



NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com

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

6pm (Vigil) Martin Harris - welfare (King)

Sunday 20th August - Twentieth Sunday (A)

8am People of the Parish

9.30am David Riley - RIP (Pegg)

11am Patrick Heren - welfare

with Baptism: Naomi MacLeod and Anaya Gilham

6pm Private intentions of Rumbi Chiutsu

Monday 21st August - St Pius X Mt 19: 16-22

7.30am Jean Baillie - RIP (Silcock-Stone)

12 noon Laurence Smith - RIP (Smith)

7-9pm Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 22nd August - Queenship of the BVM Mt 19: 23-30

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Holy Souls (Silcock-Stone)

Wednesday 23rd August - St Rose of Lima Mt 20: 1-16

7.30am Sadie (19th)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Binoy)

12 noon Grateful thanksgiving

7-8.30pm Eucharistic Adoration in Church

NO SVP meeting TONIGHT

Thursday 24th August - St Bartholomew, Apostle Jn 1:45-51

7.30am Christine Herrera Calagini (Teves)

12 noon Private intention (Silcock-Stone)

Scripture Group after Mass

Friday 25th August - St Louis Mt 22: 34-40

12 noon Fr Wilfrid McGreal O.Carm. - welfare

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass and Benediction 1.30pm

NO EVENING MASS OR ADORATION

Saturday 26th August - Feria Mt 23: 1-12

10.30 - 11.20 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Binoy)

12 noon Thanksgiving (Alexander Oligo Jr)

4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Binoy)

6pm (Vigil) Winifride & David Browing - RIP

Sunday 27th August - Twenty First Sunday (A) Mt 16: 13-20

8am Margie Scott-Winlow - RIP (Silcock-Stone)

9.30am Victor Dodds (Dodds)

11am Dennis Willis - RIP (Smith)

12.15 Baptism: Gracie Weaver

2.30pm Syromalabar Rite

6pm People of the Parish

2nd collection
today for SVP

From Fr Anthony ...

Today's gospel is an encounter Jesus has with a woman who changed his mind. This woman was a pagan, or Gentile, and in Matthews account of the incident he refers to her as a "Canaanite". The Canaanites were hereditary enemies of the people of Israel. This woman is the only person in St Matthews gospel whose faith Jesus characterises as "great". We often hear Jesus chiding his disciples for having little faith. For me this woman is an example of persistent prayer. She comes crying; "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David". Despite the fact that Jesus did not answer her, she knelt before him saying, "Lord help me." Here was a plucky woman who stood up to Jesus. As Sylvester O Flynn says in his commentary, "Her eyes are set only on the power of God that she has glimpsed in Jesus. And nothing is going to stop her from reaching him." She shows great humility. She kneels before Jesus. There is a lovely touch of humour in this encounter. Jesus responds to her plea "Lord, help me" by saying, "It is not fair to take the children bread and throw it to the dogs." Was Jesus testing her by throwing back to her the racial insult by which Jews refer to other nations as dogs (wild scavenging dogs)? She could have reacted to this by treating it as an insult to her but she gave a quick-witted reply. She modifies Jesus' words by substituting pet dogs or house dogs for 'dogs'. This woman reminds us, and reveals to Jesus, that while he has come to the lost of Israel he has come for all people. The first reading today from the book of Isaiah shows how the people of Israel had been chosen to bring God's healing not only to her own people but to the peoples of the world. "Her persistence, her humiliations and her humour with Jesus had knocked off all corners of selfishness and made her totally receptive to God. A woman of great faith, she is a model to all disciples of the Lord - persistent, humble, humorous and unsinkable" (O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap)

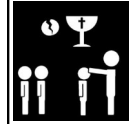
PARISH MATTERS

SVP - the 2nd collection next weekend is for our local SVP. Gift Aid envelopes (especially for the organisation) are available from the collector.

Please give as generously as you can - this organisation supports those in need locally. Thank you

Catholic Family Day Out! at Aylesford Priory on Saturday 26th August beginning at 9.30am

Calling all parents who are wishing to have their children Baptised... our next preparation meeting will be on **Friday, 15th September at 9.30am**
 Please call the office to make sure we have your name and also please fill in a Registration Form in advance (available on our website or at the back of church)
 Thank you



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

Dear Parents of children who are in Year 3 from September you can now register your child for the 2018 First Communion programme - forms need to be in by November 19th. Forms are at the back of the church.

