

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)



PARISH MATTERS



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

First Parents Meeting

This important meeting will take place on
Monday, 4 December at 7.30pm
 in the Church Hall.

Journey in Faith (RCIA) - ongoing
 Next meeting **Tuesday 28th November 2017**
 in Presbytery at 7.30pm.

FROM FR ANTHONY, please note: all parents who wish priests of the parish to sign their child's supplementary form for St Anselm's school or Saint Thomas of Canterbury School, should make an appointment at the office to see the priest individually. Please do not ask the priest to sign these forms after Mass on Sunday. Thank you very much

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS. Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard! The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them **not to U-turn on their promise** to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic Schools.

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School Christmas Fair:

This will be held on 8th December from 3pm to 5pm. Please donate tombola and raffle items. Donations can be left in the Church foyer or at school. If you are interested in running a stall at our fair, please contact ptfa@st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk

JOB VACANCIES: St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

Caretaker

52 weeks per year; 40 hours per week
 Salary Range: £16,968-£17,826

Driver (mini-Bus/Bus)

38 weeks per year (term-time only); 12.5 hours per week
 Salary Range: £15,253-16,967 (FTE)

Bus Escort

38 weeks per year (term-time only); 12.5 hours per week
 Salary Range: £14,856-£15,252 (FTE)

The closing date for all three jobs is Friday 24th November at midday. Start date – January 2018. Application forms are available online on www.kent-teach.com. Contact Mr Devine on 01227-462539 for further information and tours of the school.

Baby Sitting Services needed: Mr Ngidi is looking for a babysitter for his two children aged 6 and 3 years. If you are interested please contact him on 07707053810.

Exchange Student: Paul Lesbre, a Catholic French Teenager (Yr 8) from Amiens, wants to improve his English by staying with an English family with teenagers. His English counterpart will stay with Paul's family to improve their French. If you are interested please contact Emmanuelle Lesbre via email elesbre@yahoo.com or tele. 0033322539733

Anointing of the Sick. This service will be held on Sunday, 10th December 2017 at 2.30pm. We encourage all to attend and ask that you help those who may not be able to attend Mass regularly to attend this service. If you can volunteer as a driver to assist others to attend the service, please contact the Presbytery.

Penitential Service: Our Parish Penitential service takes place on **Friday, 15 December 2017 at 8.00pm.**

Day by Day Advent Booklets at 50p are available at the back of the church. Ideal size for pocket or handbag.

Parish Diary (pocket edition) available in the Shop. Free or give a donation, thank you.

Scripture Group: Our last meeting before Christmas is 14th Dec. We return on 11th January 2018 after midday Mass.

CCCU Cathsoc Talk: Monday, 27th November 2017 at Uni Chapel
Our Lady in the Liturgy by Fr Gerrard Hatton
 See poster at the back of church for more details

Christmas at the Shrine: National Shrine of St June, Faversham: Anointing, mince pies, mulled wine, tea/coffee and carols sing-along. See notice at the back of Church for more details.

Anselm Study circle

The next meeting will be **6.30 pm on Wednesday, 13 December 2017** in the Upper Room. Articles to be discussed:

The primacy of the Pope & the unity of the People of God (J. Ratzinger)
Difficulties confronting the Faith in Europe Today (Joseph Ratzinger)
Divorce and Remarriage in the Early Church: Some Reflections on Historical Methodology (Henri Crouzel)

Contact, via email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous: G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

L'Arche Christmas Puddings: Sales this year are helping to add a storey to the L'Arche house in Kolkata to accommodate needy orphan girls. Order forms at the back of the church.

HCPT BARN DANCE: Thank you so much for a wonderful evening of dancing and fun. We raised £570.00 for a child's fare to Lourdes.

