



# 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)



## TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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

18.00 (Vigil) Mary Maughan 'Old Mammy' - RIP

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

2nd collection today is for  
Ecclesiastical Education

### Monday 8th May - Easter Weekday Jn 10: 11-18

07.30 Ann's Ken - RIP (Brown)

12.00 Sean O'Donnell - RIP

Adoration after Mass

### Tuesday 9th May - Easter Weekday Jn 10: 22-30

07.30 Joao Ferreira - welfare (Chalton)

12.00 Josephine Maloney (Brown)

19.30 RCIA - ongoing in the Presbytery

### Wednesday 10th May - Damien of Molokai Jn 12: 44-50

07.30 Mr & Mrs Varkey - RIP (Francis)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12.00 Tony Ratcliffe - sick (Begley)

No Adoration

### Thursday 11th May - Easter Weekday Jn 13: 16-20

07.30 Leon & Theo's intentions (Johnson)

12.00 Frances & Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP

Scripture Group after Mass

7.30pm Prayer & Pub!

### Friday 12th May - Ss Nereus & Achilleus Jn 14: 1-6

12.00 Blessings for the Roxwell family (Korzeniowska)

Adoration after Mass

19.30 Tim Dempsey - intentions

Adoration after Mass 'til 9pm

### Saturday 13th May - Our Lady of Fatima Jn 14: 7-14

10.30 - 11.20 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

12.00 Patrick Sims & family - welfare

1pm Wedding of Caroline Muthuri & Timothy Hart

3pm Wedding of Ronald Green & Audrey Reimer

16.30 - 17.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

18.00 (Vigil) David Heap - RIP (Heap)

### Sunday 14th May - 5th Sunday of Easter Jn 14: 1-12

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION at 9.30am and 11am Masses today

08.00 People of the Parish

09.30 George Gray - RIP

11.00 Carrah Wright - welfare

16.00 Mass in Polish

18.00 Julian Hills 60th Birthday (Metcalfe)

## From Fr Anthony ...

This Sunday is traditionally known as Good Shepherd Sunday. The gospel, read and proclaimed in all three years of the Lectionary, speaks about Jesus as the Good Shepherd. This is also the Sunday when we are encouraged to think and pray about vocations particularly to the priesthood and the religious life.

All of us, whoever we are, are called to be holy. Pope Francis in one of his Wednesday audiences reminded his listeners of this: "We are all called to become saints! So often, we are tempted to think that holiness is granted only to those who have the opportunity to break away from the ordinary tasks, to devote themselves to prayer. But it is not so! Some people think that holiness is closing your eyes and putting on a pious face... No! That is not holiness! Holiness is something greater, more profound than God gifts us. Indeed, it is by living with love and offering Christian witness in our daily tasks that we are called to become saints". This is true of everyone in the particular condition and state of life in which they find themselves.

It is important for you and I to pray for young people to hear and heed the call of God to live this life of holiness in the priesthood and the religious life. Today I would like you to think about what you are praying for when you pray for vocations to the priesthood. I have been a priest for nearly forty two years, Father Daniel has been ordained nearly one year and Father Binoy for ten years. We are very different people as you gather. We each have our strengths and weaknesses but we have each been called to live our life of holiness as ordained priests. We have been called to guide the people of God through spending our lives in service of the Gospel. I ask all groups and individuals in the parish not to give up praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. As Pope Francis says in his message for Vocations Sunday, "May God give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love. Dear brothers and sisters, today too, we can regain fervour in preaching the Gospel and we can encourage young people in particular to take up the path of Christian discipleship. Despite a widespread sense that the faith is listless or reduced to mere "duties to discharge", our young people desire to discover the perennial attraction of Jesus, to be challenged by his words and actions, and to cherish the ideal that he holds out of a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love." As May is also the month of Mary remember that she had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God's hands.

Here is a prayer we can all say: "Father you call each one of us by name and ask us to follow you. Bless your church by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons, and Lay Ministers. Inspire us as we grow to know you, and open our hearts to hear your call. We ask this in Jesus name. Amen

## PARISH MATTERS

**TODAY 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

### 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. Closing date: Monday 8th May at 4pm

**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.



UCM cake sale on **TODAY!** after the 9:30am mass in the Parish hall. Everyone is welcome



### 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 7th May (TODAY), 21st May, 11th June and 18th June.**

This year sees the 50th anniversary of abortion being legalised in Great Britain, over 8 million babies' lives have been lost since 1967. We all need to make some extra sacrifice this year. Please attend the "March for Life" in Birmingham on Saturday the 20th May. Going to Birmingham may involve a sacrifice for those who live some distance away, but the day is a great witness to our society and is also both informative and encouraging. If you don't attend the March in the 50th Anniversary year of abortion in England and Wales, when are you going to make the effort to come? Three English Bishops will be attending the March - come and support their witness. For coaches from London and elsewhere please see; www.goodcounselnetwork.com or phone 0207 723 1740

**Important Dates for your Diary for 2017**  
**First Holy Communion (Eucharist) 14th May 9,30am Mass and 11am Mass**

**Open Air Mass and 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

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

## 18-30s Prayer & Pub

### Prayer and Pub

The next meeting will be on

**this coming Thursday, 11th May**

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).

### 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. 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)

### CONFERENCE: Empowering Parishes for Mission

27th May at Amigo Hall next to St George's Cathedral. Registration from 10am. The theologian, Clare Watkins will be with us during the day and will begin with an exploration of the theology of the parish and the afternoon will feature a panel and audience discussion on the practical applications. Admission fee of £15 per person, payable on the day. E-mail in advance: [actasouthwark@yahoo.com](mailto:actasouthwark@yahoo.com)

**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, Barbara Brett, Hannelore Hall and Mary Dietrich

Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Fr Charles Owen CP, Marguerite Pattenden, David Papa, Nina and Ray Jones, John Earl, Clifford Alder (funeral: 17th May at midday) and Tony Cassidy**

Offertory Collection weekend of 30th April was £1019.81 loose and £827.30 Gift Aided - totalling £1847.11 Thank You for your generosity