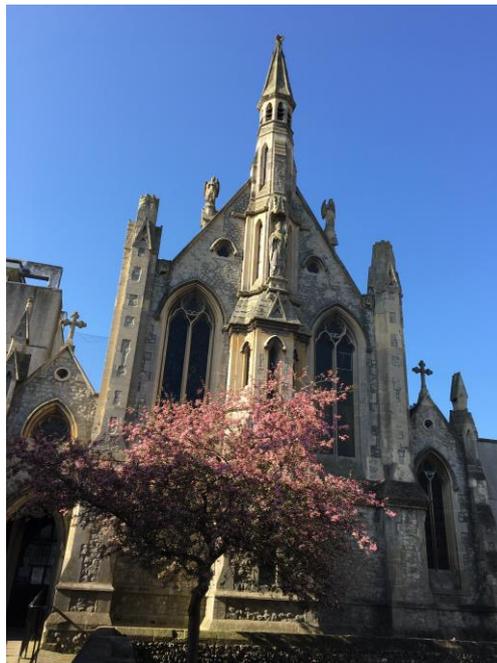

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Parish
Canterbury
(part of the Archdiocese of Southwark)

Our Parish Directory 2018/19

Living the Gospel



Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Introduction

This Directory has been produced for all who come to worship at St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church in Canterbury - those who have been faithful long time parishioners, those who are new parishioners and those who are passing through as students, tourists or pilgrims. All are welcome.

As a Catholic community united by faith in Jesus Christ, shepherded by God our Father, we are called to be "missionary disciples", proclaiming the kingdom of God. Nourished by the Eucharist and the Word, our parish family strives in company with fellow Christian communities to reflect the light of Christ.

As Catholic Christians we are all called to "go out and make disciples of all nations" and Pope Francis has renewed the call strongly in the 2013 apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* - The Joy of the Gospel.

The Directory aims to identify the very many ways our Parish is taking up the challenge of compassionately sharing our gospel in what is an increasingly secular world. My prayers and thanks are with all who volunteer to give their time and skills in these vital ministries.

Please take time to read through it carefully and to select the initiatives in which you - and perhaps your family too - would like to participate. All parishioners are invited to share in these areas of service in order to deepen our own faith and to learn how we can practically and effectively share that faith with those who do not yet know the love of God or have fallen away from practising their Christian faith.

Events will be publicised in the Sunday Newsletter and on our Parish website.

Canon Anthony Charlton
Parish Priest

Blessed Oscar Romero



On 14th October 2018 Blessed Oscar Romero will be canonised. We have the privilege of having some of his liturgical vestments in the Martyrs Chapel of our church.

It is perhaps fitting that our Church is dedicated to another Archbishop - St Thomas of Canterbury. He too was also engaged in conflict with authority - Henry II, King of England, over the rights and privileges of the Church and was also assassinated, in his case by followers of the king in Canterbury Cathedral in December 1170. The relics of both these martyred Archbishops are venerated in our Martyr's Chapel.

Here is a prayer was composed by Bishop Ken Untener of Saginaw, drafted for a homily by Cardinal John Dearden in Nov. 1979 for a celebration of departed priests. As a reflection on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Bishop Romero, Bishop Untener included in a reflection book a passage titled "The mystery of the Romero Prayer." The mystery is that the words of the prayer are attributed to Oscar Romero, but they were never spoken by him.

A FUTURE NOT OUR OWN

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view.

The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts,
it is even beyond our vision.

We accomplish in our lifetime
only a tiny fraction
of the magnificent enterprise
that is God's work.

Nothing we do is complete,
which is another way of saying
that the Kingdom always lies beyond us.
No statement says all that could be said.

No prayer fully expresses our faith.

No confession brings perfection.

No pastoral visit brings wholeness.

No programme
accomplishes the Church's mission.

No set of goals and objectives
includes everything.

That is what we are about.

We plant a seed that will one day grow.

We water seeds already planted,
knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations
that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects
far beyond our capabilities.

We cannot do everything,
and there is a sense of liberation
in realizing that.

This enables us to do something,
and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete,
but it is a beginning,
a step along the way,
an opportunity for the Lord's grace
to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results,
but that is the difference
between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders,
ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

RELICS FROM THE MARTYRS CHAPEL



CHASUBLE, ALB & STOLE
Belonging to Blessed Archbishop
Oscar Romero

RELICS
of Saint Thomas of Canterbury



CONTACT INFORMATION

St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church
The Presbytery
59 Burgate
Canterbury
CT1 2HJ

Website: <http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/stthomas/>

Email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com

Parish Directory email: parishdirectory2016@gmail.com

The Presbytery Office is open Monday to Friday between 9.00 and 16.00 hours.

