable Catholic action but nothing should be undertaken at the expense of personal family life. Through unity with other members, many thousands strong, greater influence can be exerted on public affairs that affect marriage and family life. United in prayer, members never face life's difficulties alone but are strengthened by the support of fellow members. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Meet every other Sunday after the 9.30am Mass</p>
<p>8. The Canterbury Solitude Group We are a group of people who seek to spend prayerful time in silence in the company of others. We meet in Greyfriars Chapel. Our time together is based on a Franciscan model of solitude developed from St Francis's Document on Solitude. Each morning begins with refreshments, before we move into prayer. One of the group presents a short reflection, we then spend time in solitude in the chapel and grounds before gathering for an optional sharing. Our group is ecumenical, founded within our parish. If you would like to join us just come along. For more information - Contact: Louise Beesley 07962 256908 or solitudegroup@gmail.com</p>	<p>3rd Saturday of the month Greyfriars, Stour Street, 9am - 11.45am.</p>
<p>9. Scripture Group After midday Mass we meet in the Upper Room to discuss the liturgy for the following Sunday. Bring a packed lunch but tea, coffee and biscuits are provided! In a friendly atmosphere all are welcome. Contact: Patty Baxter, 01227 462200, Sheila Schlarmann, 01227 451903, Chris Richmond, 01227 450161</p>	<p>Every Thursday</p>
<p>10. Lenten Groups A series of Lenten discussion groups each Lent. A programme will be held in 2018 - look out for details in the Newsletter. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Annually in Lent</p>

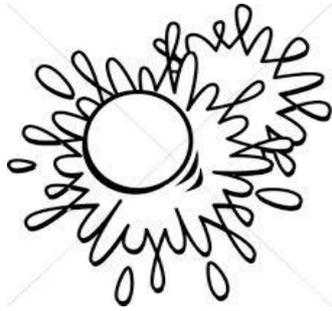
<p>11. Safeguarding our Parish Parishioners with a leadership role in parish groups in this directory need to be aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. Advice? Access the Southwark Diocese website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk (Go to 'Safeguarding' and downloadable resources to locate 'Parish Resource Pack' or to website of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) - www.csas.uk.net - resource area). Advice is also always available from the Southwark Safeguarding Office Team - telephone 020 7261 1606 (e-mail: office@sgo-rcdsouthwark.org) Contact: with the parish safeguarding representatives, Doreen Gambura & Peter Jones, who process volunteers' Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance, can be made via the parish office</p>	
<p>12. Anselm Study Circle A new group to discuss in depth theological issues based on articles published in scholarly journals like <i>Communio</i> or <i>Concilium</i>. All welcome. The first meeting will be 2nd October 2017 - further details to follow or contact, via email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous: G.butrous@kent.ac.uk</p>	<p>Starts 2nd October 2017</p>
<p>13. Charismatic Prayer Group Prayer, song and scripture reflection. For more information please contact Sophie 07780025906</p>	<p>Every Monday 7pm- 9pm Upper Room</p>



Deepening our Faith

If we are to bring others to Christ we must ensure our own relationship with Him is developed and maintained through our participation at Holy Mass, an active prayer life and partaking of the Sacraments. Pope Francis tells us that Eucharistic Adoration and Confession are two pillars of sharing the Gospel.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Eucharistic Adoration Spending quiet time in the presence of Our Lord in order to refresh and restore us in His service. Contact: See Newsletter for details</p>	Monday (7pm - 9pm) Wednesday (7pm - 8.30pm) Friday (8pm - 9pm)
<p>2. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) In forgiving our sins, Christ reaffirms and renews us in His Service, giving us grace and strength to meet our vocational, spiritual and pastoral needs. Contact: See Newsletter for details</p>	See Newsletter for details
<p>3. Pilgrimages Pilgrimages to Fatima, Lourdes and the Holy Land are being planned for 2018. Look out for details in the Newsletter. Contact: Canon Anthony via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	See Newsletter for details
<p>4. Spiritual Direction Spiritual direction is the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. The person seeking direction shares stories of his or her encounters of the divine, or how he or she is experiencing spiritual issues. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	As needed



