

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. Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

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, 10 March 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 from the Office). Thank you.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:

Sunday, 25th February at 9 am in the Hall
 Parents Meeting: 26 Feb at 7.30pm in the Hall

CONFIRMATION 2017 - 2018

Ongoing Formation: Starts on Sunday, 4 March 2018 in the Upper Room from 3 - 4.30 pm
RCIA (Journey in Faith) Next meeting : Tuesday, 20th February 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.



UPCOMING EVENTS: Further details on the Notice Board

DIVINE MERCY RETREATS: 17th February and 24th February
A Day with Mary: Saturday, 17 March 2018, St John Fisher Church, Cannon Hill Road, London, SW20

Praying into Scripture: A Practical Guide to Ignatian Pray and Imagination with Rev. Susanne Carlsson on Thursday, 22 February & Thursday, 01 March 2018; 7 - 9pm at Malling Abbey.

An Audience with Ann Widdecombe:

Saturday, 19 May from 7pm - 10 pm at St Thomas Church Hall, Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ. Admission: £15.00
 Information: <https://kentmstc.org.uk/event/audience-ann-widdecombe/>

Fellowship of St Thomas More: The Service of Commemoration of St. Thomas More is on Friday 6th July at 7.30pm at St. Dunstan's Church. The speaker is Dr. Joanne Paul. Refreshments in Church Hall after. All welcome.

G K CHESTERTON: There will be a rare performance of the GK Chesterton play, The Surprise in Oxford on the 16th and 17th of February. For details see; <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-surprise-a-play-by-gk-chesterton-tickets-42377322713>

SOCIAL JUSTICE: From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution, conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of the Pope. The next such meeting will be from 2.00 to 4.00 pm on Sunday February 25 at the Area Bishop's house ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school). All are welcome!

Anselm Study circle

The group will continue in depth theological discussion based on articles published in scholarly journals. Please keep in your diary the dates for the meetings in 2018 in the Upper room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on **20 March, 13 June, 19 September, and 12 December 2018.**

The 20 March meeting will be about **Collegiality in the church**. To read about the subject and download articles, For more details please check the website: <http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/anselm-study-circle%20collegiality/> or email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous at G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

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

40 Stories of Hope - Lent Course

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland have partnered with Hope for a Lent course which is based on the book 40 Stories of Hope. More information at <https://ctbi.org.uk/lent/>

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection **next** weekend, 24/25 February will be for **St Vincent de Paul**. Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please give generously as usual.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY SUNDAY DURING LENT:

25 February at 4.30 pm
 04 March at 4.30 pm
 11 March at 2.30pm
 18 March at 3.00 pm led by the newly Confirmed
 26 March at 4.30 pm



PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

We are setting up a Pastoral Council. The council includes **8 (eight)** members of the parish. Details of the proposed terms of reference and the gifts/talents of a PPC member are on the notice board at the back of the church and on the church website.

Please pray about what you can contribute and if you feel you have the time and talents to give to this important ministry, complete an application form from the back of the church.



Available in the Shop:

Lenten devotional booklets and Easter Cards

Ecumenical Week of Accompanied Prayer St Stephen's Church, 11-17 March 2018

'A Retreat at Home'. Peter Toon writes: A Week of Accompanied Prayer is a marvellous way to make an individually guided retreat in the midst of ordinary life. You'll commit to spending 30 minutes each day in prayer, and another 30 minutes each day meeting with your trained 'prayer companion', who will help and support you as you reflect on your prayer life. The week is a journey in the love of God, and you will be encouraged in your own unique pathway of prayer. Places are limited, so put the dates in your diary and sign up now. For more info, or to book a place, email petertoon@aol.com, with the subject header 'WAP' or phone/text: 074 03 18 74 50

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, Mrs Cleary, Becky Judge, Angela Nichols, Dolores Klosky and Barbara Markham

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Joan Calloway, Fr Peter Madden, Fr Tony Ford, Fr Roy Dunstan, Fr Kevin Pelham, Molly Bennett, Pat Ware, William Horne, Harry Vaughan, Mary Organ, Maureen Sullivan, Lachlan MacDonald, Maria Duval, Michael Linehan and Thomas Hickey.