Please remember in your prayers: Nick Grealy, 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, Maurice Crosland, Joao Ferreira, Barbara Brett, Hannelore Hall, Mary Dietrich, June Carver, Francis Brown, Frank Johnson, Kathleen Hutchinson, Rosa Maria Santos, Brian Henley, John Tyler, Sean Maple and Mrs Cleary

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Mary Fleming, Maria Rosaria Adorisio, John Sullivan, Gordon Andrews, Fr Gerry Coates, Edward Salmon and Mary Jones, Helen Gordon

Collections on the weekend of 19 November 2017:
 Offertory: £992.34 loose & £751.10 Gift Aided - total £1743.44
 Second Collection: SVP of £588.47.
 Thank You for your generosity.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Marion Hayes

Sunday 26th November Christ the King Mt 25:31-46

8am People of the Parish

9:30am Sandra Monger - intentions (Pamela Dodds)

11am John Sullivan - RIP (R Rollings)

2.30 pm Syromalabar Rite

2nd Collection:
 Catholic Youth Work

6pm Isidro Gramaje and Nemezia Gonzalo - RIP (M Oligo)

Monday 27th November Feria Lk 21:1-4

7.30am Good Health (Anon)

12 noon Edward Salmon - RIP (S Nolan)

7 - 9 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 28th November Feria Lk 21:5-11

7.30am for Private Intentions

12 noon John Sullivan - RIP (Sullivan Family)

7.30pm RCIA Meeting

Wednesday 29th November Feria Lk 21:12-19

7.30am Hannah Loughran - RIP (Tony)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Doreen Durnan - RIP (de Gray)

7 - 8.30 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 30th November St Andrew, Apostle Mt4:18-22

7.30 am Mary Mulrey - RIP (Mulrey)

12 noon John Natrass - RIP (Natrass)

5 - 6pm Confirmation

7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 01st December Feria Lk19:45-48

7.30 am Morning Prayer

10.30 am Mass at K&C Hospital

11.55 Mass at St Anselm's Catholic School

12 noon Intentions of Celia Welsh and family

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass & Benediction 1.30pm

7.30pm Mr & Mrs Peters and siblings - RIP (Wickenden)

Eucharistic Adoration after Mass 'til 9pm

Saturday 02nd December Our Lady Lk 20:27-40

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Patrick & Marie Davis & Patricia Smith - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

6pm (Vigil) Tim Dempsey (Anon)

Baptism of Thomas and Aileen

Sunday 03rd December First Sunday of Advent Mk 13:33-37

8am Claudia Upward - RIP (Mrs Stirton)

9:30am Denis Corcoran - RIP (Mallion)

11am John Sullivan - RIP (P Davies)

6pm People of the Parish

From Fr Anthony ...

In my teens at the Diocesan Junior Seminary of St Joseph near Tunbridge Wells, I got the dubious reputation of being a "Holy Joe". This wasn't meant to be a compliment. I loved to be the chapel, reading the lives of the saints and trying to keep the rule perfectly. It was an important stage in my relationship with Jesus. I often felt God close to me and was daily more convinced that God wanted me to be a priest. This was over 50 years ago. Much has happened since then and my journey has been long and sometimes bumpy. I don't always feel the same youthful enthusiasm for prayer and the chapel, I miss the simple certainty of those days. Being at boarding school, cloistered from the world, was something of a rarified atmosphere. Being a follower of Jesus Christ seemed simple and straight forward then.

Matthew's Gospel today of the sheep and the goats reminded me that being close to Jesus isn't just a matter of prayer, Mass, reconciliation and spiritual reading. I also have to experience and confront the messiness of human need. Allowing God to come close to me means that I need to come close to Jesus in the hungry, naked, thirsty, the prisoner and the stranger. Mother Theresa said she could not do her missionary work with the "poorest of the poor" unless she spent a good deal of time in prayer. She wrote "We have the specific task of giving material and spiritual help to the poorest of the poor, not only the ones in the slums, but those who live in any corner of the world as well. To do this we make ourselves live the love of God in prayer and in our work, through a life characterised by the simplicity and humility of the Gospel. We do this by loving Jesus in the bread of the Eucharist, and loving and seeing him hidden under the painful guise of the poorest of the poor, whether their poverty is a material poverty or a spiritual one. We do this by recognising in them (and giving back to them) the image and likeness of God."

It is necessary to live a life of action fueled, strengthened and underpinned by prayer. This is not a balance that is easy to achieve today. Without prayer, silence and meditation we will be unable to see Jesus in the hungry and stranger "the least of these brothers and sisters of mine". There is a danger of being blind to Christ on our doorstep. It is as though we are so heavenly minded we are no earthly use.