

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ
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Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm
 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

ALTAR SERVERS ALBS: Please return any Albs borrowed from the Church as they are needed for Easter Masses. Thank you

HYMN BOOKS: Please return any Hymn Books borrowed from the Church as they are going for repair. Thank you

WANTED PLEASE! We are looking for two items for the Hall:
 A tall, standing lamp; and a tall, study indoor plant in a pot (or pair) for the Hall Foyer. If you have either of these items to donate, please contact Linda in the office or Fr Daniel. Thank you

17/18 March 2018 is Gift Aid Sunday. You can collect your weekly donation envelopes after Mass or sign up to Gift Aid if you have not already done so,

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:
 Sunday at 9 am in the Hall
 Next Parents Meeting: Monday, 26 March 7.30pm
CONFIRMATION 2017-2018 Ongoing Formation:
 Sunday, 4 March 2018 - Upper Room, 3- 4.30 pm
 Sunday, 18 March 2018 - Stations of the Cross 3pm
RCIA (Journey in Faith) Next meeting : Tuesday, 06th March 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Hall.

National Catholic Men's Pilgrimage to Walsingham
 Sunday 22nd April 2018, 10.30-17.30
 An invitation to the first, annual pilgrimage for Catholic men. Meet, talk and share the faith with other men; listen to speakers, celebrate confession and Mass, pray for families and the country; process to the old Abbey grounds for Benediction. We welcome lay and religious, single and married, young and old, fathers and sons. "When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England". Pope Leo XIII, 1887. In partnership with the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady and Catholic Man UK. More info at: www.catholicman.co.uk

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2018. The Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes with Tangney Tours will be from 24th - 31st August 2018. Details are on the poster at the back of Church

HOPE 2018 CANTERBURY EVENT: Live streaming of the "Passion Play" – Wintershall Players, from Trafalgar Square on Good Friday
 Live streaming of the "Passion Play", from Trafalgar Square, on Good Friday in Dane John Gardens at 12.00 and 15.15 More details to follow next week.

Anselm Study circle
 Diarise the dates: In Upper room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on **20 March, 13 June, 19 September, and 12 December 2018.** The 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

Canterbury Food Bank is most grateful for your generous support. If you are wondering what to donate? Non-perishable items such as tinned vegetables and toiletries, especially for women, most welcome. Unfortunately we cannot accept bread, flour, biscuits and other perishable items! Thank you.

Our Deanery and the Eucharist We strongly encourage parishioners to join us for a Deanery series of reflections on the Eucharist. The first, **Eucharist and Community**, will be led by Fr Mark White, CP on Saturday, 10th March (11am - 2pm) at the Retreat Hall, Herne Bay, CT6 8TH. For more information please see notice at the back of Church.

From Fr Anthony ...

The Joy of Forgiveness

On St Patrick's Day (17th March) this year our children who are preparing for First Reception of the Eucharist will be celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. We have always in the past talked about "going to confession." The late Hugh Lavery wrote that the words "Confession and Penance lay the accent in the wrong place. They make man his own physician and impose the work of reconciliation on the sorrowing heart." We cannot win forgiveness. It is something that is given. This is God's free gift to us. When we come to the sacrament we are welcomed by Jesus himself who is overjoyed to see us. I think that many people forget that, like all the sacraments, this sacrament is an encounter with Christ. In the preparation for this celebration the children have reflected on the story of the shepherd searching for the lost sheep and the tax collector Zaccheus who Jesus calls down from the tree and desires to share his hospitality. Notice it is Jesus that makes the first move when dealing with those in need of healing and restoration. When he met the woman at the well he started the conversation, which then led her to transformation. The opening words of the revised "Rite of the Sacrament" published over 40 years ago it says "when the penitent comes to confess his or her sins, the priest welcomes the penitent warmly and greets the penitent in a friendly manner". This sets the tone of the celebration.

Some no longer celebrate the sacrament because they have nothing to confess. "What can I say.?" "I am old and don't do anything." I believe that we will only be aware of our need for forgiveness when we deepen our relationship with Jesus. One way to help ourselves is each evening before going to sleep is to reflect on the day. First, we pray that the Holy Spirit be with us to guide us. Then we reflect on what has happened today that makes us want to thank God. Next, we might be aware of what has happened today that has made us uneasy. It may be words we have said or things we have done or not done. Finally, we give thanks for all the blessing of the day and for the ways in which we have been touched by God and we ask forgiveness for any ways we have lacked love. When are you going to experience the joy of God's forgiveness in this sacrament?