If you wish to make an appointment to see a priest please speak to our Parish Administrator.

Tel: 01227 462896

Did you know that our church was opened in 1875 and was extended in 1963 incorporating our church hall. At the same time our sacristies were extended and above them is the Parish Meeting Room. Along with the room underneath the Presbytery known as the Club Room, there are plenty of places for us all to meet as a community.....



Sharing the Gospel through Outreach

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (John 13:34). Here are some of the ways we do this as a Parish.

What & Who	When
<p>1. St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) We are your charity working on your behalf offering help and support to those most in need in our society here in Canterbury. We help the lonely, bereaved, impoverished and those in need of a listening ear or emergency financial support. Volunteering gives an opportunity to become part of a network of dedicated people making a difference to people's lives. We are part of a wider international organisation. We are open to members of our church who can bring experience or skills to assist us in delivering support to our community. We meet at 7pm every Wednesday in the upper room (no meetings in August). For further information please contact us: Contact: By telephone: 07902 855622 or by E-mail: svpcant@gmail.com</p>	<p>7pm every Wednesday in Upper Room (except August)</p>
<p>2. Canterbury Food Bank This is an inter-faith, local initiative that distributes food to people in crisis. Every weekend Food Bank bins are available in our church for your donations, which a small team then take to the Food Bank depot on a Tuesday morning. Anyone interested in helping or wanting more information please contact: Contact: Bill Parker: 07902 855622 or email svpcant@gmail.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>3. 16th. Canterbury (St. Thomas') Scout Group Our Scout Group remains one of the largest Groups in the local District; our numbers at the moment are healthy. We have at the moment just over 100 young members, aged from 6 - 18 years old; we meet every Thursday at St Thomas' Church hall. We have many activities going on during the year for all sections with many events. Church Parades are part of the Scout ethos but also demonstrate our appreciation to St. Thomas' Church for the support the Church. This Scouting challenge is there for all our young people and we hope that this is accepted and leads to the well-rounded development of our youngsters and ultimately to the good citizens of the future. Contact: Pam Johnson - rosswoodcampsite@hotmail.com Tel. 01227 761421</p>	<p>Term Time</p>
<p>4. Hospital Visitors Helping to bring the love and healing of Christ in the sacrament to those who are in hospital, sick or housebound. Mass is held in the Hospital at 10.30am the 1st Friday of each month. (Except August) Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>5. St Thomas' Website Our website is an evolving and vital window on what St Thomas's Parish offers to the whole of our own Catholic community and to the wider community outside of our church. Up to date news and event details are given along with times of services and special worship and celebrations. A short history of St Thomas' Church is there with details of our relics. A "Who's Who" in the Parish has been started. The website is an on-going project for development and volunteers are welcome to help with this. Contact: webmaster Ghazwan Butrous via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>6. Churches Together in Canterbury (CTC) CTC brings together Christians from the churches in Canterbury. The common projects listed are Christian Unity Week (18th to 25th each January), the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Street Pastors, the Food Bank and other new/one off projects. We are all encouraged to have the desire to have contact with other Christians in whatever way we can. Contact: John Renn via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>See Newsletter as events arise</p>
<p>7. Polish Community at the St. Thomas' RC Church The Polish Community in Kent (PAK) was established in 1984. The main objective of PAK was maintaining the Polish language and culture. Our mission today is not only to maintain but also share our traditions and culture through the active involvement in the life of our local community. Every second Sunday of the month at 4pm, the Mass in Polish is celebrated at St Thomas'. This is followed by a meeting at 5pm for tea/coffee and nibbles. Lent, Advent and other special celebrations are also held for the Polish Community. All are welcome. Contact: Marta Gocek: info@polskakent.org</p>	<p>All year</p>
<p>8. The Syro-Malabar Community in St Thomas of Canterbury The Syro-Malabar rite is one of the oriental churches within the Catholic Communion and traces back its origin to St Thomas the Apostle. This is the second largest oriental church within the Catholic Church and this community is mainly from Kerala, one of the south Indian states. There are around 45 families within the parish of St Thomas of Canterbury. They have the Syro-Malabar Rite Mass on very fourth Sunday of the month at 14.30hrs. Catechetical formation for the children of this community is conducted on the second Saturday and the fourth Sunday of every month. Contact: Mr Noby Mathew - mob: 07454 812983</p>	<p>Syro Malabar Rite Mass 2.30pm every 4th Sunday Children's Catechism every 2nd Saturday and 4th Sunday</p>

