



# NEWSLETTER

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
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St Thomas' Shop (462896): open Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton. Assistant Priest: Father Daniel Weatherley. Parish Deacon: Rev. David Avery.

Also assisting: Fr. George Marsden.

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: Mr Michael Walters (01227 826200);

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

University of Kent Chaplain: Fr Peter Geldard (Telephone/Facsimile: 01227 462198 : Mobile 07970 228762)

Office open: Monday-Thursday 9am - 3pm Friday 9am - 1pm  
for all enquiries, appointments, bookings & all parish business  
(Closed for lunch between 12.15 - 1pm)



## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

**Sunday 16th April - Easter Sunday - the Sunday of the Resurrection** Lk24:13-35

08.00 Claudia Upward (Stirton)  
09.30 People of the Parish  
11.00 Bridie, Sidney & Gladys Gill  
18.00 Martin Ward - RIP (Ward)

**Monday 17th April - Easter Monday** Mt29:8-15

07.30 Carol Hakimian - RIP (McGillie)  
12.00 Tina Hamilton - intentions (Murphy)  
No Adoration

**Tuesday 18th April - Easter Tuesday** Jn20:11-18

07.30 Michal Orth - Welfare (DW)  
12.00 Hannah Orr - RIP (Burton)

**Wednesday 19th April - Easter Wednesday**

Lk24:13-35  
No 07.30 this week  
12.00 Pat & Molly Connellan - RIP (Connellan)  
No Adoration

**Thursday 20th April - Easter Thursday** Lk24: 35-48

No 7.30 Mass this week  
12.00 Dennis Finch & Beau Edmilao - RIP

**Friday 21st April - Easter Friday & St Anselm**

Jn 21:1 - 14  
12.00 John Furie (Frances)  
19.30 Chris Mouate - Welfare (Charlton)

**Saturday 22nd April Easter Saturday** Mk16: 9-15

10:30am- 11:30am Reconciliation  
12.00 Carla Pereira  
4:30pm - 5:30pm Reconciliation  
18.00 (Vigil) People of the Parish

**Sunday 23rd April - Second Sunday of Easter**

Jn20:19-31  
Divine Mercy Sunday  
08.00 Fr Barry Angus - RIP (Connellan)  
09.30 Colin & Cherry Silcock-Stone Wedding Anniv.  
11.00 Brendan McCormack - RIP (McCormack)  
12.15 Baptism: Aibhilin Roisin Ebreo  
14.30 Syro-Malabar Mass !?!?  
OR...  
15.00 Divine Mercy devotions and Installation and Blessing of Divine Mercy image?!?!?  
18.00 Thanksgiving (Gurubatham-Kanny Family)

## From Fr Anthony ...

What are we celebrating today and for the next 50 days? We are celebrating the physical resurrection of Jesus. All the gospel narratives make it clear that those who encountered Jesus were not seeing a ghost or phantom. There was no body in the tomb. The disciples touched him and ate with him yet he was different. They did not recognise him at first on the road to Emmaus and Mary at first thought he was the gardener until he said her name. This is astonishing and astounding news. This was what was preached in the first days of the Church and what we affirm in the creed "On the Third day he rose again". Through his Death and resurrection he has set us free from sin and death. We are a new creation and we are now able to share in the gift of everlasting life.

There was some concern expressed some weeks ago that the National Trust had dropped the word Easter from their posters advertising Egg hunts. What is the origin of this word? I am grateful to an article by Fr Saunders in the States for what follows. In the original language of the gospels, the Greek word "pascha" is used for the Aramaic form of the Hebrew word "pesach", which means Passover. During the first three centuries of the Church, "Pasch" referred specifically to the celebration of Christ's passion and death; by the end of the fourth century, it also included the Easter Vigil; and by the end of the fifth century, it referred to Easter itself. In all, the term signified Christ as the new Passover Lamb. Together, the mystery of the Last Supper, the sacrifice of Good Friday and the resurrection of Easter form the new Passover - the new Pasch.

Latin used the Greek-Hebrew root for its word "Pascha" and other derivatives to signify Easter or the Easter mysteries: for instance, The Romance languages later used the Hebrew-Greek-Latin root for their words denoting Easter: Italian, "Pasqua"; Spanish, "Pascua" and French, "Paques". Even some non-Romance languages employ the Hebrew-Greek-Latin root: Scotch, "Pask"; Dutch, "Paschen"; Swedish, "Pask" and the German dialect along the lower Rhine, "Paisken". However, according to St. Bede (d. 735), the title Easter seems to originate in English around the eighth century A.D. The word Easter is derived from the word "Eoster", the name of the Teutonic goddess of the rising light of day and Spring, and the annual sacrifices associated with her. If this is the origin of our word Easter, then the Church "baptized" the name, using it to denote that first Easter Sunday morning when Christ, our Light, rose from the grave and when the women found the tomb empty just as dawn was breaking.