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Bob Rowe - RIP (A&E Grace)
Sunday 4th March Third Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 2:13-25
 8am for Anne Booth and Family (Fr Daniel)
 9:30am Intentions of UCM members and families (UCM)
 11am People of the Parish
 4.30 pm Stations of the Cross
 6pm Welfare of Francis Brown (Philomena)
Monday 5th March Feria Lk 4:24-30
 NO EARLY MORNING MASS
 12 noon Frances & Michael-Joe Keavney (Mary & Geraldine)
 7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday 6th March Feria Mt 18:21-35
 7.30am Mary Organ - RIP (Angela Nichols)
 12 noon Intentions of Margaret Holman (Mrs Purbrick)
 7 pm RCIA - Man Born Blind - ALL WELCOME IN HALL
Wednesday 7th March Sts Perpetua & Felicity Mt 5:17-19
 7.30am Joyce Steeves - RIP (Frances Steeves)
 10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)
 12 noon Pat Ware - RIP (Angela Nichols)
 7.30 Parish Liturgy Committee
 7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 8th Feria Lk 11:14-23
 7.30am Maria Ambroisine - RIP (Micheline)
 12 noon Maureen Sullivan - RIP (Angela Nichols)
 Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room
 7.45pm Prayer and Pub
Friday 9th March Feria Mk 12:28-34
24 Hours for the Lord
 7.30 am Morning Prayer
 12 noon Marie McGerry - RIP (Joan & Ann Cooper)
 12.30 - 1.30pm : Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass with Benediction
 7.30 pm Margaret and John Reynolds - RIP (Mary)
 8 - 9 pm Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 10th March Feria Lk 18:9-14
 10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
 12 noon Paul McLoughlin (Cherry Silcock-Stone)
 4.30 - 5.30pm Reconciliation and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass
 6pm (Vigil) the Welfare of Francis Brown (Philomena)
Sunday 11th March Fourth Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 3:14-21
 8am Soman Thomas - RIP (Pullicino)
 9:30am Pat Ware - RIP (UCM)
 11am People of the Parish
 12.15 Baptism of Isabelle Murphy and Isla Reynolds
 2.30 pm Stations of the Cross
 4.00 pm Polish Mass
 6pm Margaret Armstrong - RIP (Mr Armstrong)

2018 "24 Hours for the Lord" You are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation in the context of Eucharistic Adoration at St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church as follows:

Friday, 9th March 2018:
 Adoration and Reconciliation: 12.30 - 1.30 pm
 Adoration and Reconciliation: 8 - 9 pm
Saturday, 10th March 2018:
 Adoration and Reconciliation : 10.30 - 11.30 am
 Adoration and Reconciliation: 4.30 - 5.30pm



STATIONS OF THE CROSS EVERY SUNDAY DURING LENT:

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



LENT REFLECTIONS

You are invited to join those who are to be baptised at Easter and those who are received into full communion in the Catholic Church (RCIA Group) to the following Evenings to be led by Father Tom Herbst OFM at 7pm in St Thomas's Hall:
 Tuesday, 6th March 2018: **The Woman at the Well**
 Tuesday, 13th March 2018: **The Man born Blind**

Lenten Penitential Service:

Our Parish Season Penitential service will take place on **Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 8.00pm.**

Volunteers: We are seeking volunteers to help with getting our church spick and span for Easter. Please see flyers and notice at the back of church.

UPCOMING EVENTS: Further details on the Notice Board

Fairtrade Fair: 10 March 10am - 3 pm St Peter's Methodist Church.
Divine Mercy Retreats 10th and 11th March.
An Audience with Ann Widdecombe:
 Saturday, 19 May from 7pm - 10 pm at St Thomas Church Hall, Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ. Admission: £15.00
 Info: <https://kentmstc.org.uk/event/audience-ann-widdecombe/>

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 Dittich, 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, Barbara Markham, Pat Gibson, Geraldine Ross and Andrew Mannion

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 Smart Horne, Harry Vaughan, Mary Organ, Maureen Sullivan, Lachlan MacDonald, Maria Duval, Michael Linehan, Thomas Hickey and Fr Eric Nimmo

Thank you! Collections for weekend 24/25 February 2018:

Offertery: £856.25 loose & £731.87 Gift Aided - total £1588.41
 Second Collection: St Vincent De Paul - an amount of £716.66
 CAFOD Fast Day - an amount of £331.28