

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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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



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.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018 Parents Meeting

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



Confirmation 2017-2018

The next meeting is on Thursday, 11th January 2018 from 5 - 6 pm in the Church.

PARISH MEETINGS: All meetings are in the Presbytery
Finance Committee on Monday, 8 January 2018 at 7.45 pm
Liturgy Group on Wednesday, 10 January 2018 at 7.30pm
Open Air Mass on Monday, 15 January 2018 at 7.30 pm

Scripture Group Meeting: 11th January 2018 after midday Mass.

Charismatic prayer and bible study group meets back this coming week, Wed 10 January 7-9pm in Link Lane (come out of church past St Thomas' Bookshop and right, entrance under fire escape). All welcome. Contact Sophie (07780025906) and Anne.

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

Celebration of Hope: 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. See poster at the back of Church for more details

Funeral Service for Father Peter Madden
 The funeral service for the late Fr Madden will take place at St Paul's in Dover on 22nd January at 12 noon.

Congratulations to: *Travon, Maria and Skye, three of our young people who are being baptised and making their first Holy Communion this weekend and who will be confirmed with the other Confirmandi at the end of January. May God Bless them and their families. Please keep them in your prayers.*

With Thanks: Tony and I would like to say a very big Thank you to all those wonderful people who came along to our farewell and retirement celebrations. Also, we are very much moved and grateful for all your kind gifts which will go towards a good use and no doubt keep me busy for a good while. It was so good to see many faces from the past 30 plus years whom we have met and made friends with during our time at St Thomas'. We will still be about at School and Church and not just a quick good morning or good bye at the school gate. We look forward to our retirement now as we turn off all alarms, the only thing we must sort out now is who will get out of bed first and make the morning cuppa. Pam or myself I think I have lost this one before I even start though.
Pam and Tony Johnson

100 Club: Thank you to the 46 members who have subscribed to the 2018 membership of 100 Club. We ask past members to re-join and to encourage new members to join- the forms are in the church porch. Once we have a full 100 we can draw the January winners.

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

2018 Archdiocese of Southwark Catholic Directories
 These are available in the Shop. Spiral Bound at £3.50 and Standard Bound at £3.00

Please remember in your prayers: *Nick Grealy, Mike Roser, Gloria Saar, 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, Angelina 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, 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, Keith Purbrick, John Tyler, Sean Maple, Josie Price, Joan Calloway, Mrs Cleary and Harry Vaughan.*

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: £754.79 loose & £520.77 Gift Aided - total £1275.56
 Second Collection: There were no second collections.
Collections on the weekend of 31 December 2017:
 Offertory: £901.81 loose & £598.50 Gift Aided - total £1500.31
 Second Collection: There were no second collections.
 Thank You for your generosity.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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*)
Monday 08th January Baptism of the Lord Mk 1:7-11
 NO EARLY MORNING MASS
 12 noon Colin Davis - RIP (*Cherry Silcock-Stone*)
 7.30 pm *First Holy Communion Parents Meeting in Hall*
 7.45 pm *Parish Finance Meeting*
 7 - 9 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

ORDINARY TIME BEFORE LENT

Tuesday 9th January Feria Mk 1:21-28
 NO EARLY MORNING MASS
 12 noon Frank Chrystal - RIP (*Mary Chrystal*)
Wednesday 10th January Feria Mk 1:29-39
 7.30am Ina McNama - RIP (*Mary McGeary*)
 10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)*
 12 noon For Khlay (*Pullicino*)
 7.30pm *Parish Liturgy Meeting*
 7 - 8.30 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Thursday 11th January Feria Mk 1:40-45

7.30 am for the Holy Souls
 12 noon Pat Ware - RIP (*Mary McGeary*)
 5-6 pm *Confirmation*

Friday 12th January Feria Mk 2:1-12

7.30 am Morning Prayer
 12 noon *Funeral of Mrs Mary Eileen Organ*
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass with Benediction at 1.30pm
 7.30 pm Private Intentions
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass with Benediction at 9pm

Saturday 13th January Feria Mk 2:13-17

10 - 12 *Music Concert in the Hall*
 10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)*
 12 noon Mrs Mary Organ - RIP (*Mary Wright*)
 4.30 - 5.30pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)*
 6pm (Vigil) Herman and Philo Correa - RIP (*Noronha*)

Sunday 14th Jan Second Sunday of Ordinary Time Jn 1:35-42

8am Joseph Jaconelli - RIP (*Jaconelli*)
 9:30am Private Intentions
 11am Gordon Matthews - RIP (*Roberta Johnson*)
 6pm People of the Parish

From Fr Anthony ...

Epiphany: The word Epiphany means revelation, showing or manifestation of God.

The Magi or wise men came from the east looking for the "infant king of the Jews". These were men, possibly astrologers, who read the stars and saw signs that compelled them to make a long perilous journey from the East to seek out this special child.

In this story from Matthew we see the Magi as representing the search for and the welcoming of God and Herod represents rejection, denial and suppression. As the late Cardinal Carlo Martini wrote "*The Liturgy of Epiphany recalls the universal symbolism of humanity's journey towards God.*" How do you and I react to the encounter with Christ, who was born and appeared in Bethlehem? Am I like the Magi who respond and are led by the star or am I like Herod and the inhabitants of Jerusalem who are afraid? The wise men set out after their private meeting with Herod and when they saw the star it filled them with joy. When they encountered the child Jesus with Mary they fell on their knees, we are told, and did him homage, "*and opening their treasures they offered him gifts....*"

We are like the magi on a journey that can be full of darkness but it is also a journey filled with signs of God's presence. These wise men were also aided in their search for Jesus by the prophecy in Scripture "*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah, for out of you will come a leader who will shepherd my people Israel.*" Let us be aware of the signs of God's presence in our world, in the people we meet and the situations we are involved in. In our reflection and prayer we will recognise God speaking to us.

Just as the Magi fell to their knees to do the child homage, we too need to live lives that are full of homage. We acknowledge him and show love in our prayer and celebration of the Eucharist. Also just as the wise men were led by the star, they were also guided by Scripture. The word of God needs to be an integral part of our lives. It is through the reading of and meditation on Scripture that we discover Jesus. The wise men gave gifts. What are the gifts that we offer? The most precious gift we can give is our love. It is in giving that we are enriched.

Like Herod there are those who fear Jesus. They fear that this child will upset their comfortable lives. Herod and his cronies symbolise a society entrenched "*in a rich less defence of its own interests and the Magi represent an open society in search of humanity's true God*" (Martini)

Lord help me to seek you, find you and give my love to you.