

NEWSLETTER

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)

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



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting is **Saturday, 19th May 2018 at 9.00am.**

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, 13th May - First Holy Communion Masses at 9.30am and 11.00am

CONFIRMATION 2017-2018 Ongoing Formation:

Saturday, 12 May - **Retreat Day at Minster Abbey**

Sunday, 20 May, 3-4.30pm in the Upper Room

RCIA: Tuesday, 8th May at 7.30pm in the Presbytery



First Holy Communion

Please pray for our young people celebrating the Sacrament of First Holy Communion



on **Sunday, 13th May at the 9.30 am and 11.00 am Masses.**

CHANGE OF DATES for 'Let it be done unto Me'

Please note a change of dates for the next sessions. Still at 7.30pm: **May 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd** - All in the hall except **16th May** which is in the Upper Room.



Rediscovering the Roots of Franciscan Spirituality. A one day conference is to be held at St Mary's University, Twickenham on 12 May 2018. Please see the notice board for details.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: You are invited to join the next prayer vigil on Friday 25th May 2018 after **10.30am** Mass at St Francis Catholic Church, Maidstone. Details on notice at the back of church.

17th Divine Mercy Conference (Marian Fathers) on Saturday, 16 June 2018. Details on poster and pamphlets in the Porch.

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.

Christian Aid Service, 6:30pm Sunday 13th May at St Dunstan's Church - guest speaker Svenja Powell, on refugee work. See poster in porch for details

Cascade of Poppies. Please see the poster in the foyer for details on this initiative by the RBL within our community.

Adoramus Extra - a lasting resource for cherishing the Eucharist. Described by the Editor as "one small pebble helping towards building something exquisitely beautiful: the Church, the Body of Christ, the People of God, on our shared pilgrimage." Now available in the Shop at £4.95 each.

"**But Nana**" a book by Pat Brookhouse explores God in creation and in the ordinary. A conversation starter between child and adult about the mysteries of our Creator, copies are available from the Church Shop at £5.00 or on amazon at £5.99. For extra copies please call Pat on 01227 459792 All proceeds to Mary's Meals.

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. No charge but donations gratefully received towards expenses. Any profits benefit parish projects. All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTION

There is no second collection **this weekend - 05/06 May.** The second collection **next weekend - 12/13 May** is in support of the **Catholic Communications Network**



Masses on **Ascension Thursday, 10th May** (a Holy Day of obligation), at St Thomas' are at **7.30am, 9.30am, 12 noon and 8 pm.**

New Parishioners: Have you joined our Parish family in the last year? I am busy updating our parish records and would be very grateful if you could contact me on 01227 462896 between 9.00am and 3pm (Monday to Friday) before 10 May 2018.
Thank you, Linda Scott (Parish Administrator)



First Holy Communion Gifts. There is a lovely selection of gifts including Simple Mass Booklets and bibles available from the St Thomas' Shop in Canterbury Lane



Remember to check the notice boards and website for more information not able to fit in the newsletter.



Please note: On Wednesday, **09 May 2018**, Reconciliation will follow the Requiem Mass which starts at 10.00am



Eucharistic Adoration: Please note that there will be no Eucharistic Adoration on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May 2018. Monday Adoration will resume on 14th May 2018 from 7.00pm to 9.00pm



Canterbury Deanery - Exploring the Eucharist.

A talk by Canon John O'Toole- National Ecumenical Officer -CBCEW, entitled **Eucharist - One Bread, One Cup (Meal, Memorial, Sacrifice, Presence)** to be held at St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall on Saturday, **30th June 2018** from 11am to 2pm. More details on the poster in the Porch



Monthly Conversations May 2018.

A talk by Monsignor Keith Newton, entitled **The Personal Ordinariate - Furthering Ecumenism or not?** to be held at Our Lady of Carmel, Faversham on Thursday, 17th May, 7.30pm to 9.00pm. More details on the poster in the Porch

Bereavement Retreat to be held at Minster Abbey from 1st - 3rd June 2018. For further information see poster at the back of church, go to www.minsterabbeynuns.org or write to Minster Abbey, Church St., Minster, near Ramsgate, Kent. CT12 4HF or **phone on:** 01843 821254

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, 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, A. Charles Ryan, Pat Gibson, James Hayes and Phyllis Stirton

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, Brian Fitz-Gerald, Francis Brown, Joan Calloway, Owen Jordan, Monica Kenny, Ruby Cookman, Jacqueline Hill, Catherine Concannon,