## PARISH MATTERS

Fr Anthony, Fr Daniel, Fr Binoy, Fr George and Deacon David thank you for all you best wishes and prayers for Easter.

We welcome Pearl Marinaccio, who was baptised at the Vigil and David Godsell and Judith Harvey who were received into full communion in the Church and Daniel Dunleavy, Olivia May, Marilyn Rey, and Daniel de Arauja Roland who were confirmed.

Thank you to all who made it possible to celebrate the Holy Week Liturgies with joy, dignity and solemnity.

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers is organising a Divine Mercy Pilgrimage to Aylesford on

**Saturday, 22 April 2017 in preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday. See flyer at back of church for details**

The last Scripture Group meeting (after Thursday midday mass) and will next meet again on 27th April

## FOOD BANK NEWS

Thank you so much for your continued generous donations to the Food Bank. The bins will not be out next weekend but will appear again 22/23 April.

## Diocesan visit to Rochester Cathedral see notice board at the back of church

CALLING ALL MARRIED COUPLES...  
The annual MASS  
IN CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE  
is being held on 17th JUNE  
at St George's Cathedral (Saturday afternoon) this year

If you are celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th, or 60th+ wedding anniversary this year and would like to attend this very special Mass at St George's Cathedral, where you can renew your vows, please write your names and address very clearly on the form provided at the back of church, so that you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop. LAST DAY TO APPLY IS APRIL 30.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS & GIFTS

are all available in our Church Shop - come and have a look at the wonderful selection available.

## Calling all Altar Servers!

You are warmly invited to the annual Altar Servers Rally being held at Aylesford Priory on Bank Holiday **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May**. The day begins at 10.30am and will finish around 2.30pm. It promises to be an enjoyable day and a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this ministry. Those who are already enrolled in the Guild of St Stephen should bring their medals and there will be the opportunity for those who do not already have medals to receive theirs in the special Mass on the day. If you are interested in coming please speak to Fr Daniel or get in touch via the Church Office or email. Families and friends are very welcome

## 18-30s Prayer & Pub Prayer and Pub



Although it is the University holidays anyone who is around and would like to meet please come as usual at 8pm on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April. The next meeting will be on the following Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> April. If you are aged 18-30's and would like to meet and pray with fellow Catholics please do join us! You are promised a friendly welcome!

## The next HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes will be between 25th August and 1st September 2017

Staying at Hosanna House  
to find out more, contact Annie Judge via e-mail:  
[anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com) or call: 07866 515797  
Or speak to Fr Anthony

## Youth Ongoing Formation

All young people aged 18 or younger who have been confirmed are warmly invited to join those who were confirmed earlier this year for the Ongoing Formation afternoons. Every session begins at 3pm in the Hall and finishes before 4.30pm. Most of the afternoons feature a special guest speaker. Please speak to Fr Daniel for any more information. The dates are Sundays 30th April, 7th May, 21st May, 11th June and 18th June.

## Accommodation required in or around Canterbury for summer school students.

Please call Donna Amos 01227 451035

## A Retreat with a Difference

A Foyer de Charité Retreat will be held at the new Retreat Centre in Walsingham, from Sunday 30 April (6pm) – Saturday 6 May (2pm). The theme is **God's Plan for the Fullness of Time**, and the preacher will be Mgr. Keith Barltrop, with help from Foyer members and past retreatants. Foyer retreats are held mainly in silence, with three talks a day, and offer a holistic way of deepening our faith in the Church's teaching and our life in Christ. The Foyers are communities of consecrated lay people living with a priest in order to help others grow closer to Christ and live the Catholic faith more fully. For further information: [keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:keithbarltrop@rcdow.org.uk)

**Please remember in your prayers: Gloria Soar, Suzy Drayson, Agnes Daly, Theresa Punnett, Lorna Feeney, Toni-Lee D'Amiral, Charles Ryan, Vivianne Brunet, David Tully, Winifred May, Margaret Holman, Mary Wallace, Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Katie Cobbett, Angeline Frizell, Mary Gillette, Christopher Browne, Ewa Szczepanska, Mary Jones, Erlinda Rogers, David Bull, Dara Borland, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Joan Willey, Mary Donellan, Janette Hughes, Vlasta Cerna, Amanda Watts, Fr Peter Madden, Sr Margaret McGrath, Maurice Crosland, Joao Ferreira and Barbara Brett.**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Fr Charles Owen CP (Funeral at Herne Bay 21st April) Marguerite Pattenden David Papa (Funeral 24th April 12 noon) Nina and Ray Jones (Funeral 25th April 1pm Canterbury Cemetery Chapel)**

Offertory Collection weekend of 9th April was £1221.66 loose and £685.90 Gift Aided - totalling £1807.56. Thank You very much for your amazing generosity