

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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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)

Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm
 for all enquiries, appointments, bookings
 and all parish business
 (Closed for lunch between 12.30 - 1.00pm)



PARISH MATTERS

Please Return items borrowed from Church:

Altar Servers Albs: needed for Easter Masses; and
Hymn Books: going to be sent for repair

Teaching Vacancy: ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, Gravesend is looking for an experienced KS2 teacher. For further information please see the website at <http://www.kcsp.org.uk/recruitment/> or contact the academy on office@stjohnsprimary.kent.sch.uk

CARER AVAILABLE : Experienced and qualified mature female carer/companion available for work in Canterbury and surrounding areas. Excellent references. Contact: Tina Hamilton 07876 114974

LENT REFLECTIONS You are invited to the next session, led by Father Tom Herbst OFM at 7pm in St Thomas's Hall on Tuesday, 13th March 2018. The topic is: **The Man born Blind**

giftaid it **Next Weekend 17/18 March is Gift Aid Envelope Weekend.** It is that time of year again! For our current donors, your NEW BOXES will be available for collection after all Masses on 17/18 March from the HALL FOYER. If you no longer wish to donate, please inform the office on 01227 462896 as soon as possible. If you want to become a regular Gift Aid Donor to our church please come and say Hi to the members handing out the new boxes - we will be happy to help with any information. Detailed information is on the notices at the back of Church and in the Hall.

Weekly Saturday Concerts: Parishioners are reminded of our Weekly Concerts in Hall - **Saturdays: 10.45 to 11.30am.** Come earlier (from 10am) to chat over a cup of tea. There is no charge but donations are gratefully received towards expenses. Any profits benefit parish projects. All welcome.

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, 18 March 2018 - Stations of the Cross 3pm
RCIA (Journey in Faith) Next meeting : Tuesday, 13th March 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Hall.

HOPE 2018 CANTERBURY EVENT: Live streaming of the "Passion Play" – Wintershall Players, from Trafalgar Square on Good Friday
 "Hope 2018 Canterbury" seeks to spread the gospel in our city. Live streaming of the "Passion Play", from Trafalgar Square, on Good Friday at 12.00 and 15.15. will be projected on a huge screen in Dane John Gardens. Entry is free, but the equipment is costly and "Christians Together Canterbury" (CTC) ask for our support to cover these costs (in excess of £5000). Donations to: Andrew Fitzgerald, Minister Canterbury Baptist Church, St George's Place, CT1 1UT or into: **Account name:** Christians Together in Canterbury
Account number: 00215417; **Sort code:** 60-01-73

The UCM Canterbury would like to say a big Thank you to all those who came and supported our cake sale. £178 was made and donated to "Bring Brian Fitz-Gerald home "Go fund me" appeal. Any further contribute can be done on the "go fund me" page.

Anselm Study circle
 In the Upper room from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on **20 March** discussing **Collegiality in the church.** More details, article etc. available on: <http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/anselm-study-circle%20/collegiality/> or email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous at G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

SECOND COLLECTION
 The second collection **this** weekend, 10/11 March is for **The Passage.** Please give generously as usual.

Lenten Penitential Service:
 Our Parish Season Penitential service will take place on **Tuesday, 20 March 2018 at 7.30 pm.**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: SUNDAYS DURING LENT:
 11 March at 2.30pm
 18 March at 3.00 pm led by the newly Confirmed
 25 March at 4.30 pm led by Prayer and Pub Group

Information Missing? Unfortunately, space in the newsletter is restricted - please look at the notice boards and website for more, detailed information.

The Solitude Group meets at Greyfriars on the 3rd Saturday of the month, this Saturday, for a quiet morning of prayer. We begin with refreshments at 9.00am, followed by a short reflection, and quiet time in the chapel or grounds ending at 11.45am. Details on notice at the back of Church. Newcomers to phone Louise: 07962 256908 in advance as access to the site is variable according to month.

WANTED PLEASE! A tall, standing lamp for use in the Hall

World Meeting of Families 2018
 The outline of the three-day Pastoral Congress is now available on our website. The Congress will run from 22-24 August in the RDS, Dublin. Places for the Congress are limited and include guaranteed tickets for the Festival of Families and Final Mass. Children under 18 years go free but must have a ticket. More information available on website: www.worldmeeting2018.ie or via email info@worldmeeting2018.ie

CCCU Cathsoc Talks
 This Monday 12/03/18 at 7:30pm in St Thomas' Hall
Natural Family Planning - What is it? Speaker: Dr Bethany Treloar
 Next Monday, 19/03/18 at 7:30pm in the Church Upper Room
Is Contraception Moral? Speaker: Rev Peter Littleton

LET US PRAISE GOD FOR HIS GLORIOUS GRACE! The Grace Project (organised by Kent Uni Catholic Chaplaincy) invite you to an evening of Live Music, Food, Tea/Coffee and Giving Thanks:
Friday, 16 March 2018 at 7.30 pm in St Thomas Church Hall.

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.