Thank you! Collections for weekend 20/21 April 2018:
Offertory: £947.39 loose & £586.42 Gift Aided - total £1534.01
2nd Collection: For **St George's Cathedral** raised £338.15.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 6th May 6th Sunday of Easter Jn 15:9-17
 8am James Cawley - RIP (A Burton)
 9:30 am Intentions of UCM members and their families
 11am Patricia Thackray - RIP (J&S Thackray)
 2pm Procession and Filipino Mass - Flores De Mayo 2018
 6pm Intentions of Christine (A Nichols)
Monday 7th May Feria Jn 15:26-16:4a **NO MORNING MASS**
 12 noon Marguerite Emery - RIP (Tony Weber)
Tuesday 8th May Feria Jn 16:5-11
 7.30am Special Intentions (Teri)
 12 noon Margaret Brown's welfare (Fr Daniel)
 6pm Reception into the Church of the Body of F Brown
 7.30pm RCIA Meeting in the Presbytery
Wednesday 9th May Feria Jn 16:12-15
 7.30am Michael Weiz Bentzon - RIP (Helen Natrass)
 10 am Funeral Mass of Francis Brown
 after 10am Mass: Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
 12 noon Special Intentions (Teri)
 7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7.30pm Programme: Mary: "Let it be done" in the Hall
 8pm Parish Liturgy Meeting
Thursday 10th The Ascension of the Lord Jn 16:16-20
 7.30am Yvonne Morrissey (Mary Morrissey)
 9.30am William Curley - RIP (Mary McGeary)
 12 noon Barbara Savigar - RIP (Phyllis)
 8pm Kathleen Doyle - RIP (Rhona Rollings)
Friday 11th May Feria Jn 16:20-23
 7.30 am Morning Prayer
 11am Funeral of Monica Kenny at Chartham
 12 noon Good Health
 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction
 7.30 pm Intentions of the Craig Family (Marjery Craig)
 8 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 12th May Feria Jn 16:23a-28
 9.30am Confirmation Retreat Day at Minster Abbey
 10.45am Saturday Concert in the Hall (Tea from 10.15)
 10am Rehearsal for First Holy Communion
 10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
 12 noon for Yvonne Morrissey
 4.30 - 5.30 pm Reconciliation
 6pm (Vigil) David Heap - RIP (Christine)
Sunday 13th May 7th Sunday of Easter Jn 16:15-20
 8am Welfare of Phyllis Stirton (Jean Pegg)
 9:30 am Celebration of First Holy Communion
 Siobhan Childs & Bernard Egan - RIP (Noreen Egan)
 11am Celebration of First Holy Communion
 Intentions of Tisha Joy & family
 4pm Polish Community Mass
 6pm People of the Parish

2nd Collection:
 Communications

From Fr Anthony ...

This coming Thursday we celebrate the Feast of the Ascension. We recall on this day that on the Mount of Olives Jesus called together the disciples and he promised them an Advocate, one who would stand beside them and lead them to fulfil the mission he gave them. He then disappeared from their sight and they returned to the Upper Room and locked themselves away, full of fear yet preparing themselves to receive the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. From Friday, the 11th May till the 19th May this year, for nine days we are encouraged to prepare to receive an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, like the those 120 people that included Mary, the Mother of Jesus. They experienced a profound change in their lives, fear was banished and they threw open the locked doors to begin the mission of shared Jesus with the whole world. In the 19th Century an Italian Nun who founded the Sisters of the Holy Spirit, Blessed Elena Guerra, believed that it was important that the Catholic Church be renewed and return to the fervour of the first Christians at Pentecost. She also wanted Christian unity and a renewal of Society so that the face of the earth be totally renewed. As a result of her campaigning and writing to the Vatican, Pope Leo XII asked the Church to celebrate a *novena* (nine days of prayer) every year between the Feast of Ascension and Pentecost to pray for the restoration and unity of the Body of Christ.

I encourage you all to make a commitment to pray for these nine days. There are leaflets at the back of the Church with suggestions as to how to do this and prayers that you can say. This year we were sent some leaflets produced by the Anglican diocese of Canterbury to aid our prayer for these nine days. Pope Benedict reminded us of the importance of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit if the Church is to be effective.

"Are we going to discover the secret of the first Pentecost in the Church? Are we going to offer ourselves humbly to the renewing power of the Holy Spirit so that He can free us from our poverty and our total inability to carry out the task of proclaiming Jesus Christ to our fellow men and women?...The Upper room is the place where Christians allow themselves - in welcoming the Holy Spirit - to be transformed by prayer. But it is also the place from which one goes out to bring the fire of Pentecost to one's brothers."