

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 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.



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 website or from Office).



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018:
 Sunday 22nd April at 9 am in the Hall
 Parents Meeting: Mon, 30 April 7.30pm
CONFIRMATION 2017-2018 Ongoing Formation:
 Sunday, 22 April 2018 in the Upper Room



Donations towards new Hymn Books:
 Remember! If you wish to donate to this project, please contact Linda in the office.



The **Mass for Migrants** will take place in St George's Cathedral on Monday 7th May at 11 am, preceded by a procession at 10.45 am. See poster at Back of Church.

The Scripture Group The next meeting will be on Thursday 19th April.

New Evangelization Summit – 28 April 2018

The New Evangelization Summit (annual event hosted in Ottawa, Canada and streamed to North America) will this year, for the first time be shown via video link in the UK, at the Centre for Catholic Formation, Tooting Bec, on Saturday 28 April 2018 (9.30am to 9.30pm). Tickets at £30 include two meals and printed literature. To book visit www.ccfootingbec.org.uk/nes2018. An excellent event for parish evangelization teams, parish pastoral councils and others keen to explore how to share the faith. A preview video is at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NTzSgk2T3cl>. For other events at the Centre for Catholic Formation see posters at the back of Church

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

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



Taize Prayer:
 Tuesday 17th April, 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the church.
 An hour of readings, chants, intercessions and silence.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

The second collection **this weekend, 14/15 April** is for the **St Vincent De Paul Society**
 The second collection **next weekend - 21/22 April** will be for **Ecclesiastical Education** (helps meet the costs of training students for the permanent diaconate and the priesthood as well as supporting certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Please remember to check if you hold personal data on any parishioners and if so, please submit this directly to either Father Anthony or Linda Scott (office) as soon as possible.

'Let it be done unto Me'

As the month of May is dedicated to the Holy Mother of God, this year parishioners are invited to participate in a special short course, spread over five evenings, featuring beautiful film presentations, discussion time and social time. The atmosphere will be informal and an opportunity to be drawn deeper into the wonderful role of Mary in salvation history and in our daily lives. Participants will be provided with a course book and so we will need to know definite numbers. Please let Linda in the Church Office know if you would like to come. The five sessions are on the following Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm: April 25th, May 2nd, 9th and 23rd and June 6th.



St Thomas 100 Club Winners for April 2018

Proceeds this year go to the Narthex (church porch) project. With just 87 subscribers, the December 2018 draw will be for 3 big prizes of £250 each. Congratulations to the **April** winners each receiving £20: **Mary Reynolds** (number 53) **James Pullicino** (Number 35)

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER CANTERBURY (CTC)

'Building Bridges' – a week of community, creativity and prayer, 23-28 April at cityspace (49 Northgate), hosted by Canterbury Boiler Room, a prayer community in the heart of the city. Saturday 28th April, see two activities - we will be hosting 12 hours of non-stop prayer at cityspace, - you are welcome to drop in any time to pray and to join us in walking one of the 8 prayer walks outlined in our CTC Prayer Walking Guide, if you feel like getting out in the fresh air to pray. A full programme of events will be available next week.

"Thank you for your support to our Lent Fast Day appeal. Donations to CAFOD until 12 May will be doubled by the UK Government. We have planned a £5 million programme to combat malnutrition - and with it we hope to be able to reach 245,000 people. But we need the full amount of match funding to make it happen. You can help us reach the full amount needed for this crucial programme. We still have some way to go yet! To donate please go to cafod.org.uk/lent"

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, 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, Charles Ryan, Pat Gibson and Geraldine Ross

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Maureen Sullivan, Lachlan MacDonald, Michael Linehan, Maria Duval, Thomas Hickey, Andrew Mannion, Agnelo Pereira, Elisa Brown, Patricia Thackray, Maurice Cutler, Michael Kelly, Richard Cribb and Brian Fitz-Gerald.

