



# NEWSLETTER

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
**59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ**  
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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)



## PARISH MATTERS

### 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 TODAY ! & Sundays 7th May, 21st May, 11th June and 18th June.**

### Vocations Weekend for young women (20s and 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in my life

Dates: **26th - 28th May 2017**

Location: **Broadstairs, Kent**

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There will be input from the FCJ sisters on different aspects of vowed life, and time for prayer, reflection and discussion with other young women who are also considering a vocation to religious life.

It's an opportunity to live community life for a weekend and meet some sisters!

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

**The 2017 Diocesan Justice & Peace Commission**, Spring Assembly entitled 'A Journey to Justice through Peace and Non-Violence', will be at Aylesford Priory, Kent. Saturday 13th May. 10.30am to 4pm. Registration from 10am. Speakers Pat Gaffney for Pax Christi and Michael & Patricia Pulman of Christian CND. The event is free. Everyone welcome to come along. Please bring a packed lunch.

Next weekend, 7th May, is **VOCATIONS SUNDAY** - we are asked to pray for Vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. The theme for this year is "Called" Extra-ordinary

There are prayer cards and other material 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 TODAY !**

### 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 indeed.

## From Fr Anthony ...

### Valuing our Catholic school

The Primary school of St Thomas of Canterbury had a religious inspection in March. The report has just been made public and the wonderful news is that the school has been deemed 'outstanding'. This is the highest grade it can be given. This complements the "outstanding" grade it was given last year for its OFSTED inspection. Here are some quotes from this Religious Inspection report.

"St Thomas is an outstanding school providing its pupils with excellent opportunities to develop their spirituality and religious literacy. The Headteacher and other leaders successfully promote a clear vision for the Catholic life of the school and its place in the local community. ...The contribution of Religious Education to the Catholic life of the school is excellent."

"Pupils are confident about their faith and through active participation in lessons, liturgies and various acts of worship, are capable of expressing their views in an assured manner. The Headteacher, senior leaders and teachers are outstanding role models for the pupils."

"Religious Education is at the heart of the school curriculum. It is taught both discretely and in a cross-curricular way....Pupils spoke highly about their enjoyment and interest in Religious Education lessons. They particularly appreciate the range of teaching strategies used by teachers to engage and enthuse them. As a result, pupils concentrate well and behaviour for learning is outstanding. The level of religious literacy displayed by most pupils is extremely high, with pupils not only knowing key terms and words, but also able to express ideas and concepts with confidence and clarity - literacy is exceptionally strong in this school".

"Pupils are developing the skills which enable them to reflect spiritually, think ethically and theologically and to become more aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life."

"Leadership at this school is outstanding at all levels. It is inspirational and promotes excellent practice across all areas of Catholic school life. The Headteacher provides outstanding leadership and is well supported by her senior leadership team who are enthusiastic and energetic. They have a clear understanding of the Church's liturgical year and use this to good effect in leading the school in its knowledge and understanding of Catholic rites and symbols."

Reading this report makes me proud and grateful to have such a school as part of our parish. What makes me sad is that out of thirty children that will be joining the school in Reception class this coming September only 14 are baptised Catholic. There are many families in our parish who are not taking the opportunity to send their children to such a good Catholic school in the area. Why is it do you think this is? Are we truly committed to the importance of Catholic education for our children?

## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

### Sunday 30th April 3rd Sunday of Easter Lk 24: 13-35

18.00 (Sat. Vigil) Dominic Grace - RIP (Grace)  
 08.00 Robert Wright - RIP (Johnson)  
 09.30 Tony Jaconelli - RIP  
 11.00 Patrick Heren  
 12.15 *Baptisms: Nelson & Victoria Nguyen and Gabriella Spinks*  
 15.00 *Recently Confirmed - ongoing formation in the hall*  
 18.00 People of the Parish

### Monday 1st May - St Joseph the worker Mt 13: 54-58

07.30 Good Health  
 12.00 Stanislaw Kolakowska - RIP  
*No Adoration*

### Tuesday 2nd May - St Athanasius Jn 6: 30-35

*NO MORNING MASS*  
 12.00 John Hamilton - RIP (Smith)  
 19.30 RCIA - ongoing in the Presbytery

### Wednesday 3rd May - Ss Philip & James Jn 14: 6-14

07.30 Brendan Chima Uquin - RIP  
 12.00 Brian Richards - recovery (Gill)  
*No Adoration*

### Thursday 4th May - Easter Weekday Jn 6: 44-51

07.30 Thanksgiving  
 12.00 James Cawley - RIP (Burton)  
*Scripture Group after Mass*

### Friday 5th May - Easter Weekday Jn 6: 52-59

10.30 *Hospital Mass at Kent & Cant. Hospital*  
 12.00 Joseph Mulrey - RIP  
*Adoration after Mass*  
 19.30 Otilie Bertasio  
*Adoration after Mass 'til 9pm*

### Saturday 6th May - Easter Weekday Jn 6: 60-69

10.30 - 11.20 Reconciliation (Fr Binoy)  
 12.00 Frank Ronson - RIP (Sullivan)  
 16.30 - 17.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)  
 18.00 (Vigil) Mary Maughan 'Old Mammy' - RIP

### Sunday 7th May - 4th Sunday of Easter Jn 10: 1-10

08.00 Roseleen, Richard & family (Brown)  
 09.30 Miranda Mass - RIP  
*First Holy Communion - ongoing session*  
 11.00 Willie - RIP (Metcalfe)  
 15.00 *Recently Confirmed - ongoing formation in the hall*  
 18.00 Martin Ward - RIP



## 18-30s Prayer & Pub

### Prayer and Pub

The next meeting will be on **Thursday, 11th May at the new time of 7.30pm!**

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!

## Your Voice Matters – Mega Youth Poll

In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call.

If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you, we want to hear what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. To help you tell us we have created a Youth Poll that you can access using this link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll> or by scanning this



QR code with your phone. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link or QR code. For queries about the Youth Poll please

email: [synod2018@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:synod2018@cbcew.org.uk)

## Vacancy: Deputy Headteacher

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School in Canterbury is looking to appoint a new Deputy Headteacher from September 2017. For further information, please contact the school on 01227-462539. Advert available on [www.kent-teach.com](http://www.kent-teach.com). Closing date: Monday 8th May at 4pm

## Charismatic Prayer Group resumes

next Monday 8th May 7-9pm in Upper Room  
 07780 025906

Thank you from the SVP - the collection last week raised £647.95 which goes to help those in need locally.

## Important Dates for your Diary

### First Holy Communion (Eucharist)

14th May 9.30am Mass and 11am Mass

### Open Air Mass

on Sunday 2nd July at 10:30am St Anselms School

### Mass of Translation of St Thomas a Becket

in Canterbury Cathedral at 8pm on Friday 7th July

**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, Angelina 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, Barbara Brett and Hannelore Hall.**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Fr Charles Owen CP, Marguerite Pattenden, David Papa Nina and Ray Jones and Anthony Cassidy**

Offertory Collection weekend of 23rd April was £860.50 loose and £643.96 Gift Aided - totalling £1504.54 Thank You for your generosity