

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, 03 February 2018 at 9.00am.** Please call the office to make sure we have your name and please fill in a Registration Form in advance (available on website or from the Office). Thank you.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:

Sunday, 21 and 28 January at 9 am in the Hall

CONFIRMATION 2017 - 2018

Rehearsal: Saturday, 27th Jan, 3 - 4 pm in the Church
 Confirmation Mass: Sunday 28 Jan, 11.00 am

RCIA (Journey in Faith) Next meeting : Tuesday, 16th January 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.



PARISH MEETINGS:

There are no parish meetings this week

Funeral Mass for Father Peter Madden

The Requiem Mass for the late Fr Madden will take place at St Paul's in Dover on 22nd January at 12 noon.

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection next weekend, 27/28 January will be for Racial Justice Sunday - please give generously.

£1,000 TO TAKE YOUR FAMILY TO DUBLIN WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES

On August 21-26 the World Meeting of Families (WMOF) will take place in Dublin. Its highlight is a visit by Pope Francis. During the WMOF, there will be a wide-ranging programme of talks and workshops for adults, events for young people and various activities for children. That's in addition to exhibitions, cultural events and musical performances plus daily Mass. All are welcome at this important and joyful international gathering. Why not plan a visit now, perhaps as your annual holiday? A £1,000 bursary is being offered to enable a family to do so. A condition is that **after the event you would share the fruits of your experiences in Dublin with your local parish or school and other people.** The deadline is January 31 so time is of the essence. To find out more, contact Carole (MFL Coordinator for Kent) now on 07983524727 or emailcarolemflkent@gmail.com

TAIZE PRAYER EVENING

The annual **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** (taking place from 18th to 25th January 2018) will be celebrated with a **Taize Prayer Evening: Tuesday 23rd January at 7.30 pm.** An hour of prayer in St. Thomas' Church combining readings, chants, silence with the theme: **God Acts for the Powerless.** Please join us for a wonderful experience.

Holocaust Memorial Day Service: Canterbury Cathedral

Holocaust Memorial Day is observed annually on 27 January. We remember all who died and those whose lives have been marred by the holocaust and other genocides around the world.

For the last few years we have highlighted the theme of the year in a small display and have had an informal service of readings prayers and music in the Eastern Crypt. This year the service will be on Tuesday 23rd January. Details available on poster at the back of church.

LOST PROPERTY: There are various items including reading glasses, watches and other personal prayer books and missals which have been found in the church over the past year. Please see us in the Sacristy to claim your belongings. Items not claimed by Wednesday, 31 Jan will be donated to charity. Thank you, Linda



Weekly Concerts: Parishioners are reminded of the Weekly Concerts, which started this week in the Church Hall - **Saturdays from 10.45 to 11.30am.** Come a little earlier and chat over a cup of tea. There is no charge but donations are gratefully received towards expenses. Any profits will benefit parish projects. All are welcome.

Syro Malabar Catechism: Please note that catechism classes for March 2018 will be held on **Saturday, 3rd March 2018** and not on Sunday, 18 March. Thank you

The U. C. M would like to thank the parishioners of St Thomas Church for their fantastic response to our appeal for Catching Lives. Pictures can be found on our Facebook page UCM St Thomas' Catholic Church.

Fundraising for Worthing Churches Homeless Project. Sr Rose from Monte Bre Franciscan Convent in Blean will be taking part in a 'Sleep Out' in Littlehampton on Sat. Feb 24th 2018 to raise funds for Worthing Churches Homeless Project. If you could sponsor Sr Rose, please contact the office.

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

Divine Mercy Apostolate run by Marian Fathers

is organising the **DIVINE MERCY RETREAT:** on Saturday, 27 January 2018 from 11:00 am - 4:30 pm at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London SE1 6HR. See poster at the back of Church for details.

Please remember in your prayers: Nick Grealy, 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, 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 Dittrich, June Carver, Francis Brown, Frank Johnson, Kathleen Hutchinson, Rosa Maria Santos, Brian Henley, Lucy Purbrick, Keith Purbrick, Sean Maple, Josie Price, Joan Calloway, Mrs Cleary, and Barbara Markham.

