

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ
 Telephone: 01227 462896
 Facsimile: 01227 450377

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

SACRISTANS: We are looking for willing hands to help with Sacristan duties at various masses. If you think you may be able to help, please contact the Presbytery or talk to one of the Priests for more information. Full training will be provided.

Volunteers for Cleaning for Easter! Please volunteer your cleaning skills on Saturday 24th and 31st March from 1.30pm to 2.30pm to polish, wipe, dust and sweep the Church in preparation for Easter. All cleaning equipment (and some refreshments) will be provided. If you can join us please let Linda in the office know on 01227 462896. Flyers at the back of Church.



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting is **Saturday, 21st April 2018 at 9.30am.**

Places are limited so please call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (on the website or from the Office). Thank you.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:

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

CONFIRMATION 2017-2018 Ongoing Formation:
 Sunday, 22 April 2018 in the Upper Room



The Scripture Group The last Scripture Group before Easter will be on Thursday 22nd March. We shall return on Thursday 19th April.

Weekly Saturday Concerts: Parishioners are reminded of our Weekly Concerts in Hall - **Saturdays: 10.45 to 11.30am.** Come earlier 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.

CCCU Cathsoc Talks

This Monday 19/03/18 at 7:30pm in the Church Upper Room
Is Contraception Moral? Speaker: Rev Peter Littleton

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

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

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%20collegiality/> or email, Prof Ghazwan Butrous at G.butrous@kent.ac.uk

SECOND COLLECTION

There is no second collection **this weekend, 17/18 March 2018**
 The second collection **next weekend 24/25 March** is for the St Vincent De Paul Society - Gift Aid envelopes are available at the back of Church

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:

25 March at 4.30 pm led by Prayer and Pub Group



Easter Garden in Martyrs' Chapel: We are looking for volunteers who are inspired to design and create our Easter Garden in the Martyrs' Chapel. We are also looking for volunteer to maintain the garden. If you feel you can help, please contact Linda in the office or speak to Father Daniel.

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

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

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

A message from Sister Rose: I would like to thank all those who sponsored me for the Sleep Out in Littlehampton last month. Twenty people took part. I don't yet know the final sum raised. It was bitterly cold - minus 4 degrees - but we survived!

PARISH MEETINGS:

Monday, 26 March, 7.30pm - Finance Meeting

Formation Adviser for Kent – last call for anyone interested in this role. Please contact Sarah Wood – sarah.wood@finance-rcdsouthwark.org for more information by 5pm on Monday 19th March 2018.

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, Patricia Thackray, Fr David Maskall and Fr John Pearson.

Thank you! Collections for weekend 10/11 March 2018:

Offertory: £970.04 loose & £591.50 Gift Aided - total £1561.54
Second Collection: For **The Passage** raised £249.64

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 18th March Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) *Jn 12:20-33*
 8am Good Health Gift Aid Sunday
 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*)
Monday 19th March St Joseph, Husband of Mary *Lk 2:41-51a*
 7.30 am Maureen and John Sullivan (*Noreen Egan*)
 12 noon David and Gladys Murphy (*Verity Hill*)
 7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7.30 pm Open Air Mass Meeting
Tuesday 20th March Feria *Jn 8:21-30*
 7.30am Special Intentions
 12 noon Martin Wesolowski - RIP (*Lurka*)
 7.30 pm Parish Penitential Service
Wednesday 21st March Feria *Jn 8:31-42*
 7.30am Thanksgiving
 10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (*Fr Daniel*)
 12 noon Anne Moore-Martin - RIP (*A Nichols*)
 7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 22nd March Feria *Jn 8:51-59*
 7.30am Special Intentions
 12 noon Olga Douglas - RIP (*McIntosh and Watkins families*)
Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room
 7.45pm Prayer and Pub
Friday 23rd March Feria *Jn 10: 31-42*
 7.30 am Morning Prayer
 12 noon Maureen Sullivan - RIP (*Elizabeth Graham*)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
 7.30 pm William and Hannah Phelan (*Nora King*)
Saturday 24th March St Patrick *Jn 11:45-56*
 10.45 am Saturday Concert in the Hall (*Tea from 10.15*)
 10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Anthony*)
 12 noon Mary & Marjorie Fleming - RIP (*Gadd Family*)
 1.30 - 2.30 pm Cleaning the Church
 4.30 - 5.30 pm Reconciliation (*Fr Daniel*)
 6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 25th March Palm Sunday *Mk 14:1 - 15:47*
 8am Sheila Charlton - RIP
 9:30 am Gabriel & Bozena Abkowicz - RIP (*Gordon Family*)
 11am Catherine (Kath) Packer - RIP (*Packer family*)
 4.30 pm Stations of the Cross led by Prayer and Pub Group
 6pm Welfare of John Delaney (*Philomena*)

2nd Collection:
SVP

From Fr Anthony ...

When I was at school one of my teachers was fond of saying (regarding anything he wanted us to remember): *"Make sure it is carved on the fleshy tablets of your hearts"*
 He was alluding to St Paul's words when writing to the people of Corinth, *"And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts."*
 I was reminded of this when I read the passage from Jeremiah that we have this Sunday. *"No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people"*
 God is calling us to recognise and discover his law of love planted deep within us. It is not merely a list of regulations or do's and do not's that is external to us. It is the very life of God that resides in us. As one commentator put it, *"God is reconstituting the people and establishing a deeper bond with them than they had ever known. What is new about the covenant Jeremiah prophesies is the intensity of relationship with God that comes through it."* This new relationship is not dependent on our own worthiness or whether or not we behave well. This is pure grace, pure gift on God's part. God is forever committed to us and will never abandon us or turn against us. God's attitude to us is one of unrelenting love and continual forgiveness. Our relationship with God is therefore a matter of the heart.
 What Jeremiah foretold now comes to fulfillment in Jesus. Luke in his recounting of the institution of the Eucharist writes: *"This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood"*. The suffering and death of Jesus marks the beginning of this new relationship between God and us. When we celebrate the Mass, we are celebrating a new intimacy with God as Father as we share in the death of Jesus. We participate in the life of Christ. With the Eucharist in us we become Christ. No wonder the Church talks about the Mass as the source and summit of the Christian life.