

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)

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 some weekday 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.



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 15th April 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
RCIA (Journey in Faith) Next Meeting: Tuesday, 27th March 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.



On the Noticeboard:

Hope 2018: 'Canterbury has Talent', 7pm on Easter Sunday 1st April at St. Andrew's United Reform Church. Calling all young people who would like to compete for a £100 prize. (See poster at the back of the church.) Applications close Sunday 25th - today!
Divine Mercy Apostolate - DIVINE MERCY PILGRIMAGE on Saturday, 7th April 2018 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

The Passage is a Christian Charity working with homeless people in Central London. There is a marvellous opportunity for people to support this work so that every £1 given, through The Big Give website after 12.00 noon on Thursday 22 March and before 12.00 noon on Thursday 29 March, can result in the charity receiving £2.

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

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.

HOPE 2018 GOOD FRIDAY EVENTS:

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY
 11.00 am **Good Friday Ecumenical Walk of Witness:**
Walk of the Cross and Open Air Service - leaving from the Salvation Army (Whitehorse Lane) - meet at 10.45; with 11.15 service at Rose Square (outside Primark)
 12.00 pm: *The Passion of Jesus - 1st Live Screening in Dane John Garden directly from Trafalgar Square.*

JOB VACANCY: An exciting opportunity have arisen within the Diocese for the role of Coordinator of Marriage and Family Life Ministry. Closing date for the applications is March 27th. Details on the notice at the back of Church

SECOND/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The second collection this weekend 24/25 March is for the **SVP**
 Special collections: **Holy Thursday(29th) for The Poor**
Good Friday (30th) for the Holy Places
 Please give generously as usual, thank you.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES/ACTIVITIES PAMPHLETS - giving details for Holy Week are available in the Narthex - please take one!

ALTAR SERVING DURING THE EASTER TRIDIUM - Please return your form before Monday, 26 March or contact Father Daniel or Linda (462896) urgently if you can serve on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, at the Easter Vigil (Saturday) and/or Easter Sunday.
CHANGE TO PRACTICE FOR GOOD FRIDAY - Now at 9.00 am on Good Friday - 30 March.

Donations towards new Hymn Books:

We have purchased new hymnals for the parish. Parishioners are invited to donate £5.00 towards these hymnals. We will put a small, personalised label into the front of the hymnal in memory of your loved one. If you wish to donate to this project, please contact Linda in the office.



PARISH MEETINGS:

Monday, 26 March, 7.30pm - Extraordinary Finance Meeting

World Meeting of Families 2018

The outline of the three-day Pastoral Congress and other information is available on our website. www.worldmeeting2018.ie or via email info@worldmeeting2018.ie

St Thomas 100 Club for 2018

This year the proceeds of £1000 will go towards the Narthex (church porch) project to make it a more welcoming area. With just 85 subscribers, the draw in December will be for 3 big prizes of £250 each. The monthly winners each receiving £20 are:
 For January: Joan Blows (no.39) Ilma Blackett (no.24)
 For February: Tony Welch (no. 85) Bernard Packer (no. 37)
 For March: Tom Hill (no. 47). Cyril Scott (no. 15)

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Nick Grealy, 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 Ditrach, 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, Fr John Pearson, Maurice Cutler and Richard Cribb.

Thank you! Collections for weekend 17/18 March 2018:
Offertory: £777.00 loose & £599.00 Gift Aided - total £1376.00
Second Collection: No Second Collection this weekend

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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)

Monday 26th March Monday of Holy Week Jn 12:1-11

7.30 am Finbarr Leahy - RIP (Mary Buckenham)

12 noon Agnelo Pereira - RIP (SVP)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.45 pm Extraordinary Finance Meeting

7.30 pm First Holy Communion Parents meeting in Hall

Tuesday 27th March Tuesday of Holy Week Jn 13:21-33,36-38

7.30am Anthony Cullen - RIP (A Burton)

12 noon SJS Metcalfe - RIP (Tessa)

7.30 pm RCIA Meeting in the Presbytery

Wednesday 28th March Wednesday of Holy Week Mt 26:14-25

7.30am Good Health

11.15 am **CHRISM MASS AT ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL**

NO MIDDAY MASS

Thursday 29th March Thursday of Holy Week Jn 13:1-15

5-6 pm Servers' Rehearsal for Maundy Thursday

8 pm **Mass of The Lord's Supper**
 Barbara Savigar - birthday (Phyllis Steel) followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until Midnight with night prayers at 11.45pm

Friday 30th March Good Friday Jn 18: 1-19:42

9 - 10 am Servers' Rehearsal for Good Friday

10 am Sung Morning Prayer

11 am Children's Stations of the Cross

12 noon Reconciliation

3.00 pm Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord

8.00 pm Prayer around the Cross with music from Taize

Saturday 31st March Holy Saturday Mk 16:1-7

10.00 Morning Prayer

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Daniel)

10.45 am Saturday Concert in the Hall (Tea from 10.15)

12 noon Blessing of the Food in the Hall

1.30 - 2.30 pm Cleaning the Church

3 - 4 pm Servers' Rehearsal for Easter Vigil (2nd of 2)

4.30 - 5.30 pm Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

9pm **Solemn Easter Vigil in the Holy Night :**
 Mass Intention: People of the Parish

Sunday 1st April Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

8am Stephanie Connolly and Family Mk 14:1 - 15:47

9:30 am Maureen and John Sullivan - RIP (Mary Reynolds)

11am Alison Pierce - good Health (Mrs Maher)

6pm David Heap - RIP (Christine)

2nd
 Collection:
 SVP

Special
 Collection:
 The Poor

Special Collection for
 The Holy Places

From Fr Anthony ...

Today we begin one of the most important weeks in the Church's year. It used to be known as "The Great Week". It is the very heart of the liturgical year when we celebrate the mystery of salvation. We have the opportunity to follow the steps of the Master. The passion narrative comes to life as though it were being re-enacted before our eyes. All the evens leading up to the arrest, trail and execution of Jesus are recalled and celebrated. "In the liturgy of Holy Week the Church relives in faith the saving mysteries of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord." Today we begin with the joy of Jesus entry into Jerusalem. This is a joy that anticipates Easter. Then we have a reading of the Passion. Proclaimed with dignity it can make a deep impression on us. No special celebrations mark the beginning of the week. On Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday we ponder deeply on the mystery of the Lords passion.

On Thursday we begin the Easter Triduum. This is our three days of preparation for Easter. It begins with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Thursday evening and concludes with Evening prayer on Easter Sunday. As one writer put it "The Easter Triduum may be likened to a triptych: three pictures, each forming a unity; each picture is complete but needs to be viewed in relation to the other two." On Thursday let us rejoice at the wonderful gift of the Eucharist and as we witness the washing of the feet we pray for the grace to show love and service to others. We might be able to watch and pray at the altar of repose and rejoice at the unique presence of Jesus. On Friday we glory in the cross of Christ as a sign of life. We might join with others Christians in a walk of witness in the morning before joined together at 3pm to celebrate the passion of Jesus, praying for the world and venerating the wood of the cross. "We worship you, Lord, we venerate your cross, we praise your resurrection" In the evening we have an opportunity to mediate on the last seven words of Christ. Saturday is a day of quiet waiting or prayerful preparation for the resurrection. As nightfall approaches we gather around the fire and begin the "mother of all vigils." We walk through salvation history as we listen to the readings, we bless the baptismal water and rejoice with those who are to be baptized and who are to be received into full communion in the Church. We renew our baptismal promises and singing of the Gloria and the Alleluia we proclaim the Christ is risen.