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, Bishop Francis Walmsley, Molly Bennett, Pat Ware, William Horne, Harry Vaughan and Mary Organ.

Collections on the weekend of 14 January 2018:

Offertry: £1146.29 loose & £693.20 Gift Aided - total £1839.49
 Second Collection: There were no second collections.
 Thank You for your generosity.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Mary Fleming - RIP (Noronha)

Sunday 21st Jan Third Sunday of Ordinary Time Mk 1:14-20

8am Mr Joseph Kunnasseril - RIP (Jimmy)

9:30am Diugwu Family Intentions (Fr Malachy celebrating)

11am People of the Parish (Fr Malachy celebrating)

6pm John Aitkin Gray - RIP (Myrna Gray)

Monday 22nd January Feria Mk 3:22-30

NO MORNING MASS

11.20 Funeral of Janet Carter at Charing, Ashford

12 noon Mary Organ - RIP (A Nichols)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 23rd January Feria Mk 3:31-35

NO MORNING MASS

12 noon Julie and Peter Brooker - Good Health

7.30pm RCIA Meeting in the Presbytery

7.30 - 8.30 pm Taize Prayer (see opposite for details)

Wednesday 24th January St Francis de Sales Mk 4:1-20

NO MORNING MASS

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

12 noon J Kobeca and Carmen (J Kobeca)

Thursday 25th January Conversion of St Paul Mk 16:15-18

NO MORNING MASS

Interment of Ashes of Helen Gordon

12 noon Bernadette Haverin - RIP (McGillie)

Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room

7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 26th January Sts Timothy and Titus Mk 4:26-34

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Mr L Armstrong - RIP (Armstrong)

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass with Benediction at 1.30pm

NO EVENING MASS

Saturday 27th January St Angelica Merici Mk 4:35-41

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Diane - birthday (Silcock-Stone)

3 - 4 pm Confirmation Rehearsal in the Church

4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish

Sunday 28th Jan Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time Mk 1:14-20

8am Celia Redknap - RIP

9:30am John Sullivan - RIP (Lilford family)

11am For the Intentions of the Confirmation Candidates

Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation -

- Bishop Paul Mason presiding

6pm Welfare of the Brown Family

2nd Collection: Racial Justice Sunday

From Fr Anthony ...

Message to our young people being Confirmed next Sunday

Dear Young people,

On Sunday 28th January you are to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation when Bishop Paul Mason stretches out his hands and prays " send your Holy Spirit upon your sons and daughters to be their Helper and Guide, give them the spirit of Wisdom and Understanding and spirit of right judgement and courage the spirit of knowledge and reverence. fill them with the spirit of wonder and awe in your presence. "

He will then anoint you and say "Be sealed with the Holy Spirit."

You will need these gifts of the Spirit because you will need to show to your peers, youngsters of your own age and others you meet at school, college or work, the joy of being a follower of Jesus Christ. In other words it means going public with your faith, bearing witness in a way that everyone can see and hear. This might seem daunting especially if you are shy. But you need to remember that Confirmation is above all about what Jesus does for you than what you might do for him.

So next Sunday your baptism is sealed because God our Father loves you as a son or daughter and delights in you as you desire to come close to him. You will be empowered to become an Ambassador of Christ. You will be given what is needed to make a difference to the world by what you say and what you do and especially by the way you live. So be a radiant witness because this will often have the most impact on others. The oil that the bishop uses, Chrism, is a perfumed oil. We need to be "smelly" Christians. In other words like the smell of perfume attracts others so our inward transformation by the Holy Spirit draws others to Christ by the way we live our lives. We can all be attractive in our joy, thoughtfulness and love.

I leave the last words to Bishop Michael Evans a dear friend who died several years ago.

" During the Easter Vigil every year we light our candles from the great Easter Candle, spreading that light in the darkness across the church. This simple act reminds us that we are called to bring the light of God's joyful love to everyone around us. The Holy Spirit himself fans into a flame a faith which may seem rather weak and fragile at times, echoing the words in the Gospel, 'Lord I do believe, help my little faith'. Through Confirmation Jesus himself, through the Gift of his Holy Spirit, strengthens that faith so that we can share it with others, boldly and with courage. 'Go out the whole world, proclaim the Good News! "

Anthony Charlton