Thank you! Collections for weekend 07/08 Apr 2018:

Offertory: £952.34 loose & 682 Gift Aided - total £1634.34
Second Collection: There was no second collection.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Arthur Surman - RIP (*Verity Hill*)
Sunday 15th April 3rd Sunday of Easter Lk 24:35-48 2nd Collection: SVP
 8am Claudia Upward - RIP (*Phyllis Stirton*)
 9:30 am In Celebration of the Baptism of Nancy Frances Rose Crowther (*Collins Family*)
 11am Jim Kilcoyne - RIP (*J.J. Kilcoyne*)
 6pm People of the Parish
Monday 16th April Feria Jn 6:22-29
 7.30 am Shelley - RIP (*C Silcock-Stone*)
 12 noon HH Benedict XVI's birthday (*C Silcock-Stone*)
Tuesday 17th April Feria Jn 6:30-35
 NO MORNING MASS
 12 noon Michael Weis Bentzon - RIP (*Helen Natrass*)
 1pm *Marriage of Gavin Mooney & Abigail Harper-Payne*
 7.30 - 8.30pm Taize Prayer
Wednesday 18th April Feria Jn 6:35-40
 7.30am Increase in Vocations to the Priesthood (*Fr Daniel*)
 10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation* (*Fr Anthony*)
 12 noon for the Welfare of Victoria
 2.30 pm *Funeral of Michael Kelly in Chapel at St John's Hospital, Northgate*
 7 - 8.30 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
Thursday 19th April Feria Jn 6:44-51
 7.30am Carla Pereira (*Pereira*)
 12 noon Kathleen - RIP (*A Nichols*)
 7.45pm *Prayer and Pub*
Friday 20th April Feria Jn 6:52-59
 7.30 am Morning Prayer
 12 noon for Thalia Clark at exam time (*Martina*)
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
 7.30 pm Good Health
 8 - 9 pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*
Saturday 21st April St Anselm Jn 6:60-69
 10.45 am *Saturday Concert in the Hall (Tea from 10.15)*
 10.30 - 11.30 *Reconciliation* (*Fr Daniel*)
 12 noon Mike Kelly - RIP (*Mrs Riley*)
 2 pm *Baptism of Lola Tait* (*Fr Valentine*)
 4.30 - 5.30 pm *Reconciliation* (*Fr Anthony*)
 6pm (Vigil) David Heap - RIP (*Christine*)
Sunday 22nd April 4th Sunday of Easter Jn 10:11-18
 8am People of the Parish
 9:30 am Brendan McCormack - RIP (*Dorene*)
 11am James and Margaret Dean - 50th Wedding
Baptism of Alexandra Jane Ivanova during Mass
 2.30 pm Syro-Malar Rite
 3 - 4.30pm Confirmation Ongoing Formation 2nd Collection: Ecclesiastical Education
 6pm John Nithavianakis - RIP (*Peter Smith*)

From Fr Anthony ...

On Monday last week, the Vatican published Pope Francis latest Apostolic Exhortation entitled GAUDETE ET EXSULTATE "Rejoice and be Glad." He sees this exhortation as the call to holiness in today's world. In the opening paragraph he says, "My modest goal is to re-propose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities. For the Lord has chosen each one of us "to be holy and blameless before him in love". I won't try to summarise the document but encourage you all to read it online http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20180319_gaudete-et-exsultate.html or buy a copy of it (we have ordered a few copies for the shop). Having myself read the document, several things strike me. Pope Francis reminds us that examples of holiness are all around us not necessarily only of those who we call "saints." "Very often it is a holiness found in our next-door neighbours, those who living in our midst, reflect God's presence. He reminds us that the call to holiness is a call addressed primarily to each one of us. "Be holy, for I am holy. (Lev 11:44). The important thing about being holy is for each of us to discern our own path, so that we bring out the very best of ourselves, that we bring out "the most personal gifts that God has placed in our hearts rather than trying to image something that is not meant for ourselves. The Pope encourages us to see our entire life as a mission. We do this by listening to God in prayer and recognising the signs that he gives. Always ask the Spirit what Jesus expects from you at every moment of your life and in every decision you must make, so as to discern its place in the mission you have received. He reminds us of the importance of cultivating silence. He also says that we must not be afraid to be guided by the Holy Spirit. "Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace. For in the words of León Bloy, when all is said and done, "the only tragedy in life, is not to become a saint." Later on in the Exhortation he talks about signs of holiness, such as perseverance, patience, meekness, joy and a sense of humour. I really like what he says about holiness as being bold and passionate. Jesus tells us not to be afraid. We are often tempted to keep close to the shore. Yet the Lord calls us to put out into the deep and let down our nets. He bids us spend our lives in his service. Clinging to him, we are inspired to put all our charisms at the service of others. I hope that this gives you something of a flavour of what is in this inspiring exhortation. There is also a short video on the Vatican website. <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2018-04/pope-s-exhortation-gaudete-et-exsultate.html#play>