Collections for the weekend of 11 February 2018:

Offertery: £891.51 loose & 711.90 Gift Aided - total £1603.41
 Second Collection: for the Poor Parishes raised £411.36

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Vicki Montagu on her birthday (Scott Family)

Sunday 18th February First Sunday of Lent (B) Mk 1:12-15

8am John Lynch - RIP (J Wynde and family)

9:30am Pat Ware - RIP (Mary Reynolds)

11am Laurence Smith - RIP (Lesley and Chris Smith)

6pm People of the Parish

Monday 19th February Feria Mt 25:31-46

7.30am In Thanksgiving (Roser Family)

12 noon Spiritual Welfare of Dolores Klosky (Rea)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 20th February Feria Mt 6:7-15

7.30am Welfare of Julie Davis (Fr Daniel)

12 noon For Sheila Lloyd on her birthday (Scott Family)

Wednesday 21st February Feria MLk 11:29-32

7.30am Baby Billy (Healing)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

12 noon Mrs Alison Pierce - good health (Mrs Maher)

1.30 pm Funeral of William Horne

7 - 9 pm Prayer Group Meeting in Link Lane

7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 22nd Feb The Chair of St Peter the Apostle Mt16:13-19

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Private Intentions

Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room

7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 23rd February Feria Mt 5:20-26

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon for the Holy Souls

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

7.30 pm Anne Moore-Martin - RIP (Mary Reynolds)

Saturday 24th February Feria Mt 5:43-48

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Sheila Duncan - RIP (Fr Daniel)

4.30 - 5.30pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

6pm (Vigil) In Thanksgiving

Sunday 25th February Second Sunday of Lent (B) Mk 9:2-10

8am Geo Fagg - RIP (Jenny Blake)

9:30am Mary Jones - RIP (UCM)

11am People of the Parish

4.30 pm Stations of the Cross

6pm Maria Duval - RIP (Mary Francis)

2nd Collection: St
 Vincent De Paul

From Fr Anthony ...

In a recent article Norman Tanner S. J. reminds us that the English word Lent has a beautiful derivation. It comes from the early Anglo Saxon word meaning to "lengthen." Lent comes at a time when the hours or daytime are 'lengthening,' as spring approaches, and so it is a time when we too can 'lengthen' spiritually, when we can stretch out and grow in the Spirit. He suggests that we be should not, therefore, place too much emphasis upon our own efforts. Just as the sun was thought to do the work of 'lengthening' the days during early Springtime, so it is the sun — in the sense of God's warmth and light — that does this work in our 'lengthening' and growing in Christ. In the English language, indeed, we have a beautiful play on the words 'sun' and 'son,' which are pronounced identically. Just as the sun was seen to do the work of 'lengthening' the days in spring, so it is the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who does the work of 'lengthening' in our spiritual growth. This image provides a comfort for us in our busy modern world, where hyperactivity can become the norm. Our role during Lent is to cooperate with God's grace and initiatives, in a sense to relax in the presence of God, rather than to force the pace with our own efforts. The other thought about this Lenten season I feel it is important to hold onto is that Lent is a joyful season. In the first preface for Lent we pray "Each year you give us this joyful season when we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed." The recent translation of 2011 reads, "For by your gracious gift each year your faithful await the paschal feast with the joy of minds made pure." Thomas Merton writes, "Lent is not a season for punishment so much as one of healing. There is joy in the salutary fasting and abstinence of the Christian who eats and drinks less in order that his mind may be made more clear and receptive to receive the sacred nourishment of God's word, which the whole Church announces and meditates upon in each days liturgy throughout Lent." The joy is in the rending of our hearts. It lets out sin and lets in the clear air of God's sharing, the sunlight of the days that advances towards Easter. As Merton says "The purpose of Lent is not only expiation, to satisfy divine justice, but above all a preparation to rejoice in his love." The joy of Lent is the realisation that God is not there to seek our punishment but to greater awareness of God's mercy. The entrance antiphon for Ash Wednesday read "You are merciful to all, O Lord, and despise nothing that you have made. You overlook people's sins, to bring them to repentance, and you spare them, for you are the Lord our God."

Have a joy filled Lent and a blessed Easter.