Please remember in your prayers:
 Nick Grealy, Mike Roser, Gloria Soar, Suzy Drayson, Agnes Daly, Theresa Punnett, Lorna Feeney, Toni-Lee D'Amiral, 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, 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, Dolores Klosky, Barbara Markham, Pat Gibson and Geraldine Ross

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
 Maureen Sullivan, Lachlan MacDonald, Michael Linehan, Maria Duval, Thomas Hickey, Fr Eric Nimmo, Andrew Mannion, Agnelo Pereira, Elisa Brown, Fr David Maskall and Fr John Pearson.

Thank you! Collections for weekend 03/04 March 2018:
Offertory: £991.62 loose & £580.06 Gift Aided - total £1571.68
Second Collection: No second collection

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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*)

Monday 12th March Feria *Jn 4:43-54*

7.30 am Fr Barry Angus - RIP

12 noon for Anne Hill (*Verity Hill*)

7 - 9 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

7.30 pm *Open Air Mass Meeting*

Tuesday 13th March Feria *Jn 5:1-16*

7.30am Freda Hanley - RIP

12 noon Caremela De Miralles - RIP 1st Anniversary

7.00 pm RCIA - Man Born Blind - ALL WELCOME IN HALL

Wednesday 14th March Feria *Jn 5:17-30*

7.30am Welfare of Séan and Joan O'Connell (T Metcalfe)

10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)*

12 noon Mary Yeo - RIP (*Anna Nicholson*)

7.30 *Parish Pastoral Council Inaugural Meeting*

7 - 8.30 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Thursday 15th Feria *Jn 5:31-47*

7.30am Agnelo Pereira - RIP (*Fr Anthony*)

12 noon Funeral of Mrs Maureen Sullivan

Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room

4.30pm Reception of the Body of Andrew Mannion in Church

7.45pm *Prayer and Pub*

Friday 16th March Feria *Jn 7:1-2, 25-30*

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Funeral of Andrew Mannion

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction

7.30 pm Maureen and John Sullivan - RIP (*M and S Scott*)

Saturday 17th March St Patrick *Mt 13:24-32*

10 am *Saturday Concert in the Hall*

10 am *Children's First Reconciliation*

10.30 - 11.30 *Reconciliation*

12 noon Mary & Marjorie Fleming - RIP (*Gadd Family*)

4.30 - 5.30pm *Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)*

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish

Sunday 18th March Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) *Jn 12:20-33*

8am Good Health

9:30am Maureen Sullivan - RIP (*J Judge*)

11am Sr Eithne McCarthy (FMSJ) - RIP(*Srs Margaret & Anne*)

Baptism of Liam Catalano during Mass

3.00 pm Stations of the Cross led by the newly Confirmed

6pm Maureen Pepper - RIP (*Pepper*)

From Fr Anthony ...

Last Wednesday it was announced that Pope Francis has approved a miracle attributed to Blessed Oscar Romero, the murdered Archbishop of San Salvador. This will mean that he will now be canonised as a Saint of the universal Church. This is good news for us as a Parish because in the martyrs chapel we have a second class relic associated with him. In 1995 our parish donated a relic of St Thomas of Canterbury to the Diocese of San Salvador and in turn they gave us an Alb and Stole belonging to Archbishop Romero, which is now within a glass case in the wall of the martyrs chapel. Oscar Romero was the Archbishop of San Salvador from 1977 until he was assassinated in 1980. He was initially regarded as a conservative choice, but he became increasingly outspoken about human rights violations in El Salvador – particularly after the murder of his close friend Father Rutilio Grande. From his Cathedral pulpit he became the voice of the voiceless poor. There, in a society of cover-up and lies, he spoke the truth of what was happening in the countryside; he denounced the killings, the torture and the disappearances of community leaders; he demanded justice and recompense for the atrocities committed by the army and police and he set up legal aid projects and pastoral programmes to support the victims of the violence. With the emergence of armed guerrilla groups on the far left, civil war loomed. Archbishop Romero, rejecting the violence perpetrated by the left as well as the right, strained every nerve to promote peaceful solutions to his nation's crisis. He was vilified in the press, attacked and denounced to Rome by Catholics of the wealthy classes, harassed by the security forces and publicly opposed by several episcopal colleagues.

The death threats multiplied. Archbishop Romero realised he was going to be killed. And he came to accept it. At 6.26pm on March 24th 1980, with a single marksman's bullet, he was killed while celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Hospital of Divine Providence. He died a Eucharistic martyr, a martyr to the option for the poor, a martyr to the Magisterium of the Church – and now he will be recognised as Saint Oscar Romero.

We are privileged to have in our Church the relics of two martyred archbishops who gave their lives upholding the truth.

"The only violence that the gospel admits is violence to oneself. When Christ lets himself be killed, that is violence – letting oneself be killed.

Violence to oneself is more effective than violence to others. It is very easy to kill, especially when one has weapons, but how hard it is to let oneself be killed for love of the people". Oscar Romero, August 12, 1979

2nd Collection:
 The Passage

Gift Aid Sunday