

# NEWSLETTER

**CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
 59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ  
 Telephone: 01227 462896  
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Office open: Monday-Thursday 9am - 3pm Friday 9am - 1pm  
 for all enquiries, appointments, bookings & all parish business  
 (Closed for lunch between 12.15 - 1pm)

Email: [stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com](mailto:stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com) Web Site: [www.stthomasofcanterbury.com](http://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)



## PARISH MATTERS



### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

*First Parents Meeting for all who have completed registration forms.*

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 05<sup>th</sup> December 2017**  
 in Presbytery at 7.30pm.



Calling all parents who are wishing to have their children Baptised... our next preparation meeting is on **Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 09h30**  
 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.

**CHORAL PERFORMANCE:** The choir of St Mary's Parish of Olesa de Montserrat (Spain) will be performing at 7.30 pm (after 6pm Mass) on Saturday, 09 December 2017. The performance duration is approximately 45 minutes.

**Taizé Advent Evening Prayer:** To be held at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church, Clarence Road, Herne Bay, CT6 8SP on **Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> December 7.30 - 8.30pm**

**Quiz and Curry Evening:** We are delighted to report that as well as being a most enjoyable evening this event raised a profit of £568! Some of the funds will go towards future parish social events and the remainder to support current parish projects. Many thanks once again to all those who supported the evening and those who worked so hard to make it such a success.

**Parish Diary** (pocket edition) available in the Shop and at the back of the church.  
 Free or give a donation, thank you.

**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](mailto:ptfa@st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk)

**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.

**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:** Please remember our Parish Penitential service on **Friday, 15 December 2017 at 8.00pm.**

Do your nearest and dearest know your wishes for your funeral? This may seem like a taboo subject for many, but for those left after your death having your wishes to hand can make that particular decision making much easier. The Catholic Church in England and Wales have put together a leaflet to help with this process. Available at the back of church or from the Presbytery

**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.

The union of Catholic mothers monthly meeting this weekend Sunday, 3rd Dec after 9.30am Mass. All are welcome to attend.

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

### 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](mailto: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.

**ST Vincent de Paul:** SVP express their thanks for your generosity in raising £588.47 on 25/26 November. All donations are used to help families and individuals in need in Canterbury and East Kent.

**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, Josie Price and Mrs Cleary

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

**Mary Fleming, Maria Rosaria Adorasio, John Sullivan, Gordon Andrews, Fr Gerry Coates, Edward Salmon and Mary Jones, Helen Gordon, Fr John Leahy & Molly Bennett**

Collections on the weekend of 26 November 2017:  
 Offertory: £1041.07 loose & £651.31 Gift Aided - total £1692.38  
 Second Collection: Catholic Youth Work of £288.49.  
 Thank You for your generosity.

## From Fr Anthony ...

Advent 2017

Happy New Year (Liturgical year).

Every Year we go through the cycle of seasons, Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, Pentecost and Ordinary Time. This cycle is like a wheel - it moves us onwards.

During this season of Advent, which is very short this year, just 22 days, we remember the first coming of Jesus and we prepare and move towards his second coming. God's purpose is that the whole of creation is to be renewed. It began with the first coming of Jesus as our Saviour and we use this sense of fulfilment "to fuel our hope for his second coming and to strengthen us to work for signs of that kingdom in our own day. We live between the first Advent and the second." (Tom Wright).

Let us wait and keep watch this Advent, praying for the Lord to be born anew in our heart, in our parish community and in the world. The watchword for this Sunday is "Awake". This gospel was written shortly before the Second Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed 70 AD and before a time of persecution began.

How do I stay awake at this time? Use the rich scriptures that we hear daily as the basis of our prayer. Undertake a prayerful examination of conscience in preparation for celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation at our Reconciliation Service on Friday 15th December. Take a copy of Archbishop Peter's Letter home with you to read in a quiet moment by the fire with a hot cup of Chocolate at hand.

*"Our lives are on a journey towards God who is reaching back to us this day and every day. So, be on your guard lest the ways of sin enslave your thoughts. And watch in prayer, vigilant and alert to the daily visitations of the Spirit to your soul"* (Silverstein O'Flynn)

### TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Tim Dempsey (Anon)  
*Baptism of Thomas and Aileen*  
**Sunday 03 December First Sunday of Advent** Mk 13:33-37  
 8am Claudia Upward - RIP (Mrs Stirton)  
 9:30am Denis Corcoran - RIP (Mallion)  
*UCM meeting after mass*  
 11am John Sullivan - RIP (P Davies)  
 12.15 *Baptism of Shannon Proctor*  
 6pm People of the Parish  
**Monday 04 December Feria** Mt 8: 5-11  
 7.30am Welfare of David Cookson (A Nichols)  
 12 noon John Berry and Brennan Family - RIP (Berry)  
 7.30 pm *First Holy Communion Introduction Meeting*  
 7 - 9 pm *Eucharistic Adoration*  
**Tuesday 05 December Feria** Lk 10:21-24  
 7.30am for Danny McGrath (Sr Margaret)  
 12 noon John Davies - RIP (Davies)  
 7.30pm *RCIA Meeting*  
**Wednesday 06 December St Nicholas, Bishop** Mt 15: 29-37  
 7.30am Mary Jones - RIP (Reynolds)  
 10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)*  
 12 noon Intentions - Francis Brown  
 7 - 8.30 pm *Eucharistic Adoration*  
**Thursday 07 Dec St Ambrose, Dr of the Church** Mt7:21. 24-27  
 7.30 am For Betty Scott's intentions (Linda)  
 12 noon Owen Dixon - RIP (Foundation Mass)  
 5 - 6pm *Confirmation*  
 7.45pm *Prayer and Pub*  
**Friday 08 December The Immaculate Conception** Lk1:26-38  
 7.30 am Morning Prayer  
 10 am *Blessing of the Ashes of John Sullivan at Barham*  
 11 am *Funeral of Helen Gordon*  
 12 noon Thomas McGrath (Sister Margaret)  
*Eucharistic Adoration after Mass & Benediction 1.30pm*  
 7.30pm Ruby and Bob Cookman (Anon.)  
*Eucharistic Adoration after Mass until 9pm*  
**Saturday 09 December Feria** Mt 9:35 - 10:1  
 09h30 *Preparation for Baptism meeting*  
 10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)*  
 12 noon Patrick & Marie Davis & Patricia Smith - RIP  
 4.30 - 5.30pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)*  
 6pm (Vigil) Elizabeth Browne - RIP (Henniker)  
 7.30pm *Choir of St Mary's, Olesa e Montserrat, Spain*  
**Sunday 10 December Second Sunday of Advent** Mk 1:1-8  
 8am Dan Lloyd - RIP (Mrs Stirton)  
 9:30am UCM Members and Families  
 11am John Crowley - RIP (Maureen Sullivan)  
 12.15 *Baptism of Maria Elaine Jardine*  
 6pm People of the Parish