

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ
 Telephone: 01227 462896
 Facsimile: 01227 450377

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



To all parents who are wishing to have their children Baptised... our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 13th January 2018 at 9.30am.** Please call the office to make sure we have your name and please fill in a Registration Form in advance (available on website or at the back of church). Thank you.

HCPT (Group 587) Summer Pilgrimage to Lourdes

This will take place from 24 - 31 August 2018. To find out more information please talk to Father Anthony or contact Annie Judge on 07866515797 / anniejudge@hotmail.com



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018

Parents Meeting for all who have completed registration forms.

This important meeting will take place on **Monday, 8 January at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.**

CAFOD: New year's resolution: Make a difference with CAFOD
Make 2018 the year you meet new friends, inspire others to act for social justice, and use your skills to help our sisters and brothers working to overcome poverty around the globe: become a volunteer with CAFOD. We are especially looking for... Confident public speakers who could visit schools or churches to speak about CAFOD's work.
Good organisers to volunteer, **part-time over 10 weeks**, in our office in Waterloo or Bromley to help coordinate Lent Fast Day.
Good communicators interested in updating our social media or making phone calls on our behalf.
 Please get in touch with us on southwark@cafod.org.uk or 020 8466 9901 to find out how you can make a difference.

Monthly Conversations:

On Thursday, 18 January 2018 at 8.00 pm at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Faversham.

'Is there good news for the 21st century?' is the topic on which Bishop Michael Nazir-Ali will be speaking in Faversham on Thursday, 18th January in the St. Jude Welcome Centre at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Tanners Street, Faversham ME13 7JW. The evening begins at 8.00 pm with a 30-minute presentation followed by discussion and refreshments. All are very welcome. See notice at the back of the Church for more details

Prayer for Christian Unity: The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place from 18th to 25th January 2017. This year it will start with a service in the Cathedral on Thursday 18th January at 7.30. The speaker is Bishop Trevor Willmott – the Anglican Bishop of Dover – preaching on prayer, mission and unity. Christians' Together Canterbury will also launch their local evangelisation initiative linked to "HOPE 2018". Dr Rachel Jordan Wolf, Mission Adviser to the Church of England and on the National Board of HOPE 2018, will introduce it.



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.



Fr Anthony, Father Daniel and Father Binoy would like to thank everyone for the generous gifts, cards, wishes and the Christmas Collection which they received.

Funeral Service for Father Peter Madden

The funeral service for the late Fr Madden will take place in Dover on 22nd January at 12 noon.

2018 Archdiocese of Southwark Catholic Directories

These are available in the Shop. Spiral Bound at £3.50 and Standard Bound at £3.00

Scripture Group: Our next meeting is on 11th January 2018 after midday Mass.

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, 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, Lucy Purbrick, 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, Fr Peter Madden, Fr Tony Ford, Fr Roy Dunstan, Fr Kevin Pelham, Molly Bennett and Mary Organ.

Collections on the weekend of 24 December 2017:
 Offertory: This information will be available in the next newsletter
 Second Collection: There was no second collection
 Thank You for your generosity.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Ignatius Dempsey - RIP (*Dempsey*)

Sunday 31 December The Holy Family Lk 2: 22-40

8am For Friends and Colleagues at St Thomas' (*Linda*)
 9:30am Wilma and George Pierce - RIP (*Riley*)
 11am Mrs Phil Hilliard -RIP (*Josie Carr*)
 6.00 pm For the People of the Parish
 11.15pm Diugwu Family Intentions

Monday 01st January Mary, Holy Mother of God Lk 2:16-21

NO EARLY MORNING MASS
 12 noon Intentions of Sean Clancy

Tuesday 2nd January Sts Basil and Gregory Jn 1:19-28

7.30am Good Health
 12 noon Mike Riddell special intentions (*Emslie*)

Wednesday 3rd January Feria of Christmas Time Jn 1:29-34

7.30am Hoolihan and Carroll Families (*Wynde*)
 10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Fr Daniel*)
 11.00 Burial of Ashes of David Riley
 12 noon Iolanda Di Paco - RIP (*Roberto*)

Thursday 4th January Feria of Christmas Time Jn 1:35-42

NO EARLY MORNING MASS
 12 noon Frances and Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP (*Mary*)

Friday 5th January Feria of Christmas Time Jn 1:43-51

12 noon Jacqui Nichols - RIP (*Mrs Nichols*)
 NO EVENING MASS

Saturday 6th January Feria of Christmas Time Lk 20:27-40

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Fr Daniel*)
 12 noon Mary Fleming (*Sue Johnson and family*)
 4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Fr Joe Feely*)
 6pm (Vigil) Paddy Moran (*May Gartland*)

Sunday 7th January The Epiphany of the Lord Mt 2:1-12

8am People of the Parish
 9:30am Sean McDermott - RIP (*N Egan*)
 11am Mr Hope Thazaraj - RIP (*McConkey family*)
 Baptism of Travon and Maria
 First Holy Communion of Travon, Maria and Skye
 6pm Maureen Pepper - RIP (*Pepper*)

From Fr Anthony ...

Many think that making New Year resolutions is bad for your health because within a month we have broken them, forgotten them or given up trying to live by them.

As we enter 2018 as a Parish I think it is good to look forward to where we should put our energies and focus our prayer. Monday 1st January is the feast of Mary, the Mother of God and is the Day of prayer for World Peace. In the UK we keep the World Peace day on 14th January. The Pope in his letter to mark this day writes about the plight of the 250 million migrants worldwide, of whom 22.5 million are refugees: *"In a spirit of compassion, let us embrace all those fleeing from war and hunger, or forced by discrimination, persecution, poverty and environmental degradation to leave their homelands."* He urges Catholic involvement in the drafting of the U.N. global compacts for migrants and for refugees and to get involved by lobbying governments to include in the compacts, proposals that would ensure the welcome protection, promotion and integration of migrants and refugees. *"Let us draw inspiration from the words of Saint John Paul II "If the 'dream' of a peaceful world is shared by all, if the refugees' and migrants' contribution is properly evaluated, then humanity can become more and more a universal family and our earth a true 'common home'."* Throughout history, many have believed in this "dream", and their achievements are a testament to the fact that it is no mere utopia. We pray to discern what we can do for migrants and refugees.

The World meeting of Families takes place this coming year from 21st to 16th August in Dublin. Let us as a parish pray for and support our families. "A good family provides the most natural environment for the growth of a child towards full human maturity." Another focus of our prayer centres on the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage and Congress in Liverpool that takes place on 7th to 9th September. This is an initiative of the Conference of Bishops of England and Wales. We hope to send two representatives from this parish up to Liverpool. At the last Canterbury Deanery meeting of priests in December it was agreed that sessions should be organised our deanery on the Eucharist in preparation for this event. Let us pray for a deeper love and appreciation of the Eucharist

In Rome in October there is a meeting of Bishops called the Synod, the subject is Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment." A synod occurs every four years. The Pope has said that the Church and her Bishops wanted to hear from young people: *"The Church wishes to listen to your voice, your sensitivities and your faith; even your doubts and your criticism. Make your voice heard, let it resonate in communities and let it be heard by your shepherds of souls."* Let us pray for our young people and find ways and means of listening to what they have to say. So for 2018 let our focus be on migrants and refugees, the Christian family, our young people and the gift of the Eucharist.