Sharing the Gospel with our Youth

Focusing on retaining and sustaining our future generations of Catholic faithful is essential for the continuity of our faith. So often the demands and attractions of the secular world claim our young people as they struggle to find what our Catholic faith can offer them. Below are some of the things we offer in our Parish.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Pub & Prayer For young Catholic adults in the Parish, this group is for people between the ages of 18-35 who live, work or study in Canterbury. Our weekly sessions aim to provide some degree of spiritual formation for young Catholics as well as organised social events. The first part of the evening we meet in the Parish room at 7.45pm and then socialise locally. Contact email: Fr Daniel at stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Weekly Thursday evenings 7.45pm</p>
<p>2. Children's Liturgy Group For the under sixes and over sixes in separate groups each week. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>At Sunday 9.30am Mass</p>
<p>3. Children's Music Welcoming all young people to be part of our worshipping community through using their musical talent. We hope in 2017/18 to encourage and develop our young people's musical talents much more. Look out for the Newsletter for further information. Contact email: Fr Daniel and Ben Saul via stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Term Time See Newsletter for further information</p>

<p>4. Catholic Schools Canterbury has two excellent Catholic Schools: - St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: http://www.st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/ - St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: http://www.stanselmscanterbury.org.uk/</p>	<p>Contact websites for further information</p>
<p>5. Universities Canterbury is home to two universities, both of which have Catholic chaplaincies.</p> <p>- The University of Kent Fr. Peter Geldard 07970 228762 https://www.kent.ac.uk - Canterbury Christ Church University https://www.canterbury.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact your University Chaplaincy for further information or speak to one of the parish priests</p>	



Fundraising for our Faith

Prayer, attending Holy Mass and regular receiving of the Sacraments feeds our inner spiritual needs. We also have to look at the practical needs of our community and how to fund our maintenance and development. Below are some of the ways we do this in our Parish.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Gift Aid Scheme Donating through Gift Aid means the church can claim charities an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It won't cost you any extra. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and basic rate on your donation. What you need to do? Please make a Gift Aid declaration for the church to claim. You do this by filling in a form. This is an invaluable source of income for our parish. To find out more: Contact: Sam Harmison via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>2. 100 Club One hundred people paying £25 per year. Each month two winners of £20 each are drawn with an annual draw held at the Parish AGM. This Club contributes considerably each year to special Parish Projects. Contact: Mary McGillie via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year Drawn Monthly</p>

<p>3. The Organ Fund Renewed fundraising will focus on using our new Grand Piano to raise funds for a new pipe organ for the Church. If you are a UK taxpayer gift aiding your donation can obtain us another 25%. The gift aid forms are in the church entrance. Please include the form with your donation and put the envelope, marked Organ Fund, through the presbytery letter box. The clergy and fundraising team would like to thank those who have already donated. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year Look out for events in the Newsletter</p>
<p>4. Fetes, Bazaars, Auctions etc Fundraising through shared community celebrations and events while adding to the financial well-being of the parish. A new group is forming to initiate ideas for this vital ministry. all help and ideas are welcome for 2017/2018 to bring our community together and have fun while we do it. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>As per Newsletter</p>
<p>5. The Parish Finance Committee The Parish Finance Council assists the Parish Priest in the administration of parish temporal matters. An active, well-informed parish finance council is a key element in promoting the financial health of our Parish and St Thomas is very blessed with having such a group of volunteers. The Council normally meets once every quarter and produce the annual accounts for the Parish at the end of each calendar year. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>As required</p>

Our Parish Community in 2017/18

We came together as a Parish in December 2016 and decided we had to focus on the following in 2017/2018:

Fulfilling **Our Vision**

...which is to build trusting relationships with each other across every age group & nationality so we can reverently share in joyous celebration of the Eucharist and share the Good News with all.