The Salvation Army is still collecting for refugees in northern France. They need: sleeping bags, blankets, s/m mens jeans, s/m mens tops, mens socks or items suitable for a first aid kit Drop off weekdays mornings at the Salvation Army. Thank you

CONFIRMATION 2018

Registration Forms (for young people in Year 9 and above from September this year) are now available at the back of church. Please talk to Fr Daniel for further information



Journey in Faith (RCIA)

Any adult who wants to know more about becoming a Catholic, or an adult who has been baptised as a Catholic but has not yet made their First Communion or not been Confirmed, might like to join our journey in faith group from October.
 There are forms at the back of the church or talk to Fr Anthony or Fr Daniel

New...! Anselm Study circle

A new group to discuss in depth theological issues based on articles published in scholarly journals like Communio or Concilium. The first meeting will be 2nd October 2017 - further details to follow or contact, via email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous: G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

ANNUAL DIOCESAN DAY FOR ALL CATECHISTS - You are invited to join other Catechists from the Diocese at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 23 September 2017 for workshops and Mass. If you are interested please see poster at the back of Church or speak to Fr Anthony or Fr Daniel.

FOOD BANK... thank you to all who give to this important collection. Currently, the Food Bank is short of: **Jams, Fruit Juices, Tinned Peas and Tinned Carrots.** If you feel able to give, please consider these items. Thank you!

Pro-life Pilgrimage to WALSINGHAM

Sunday, 17th September 2017
 Departure from: Sacred Heart, Herne Bay at 7am
 or Our Lady Immaculate, Whitstable at 7.15am
 call Althea Walker for info: 07862 276100

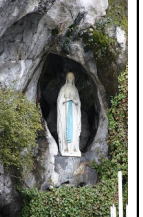
THE BIBLE WEEKEND...!

The Catholic Bible School is a charity that works with people of all ages to bring the words of the Bible off the page and into our lives through Parish Workshops
We are dynamic, interactive and innovative presenters who are passionate about God, the Bible, enabling people to encounter Jesus through the Scriptures and applying this in their everyday lives
 Does this interest you? We could host a Bible Weekend here at St Thomas'. Please let Fr Anthony or Fr Daniel know

MARY'S MEALS DAY, LONDON - Sunday, September 10, London Irish Centre, Camden Square. Doors open at 1.30pm go to: RSVP.UK@marysmeals.org or: 0207 221 5745



Next Friday 25th August, Fr Anthony will be accompanying the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes. If anyone would like prayers or petitions taken to the Grotto of Our Lady, please give them to Fr Anthony as soon as you can.



Catholic History Walks in the Cities of Westminster and London
 Fascinating talks with walks - see poster at the back of church for details

Aylesford Day of Renewal, Saturday 9th September
 Poster at the back of church for further details

Celebration! at St George's Cathedral Saturday 4th November with **David Wells** keynote speaker info at the back of church

Thank you from CAFOD for the monies we have raised - we continue to support this organisation collecting through the box at the back of church and regular collections. CAFOD is extremely grateful for all we do to enable them to support our brothers and sisters across the world. To find out more about the difference your donation makes, please visit their website: cafod.org.uk

Please remember in your prayers: Gloria Soar, Suzy Drayson, Agnes Daly, Theresa Punnett, Lorna Feeney, Toni-Lee D'Amiral, Charles Ryan, 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, Mary Dietrich, June Carver, Betty Steward, Catherine Packer, Francis Brown, Patty Baxter, baby Ruan Shaker, Frank Johnson, Kathleen Hutchinson

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Roy Williams, David Riley, Patrick Simms, Fr Peter Ryman, Vivianne Brunet, Ronald Colbeck, John-Paul Glynn, Betty Steward and Jean Baillie (Monday Aug. 21st at midday - All Saints Church, Crowborough for a Service of Thanksgiving), Deacon James Foley of Herne Bay (Funeral Monday 21st at 10am at Herne Bay), Canon Bill Clements

Offertory Collection weekend of 13th August was £1058.18 loose and £581.52 Gift Aided - totalling £1639.70. Thank You for your generosity