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

Our Parish Directory 2015/2016

Sharing the Gospel



The Year of Mercy

"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.

Pope Francis has also declared an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, starting on 8 December 2015, saying “The time has come for the Church to take up the joyful call to mercy once more. It is time to return to the basis and to bear the weaknesses and struggles of our brothers and sisters. Mercy is the force that reawakens us to new life and instils in us the courage to look to the future with hope” (*Misericordiae Vultus* No:11).

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 for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.

Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money;
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things;
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the
Samaritan woman:

"If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness
and mercy:

let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen
and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by
God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy,
you who live and reign with the Father
and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.

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

Fax: 01227 450377

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. For further information please contact us: Contact: By telephone: 07902 855622 or by E-mail: svpcant@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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 and Canon Anthony regularly shares his thoughts with us through his blog. The website is an on-going project for development and volunteers are welcome to help with this. At present a group of young people are helping the Webmaster redesign our website. Contact: webmaster Ghazwan Butrous via email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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 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. The number of volunteers has been reduced recently to just 5, therefore to keep the shop open every day has been unrealistic though a recent appeal has produced a few more volunteers. 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. Contact: Judith Roser via email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

10. Missio Red Boxes

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.

Contact: Tony Grace via email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com

All Year



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</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact: Fr. Valentine or stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>2. Eucharistic Ministers</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>3. Readers</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>4. Sunday 11am Mass Choir</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact: Ben Saul via email parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>5. Sunday 9.30am Mass Music</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Contact Mike Lilford or John Renn via email parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 folky end of the musical spectrum. If you would like to join us please speak to a member of the group after mass.</p> <p>Contact: Philip Gascoyne via email parishdirectory2016@gmail.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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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.</p> <p>Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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 was celebrated on Sunday May 10th 2015 and the Going Forth Mass the following week. Contact: Kathleen Kerr & Annie Kean via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>2015/16</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 Beasley via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>2016</p>

<p>4. Confirmation Programme</p> <p>Baptism, the sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist constitute the 'sacraments of Christian initiation.' Confirmation represents the completion of baptismal grace: by confirmation, the baptized 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. In 2015, 30 young people were confirmed in the Parish. Led by Fr. Valentine and 6 coordinators, the confirmation formation is meant to inspire the young people to use their talents for the glory of God and to give them the confidence to be a true witness of the gospel. The programme is attended on a Saturday evening, with an hour of catechists, which leads to an active participation at the evening Mass. There are a number of exciting events added to the programme as well. After Confirmation, all those confirmed are invited to participate in a mentoring programme as mentor for those preparing for confirmation. All participants will be awarded the St. Thomas of Canterbury Young Mentors Award.</p> <p>Contact: Fr Valentine at st.thomasconfirmation@outlook.com</p>	<p>2016</p>
<p>5. Breakfast Mass Group</p> <p>After 7.30am Mass each Wednesday we meet in the upper Room for a simple breakfast. Everyone welcome.</p> <p>Contact: Patty Baxter, 01227 462200 & Mary Reynolds, 01227 478328+</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>6. 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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Twice monthly 2nd & 4th Mondays at 1pm</p>
<p>7. The Canterbury Solitude Group We are a group of people who seek to spend prayerful time in silence in the company of others. Our time together is based on St. Francis's Rule for Hermitages. Each morning begins with refreshments, we then move into prayer. One of the group presents a short reflection followed by time spent in solitude, before gathering for an optional sharing. The group has been set up within the Catholic Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury. Our gathering is ecumenical. Anyone is welcome to join us, just come along. For more information - Contact: Michael Coppin on 07970 579151 or mpcopp@gmail.com</p>	<p>3rd Saturday of the month Greyfriars, Stour Street, 9am - 11.45am.</p>
<p>8. 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>9. Lenten Groups A series of Lenten discussion groups held in 2015 focused on the Proclaim '15 messages from The Bishops of England and Wales and Pope Francis' Evangelii Gaudium. Similar meetings for 2016 will focus on The Year of Mercy. Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Annually in Lent</p>

10. 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

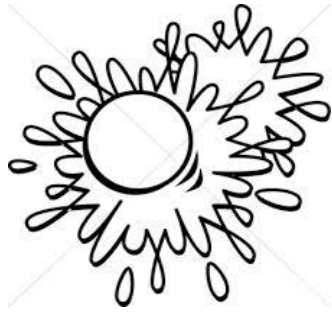


Deepening our Faith

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 Wednesday Friday
<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 (i) To Fatima 22nd November to 28th November 2015 Contact: Mrs Mozzi (ii) To Lourdes in 2016 Contact: Annie Judge via The Parish Office (iii) World Youth Day - Pope Francis will be in Krakow Poland Contact: Canon Anthony via The Parish Office</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: Sr. Margaret McGrath - Franciscan International Study Centre - http://www.franciscans.ac.uk/</p>	As needed

<p>5. Proclaim '15 A new initiative launched in 2015 by the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales to support, enthuse and equip parish evangelisation. The inspiration for the initiative is Pope Francis and the content of his Apostolic Exhortation, <i>Evangelii Gaudium</i>, in which he writes: "I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelisation marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>See Newsletter for details</p>
<p>6. Year of Mercy This Holy Year will begin on this coming Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception and will end on November 20, 2016, the Sunday dedicated to Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. It is aimed to be a new stage in the journey of the Church on its mission to bring to every person the Gospel of mercy. Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Starts 8 December 2015</p>



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. Veritas 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 wells as organised social events. Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Weekly Tuesday evenings</p>
<p>2. Children's Liturgy Group For the under sixes and over sixes in separate groups each week. Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.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. Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>Term Time</p>
<p>4. Catholic Schools Canterbury has two Catholic Schools: - St Thomas' Catholic Primary School http://www.st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/ - St Anselm's Catholic School: http://www.stanselmcanterbury.org.uk/</p>	<p>Contact websites for further information</p>

5. Universities

Canterbury is home to two universities, both of which have Catholic chaplaincies, and the Franciscan International Study Centre:

- **The University of Kent** Fr. Peter Geldard 07970228762
- **Canterbury Christ Church University**

Inviting all the students of Christ Church University to the Catholic Society for tea and cakes and to socialise, as well as to pray together, with a group of friendly students who meet on weekly basis. CathSoc takes place in the Chapel on Mondays at 5.30 onwards. Roksana Albert roxyalbert6@gmail.co

6. Franciscan International Study Centre

A place of Franciscan Christian Culture and learning. Mass is offered during the week and at weekends. See website for details:

<http://www.franciscans.ac.uk/>



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: Cyril Scott via email parishdirectory2016@gmail.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 parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year Drawn Monthly</p>
<p>3. The Organ Fund The fundraising campaign for renewing the organ has to date raised over £9000 toward our goal of £20,000. 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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>4. Fetes, Bazaars, Auctions etc Fundraising through shared community celebrations and events while adding to the financial well-being of the parish. More needs to be done here and any ideas and volunteering to make things happen in 2016 will be gratefully received: Contact email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>As per Newsletter</p>
<p>5. The Parish Finance Council 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: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com</p>	<p>As required</p>

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 prayer 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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