

NEWSLETTER

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



PARISH MATTERS

Journey in Faith (RCIA) - ongoing
 Next meeting Tuesday 12th December 2017
 in Presbytery at 7.30pm.



To all parents who are wishing to have their children Baptised... our next preparation meeting will now be in the New Year.

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.

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 between 9am and 3pm weekdays

Good Counsel Network: Please join us for an EXTRA day of prayer and fasting, on Monday the 11th December, the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives
Please also pray especially that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced.

For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see:
www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

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)
 Please check the website to read the articles:
<http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/category/anselm-study-circle/>
 Contact, via email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous: G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

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

L'Arche Christmas Puddings:
 Order forms are available at the back of church.

L'Arche Christmas Craft Fair: Join us on Saturday 16 December from 11am to 3pm in the Church Hall. A range of stalls, children's activities, Christmas Carols, cakes and more!
 Father Christmas will arrive at 1.30pm

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

Please remember in your prayers: Nick Grealy, Pat Ware, Mike Roser, 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 Jones, Helen Gordon, Fr John Leahy and Molly Bennett

Collections on the weekend of 03 December 2017:
 Offerory: £888.54 loose & £815.83 Gift Aided - total £1704.37
 Second Collection: There was no second collection.
 Thank You for your generosity.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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
 14h30 Anointing of the Sick followed by refreshments
 6pm People of the Parish

Monday 11 December Feria Lk5:17-26

7.30am Catherine Chin - RIP (Marie)
 12 noon Hubert Schlarmann - RIP (Sheila)
 7 - 9 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday 12 December Our Lady of Guadalupe Ge 12:3

7.30am Ellen Reynolds and Family (Mary)
 12 noon Catherine Chin - RIP (Pauline)
 1.45 pm St Thomas Primary School Carol Service
 7.30pm RCIA Meeting

Wednesday 13 December St Lucy Mt 11: 28-30

7.30am Michael Reynolds - RIP (Mary Reynolds)
 10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
 12 noon Private Intentions
 1.45 pm St Thomas Primary School Carol Service
 7 - 8.30 pm Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday 14 Dec St John of the Cross Mt11:11-15

7.30 am Jacob Thomas - RIP (Cijn Jacob)
 12 noon Frances & Michael-Joe Kearney - RIP
 5 - 6pm Confirmation
 7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 15 December Feria Mt 11:16-19

7.30 am Morning Prayer
 12 noon For Mary Wright's Intentions
 Eucharistic Adoration after Mass & Benediction 1.30pm
 8.00pm Penitential Service

Saturday 16 December Feria Mt 17:9a, 10-13

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
 12 noon James and Emma - engagement (Cherry)
 4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)
 6pm (Vigil) George Gray - RIP (Henniker)

Sunday 17 December Third Sunday of Advent Jn1:6-8, 19-28

8am Tony Jaconelli - RIP (Shirley & Joyce)
 9:30am People of the Parish
 11am Ambrosine Family (Anon)
 12.15 Baptism of Ella Ida Palumo
 6pm for the Intentions of Una Harris (Anon)

2nd Collection:
 St Vincent
 De Paul

From Fr Anthony ...

In the first episode of the series "The Crown", on Netflix, about the early life of our present queen Elizabeth, we see her father George VI, who is recovering from a serious operation for cancer, having makeup applied his face before his meeting with Winston Churchill, who has just been re-elected prime minister. He said he wants to be seen to be strong and well. "What the people need is a strong man, a strong king." Being strong, assertive and seen to be in control is what is preferred in society and life today. We prefer strong, assertive, intelligent and perfect leaders. We are more likely to follow and listen to the self-assured, capable and self-contained leader. The question we need to ask of ourselves is; "where should real strength comes from?" What should be the source of our strength? We are tempted to rely on our own strengths and abilities and thus can get easily disheartened by our shortcomings and weakness as we try to do Christ's work, living the life he has called us to. When we read St Paul's letters we are aware that his struggles with his own shortcomings. It seems for example that he wasn't an easy man to work with and several men who at one time accompanied him on his journeys left him because of disagreements. At one point Paul revealed in a letter to the people of Corinth that he believed that God given him, what he described as a thorn in the flesh to keep him from being too proud of what God was doing through him. "Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong. ". He never revealed what this "thorn in the flesh" was. It could have been his difficulty in working with others, it could have been a tendency to sin in a particular area of his life. Although weak his strength was relying on the strength that comes from God.

I am very fond of Charles De Foucauld who lived a very flawed life and was aware of his shortcoming and yet lived a life of complete dedication to the Tuareg desert people. In his meditation of Jesus on the Cross he put these words into the mouth of Jesus. In his time of darkness his strength was giving himself completely to his Father. This was his prayer:

*Father, I abandon myself into your hands;
 do with me what you will.
 Whatever you may do, I thank you:
 I am ready for all, I accept all.
 Let only your will be done in me,
 and in all your creatures -
 I wish no more than this, O Lord.
 Into your hands I commend my soul:
 I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,
 for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,
 to surrender myself into your hands without reserve,
 and with boundless confidence,
 for you are my Father.*

Mr Tony Johnson's Retirement Tea Party
Thursday 21st December 2017 at 4.30pm
in St Thomas' Church Hall

Tony Johnson, caretaker/site manager at St Thomas' Catholic Primary School for the past 32 years is retiring. Any past pupils and parents are invited to join the PTFA in giving him a send-off to thank him for his years' of dedicated service to the school. He will be deeply missed. Everyone is welcome, including children.



Epiphany Tea Party
Saturday 6th January 3pm to 5.30pm in the church hall

Please join us for a social afternoon with refreshments and activities for children. (Note: children taking part in activities must be supervised by a parent or guardian.) No entry fee, but we would welcome cakes, biscuits or savoury snacks typical of your own culture, to be brought on the day. Tea, coffee and squash provided.

100 Club Draw: This Sunday we will be drawing the 100 Club December 2017 winners for four prizes each of £250 after the 9.30 Mass in the Hall and also presenting Fr Anthony with a cheque for £1000 for Parish Pastoral and Spiritual needs. Please send in your £25 subscriptions to become new members or to renew 100 Club membership for 2018. Forms in the church porch.

St Vincent de Paul Collection: At all Masses Next weekend 16th /17th . The money goes towards helping the SVP support the needy in our area. Please use the gift aid envelopes provided by the collectors.

Donations for Catching Lives Porchlight: The Union of Catholic Mothers is collecting donations for Catching lives Porchlight this Christmas. If parishioners have any items they can donate especially; gloves ,hats, scarves, glasses (even old one's) and sweets, they would all be greatly appreciated. These can be left in the church hall on the 17th.

Prayer for Christian Unity: The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th to 25th January 2017. Details to follow.

The Solitude Group meets at Greyfriars on the 3rd Saturday of the month, this Saturday, for a quiet morning of prayer. We begin with refreshments at 9.00am, followed by a short reflection, and then quiet time in the chapel or grounds. We end at 11.45am. Please see notice at the back of the Church for details. Could any newcomers please phone Louise on 07962 256908 in advance as site access tis variable during winter months. Others will be notified by email.

Mon 18 Dec: Eucharist Adoration will not take place due to the St Anselm's School Carol Service taking place at 7.30 pm