Focusing **Our Objectives**

The 3 "F's"

- Faith
- Finance
- Fundraising & Fun

Our Current Projects

How we are working within our projects at the moment is the setting up of project groups to:

1. **Make the Most of Our Assets** - these are all the things we have as a Church community; our spirituality, our liturgy & music, our talents & gifts and our more tangible buildings and investments
2. **Redeveloping our Narthex Space** - this to make our church more practically welcoming and open to all but also to create, within our sacred space, room for us to spend time with each other
3. **Fundraising and Fun** - setting up a number of Parish Events such as a fair or bazaar that will become annual events for us to come together as a parish and raise funds at the same time
4. **Our Schools, Colleges & Universities** - how we can build on the relationships we have with these establishments and make sure people are welcomed into our community and encouraged to play an active role in their own future

All volunteers are welcome and the form on page 24 can be used or email to the Parish Office on: **stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com**

Pope Francis (*Evangelii Gaudium*).....

"The Parish is not an outdated institution; precisely because it possesses great flexibility, it can assume quite different contours depending on the openness and missionary creativity of the pastor and the community.....it really is in contact with the homes and the lives of its people, and does not become a useless structure out of touch with its people or a self absorbed group made up of a chosen few. The parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an

environment for hearing *God's* word, for growth in the *Christian* life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration."

Practical Ideas for Everyday Evangelisation

Our Catholic Faith is part of our daily life and we can share that faith just by behaving and speaking in ways that show by example - without undue fuss - what being a Catholic means today.

1. Wearing a cross or crucifix - even as a small lapel badge - as a reminder to ourselves and others that we are believers in Christ
2. Saying grace at mealtimes - wherever you are
3. Celebrating your saint's feast day - and find out something about them so you can tell people if they ask and as a reminder to yourself of why you were named after them
4. If someone mentions a relative or friend who is ill, offer to pray for the, Most people will be delighted they are being remembered
5. Similarly if you are ill or going through troubled times, ask others to pray for you and you welcome prayers from all people
6. Without putting yourself at risk of distraction - display a small cross or other religious symbol in your car as a reminder of God's presence is with you as you travel - may also calm any emerging road rage!
7. Display a crucifix or holy picture just inside your front door so your visitors know they are entering a Catholic house
8. Observe the Friday abstinence from meat when you are eating out with friends and colleagues and explain why you are doing this if you are asked
9. Know some of the saints "specialisms" e.g. St Thomas of Canterbury is known as the protector of secular clergy or St Anthony may help with finding things you have lost - bring them into conversation and explain why we pray for their intercession
10. If you are lucky enough to work near our big Catholic Churches and Cathedrals make time during your lunchtime to pop in for a visit and light a candle and perhaps take a friend with you - people are interested in our sacred places and rites
11. Take a moment to say the Angelus at 12 noon or 6pm as a reminder to yourself of being one with a community around the world that is remembering Christ's incarnation
12. Language is the most visible indicator of a culture and our Catholic Faith is expressed through the words and phrases we use. Try not to join in the modern trend for using the phrase "Oh My God" or "OMG" in your conversation and avoid taking the name of our Lord in vain. Our Baptism brings us into a very special loving relationship with our Father and this language - used as an expletive or way to express shock or amazement - demeans that relationship. If we are feeling brave enough, we could also ask others not to do it in our hearing

Prayers for New Evangelisation

Loving Father,
You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day
and live the Good News with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to “go out to the whole world and proclaim”
our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the Gospel
by our words and actions.
Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary,
so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever,

Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.
St Thomas of Canterbury, Pray for us
St John Stone, Pray for Us
Blessed Oscar Romero, Pray for us.

Please cut out below and return to the Parish Office with your details



If you are interested in participating in any of the initiatives outlined in this Parish Directory, please complete the slip below and return it to the Parish Office. You will be contacted by the relevant Team Leader. Thank you and God Bless.

Name:

Email address:.....

Contact Phone

I am interested in participating in

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