<p>9. Canterbury Filipino Society (CaFilSo) was established in September 2016. Our aim is to promote harmonious relationship and build a better foundation of the Filipino Community in Canterbury. To preserve our Filipino culture, heritage and traditions for the younger generation and to share to all the parishioners of St. Thomas of Canterbury and the public community through our Filipino Mass celebrated every 1st Sunday of the month at 3pm with Filipino cuisine and dishes shared by all in the parish hall after the Mass. Flores de Mayo (Feast in honour of our Blessed Mother Mary) in May, Pista ng Nayon (Festival Community) in July, Rosary prayer for the month of May and October, Prayer for the Souls in November, Christmas event are among the special celebrations we held every year. We encourage everyone to come and celebrate with us. Contact: Mila Oligo 01227 785074 cafilsociety@gmail.com</p>	<p>Masses: 5 August 2 September 7 October 4 November 2 December</p>
<p>10. St Thomas' Church Shop The Church Shop continues to serve the needs of the Parish, as well as Parishes and religious communities from surrounding areas. We are now the only remaining Christian shop (apart from the Cathedral). As well as the usual supply of Missals, Catholic Bibles, Prayer Books & Rosaries, we stock a good selection of Cards for many occasions, and Gifts prove to be popular. Books and Vatican Publications are available. To work in the shop is a wonderful opportunity to bear witness to our Faith. To have the time and space to be a listener, to share in the joys and sorrows of the people we meet daily, is an added dimension to ministry within the Church Shop. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact: via Parish email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>11. Missio Red Boxes The Association for the Propagation of the Faith (APF), now known as Missio, Red Box scheme collects donations to support the Mill Hill missionaries, the only English Catholic missionary society, and to directly aid various Catholic dioceses and projects in needy parts of the world. If you would like to become a supporter of this important missionary work, please contact me. Contact: Tony Grace via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>12. Women's World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women from over 170 countries and islands, who observe a common day of prayer held on the first Friday in March each year. We join with other Faith Communities in canterbury to organise this day of praise, worship and prayer, held in a different church in Canterbury each year. We will host this day in St Thomas' Parish in 2020. Through Women's World Day of Prayer, women are encouraged to become aware of their talents and use them in the service of the community> Contact: Mary MsGillie via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>One Day each year - First Friday in March</p>
<p>13. Connect Well Red Zebra Community Solutions is a local infrastructure organisation, working with residents and organisations to improve opportunities and services for people in the community. Red Zebra is working in partnership with Encompass, the local Multi-speciality Community Provider (MCP) of health and social care services in the Canterbury CCG area (Faversham, Whitstable, Canterbury, Sandwich and Ash) to deliver a social prescribing service. Social prescribing is a way to help people make positive changes in their lives and within their communities by linking them to voluntary and community groups and other non-clinical services. Connect Well helps people to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feel more involved in the community • Meet new people • Make changes to improve health and wellbeing <p>Connect Well Kent uses a web-based tool that enables professionals to refer clients to a range of local, non-medical support to maximise social, emotional or practical wellbeing; individuals can also find out about local activities and services through browsing the site themselves. Our database currently holds over 300 activity / service listings for the CCG area and this is ever expanding. Our parish church is putting an entry into the above directory so people can see what we offer through our ministries and services. Contact: https://connectwellkent.org.uk/</p>	<p>All Year</p>



Sharing the Gospel through our Worship

Celebrating Holy Mass on a Saturday Evening and Sunday is the one moment of the week that truly brings us all together as a Catholic Community. It is the source and summit of the Christian life. Here are the Ministries that help make this a special occasion for us all.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Our Altar Servers Serving in the sanctuary during mass is a great privilege and honour. Like priests and deacons, the altar server is serving not only Our Lord but also the People of God, the parish community. Boys and girls who have celebrated their First Communion and are regular members of the St Thomas' parish community are welcome to join the altar servers. Altar servers are required for all the Sunday masses, including the Vigil. Duties include cross-bearer, candle bearers (acolytes), thurifer and boat server. Teenagers and adults are also welcome to join. Anyone who wishes to serve at either of the weekday masses is especially welcome. Regular attendance at Mass is expected, arriving 15min-20min before mass commences. Training will be given. Contact: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>2. Eucharistic Ministers Extraordinary Ministers for the distribution of Holy Communion are properly formed, instructed and commissioned lay persons. EMHCs may be male or female. These ministers are appointed for a given parish community to aid in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick and homebound when ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are unavailable. New Ministers are always welcome. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>3. Readers Reading the holy scriptures during the first half of the mass, the Liturgy of the Word, is a vitally important part of the entire mass. It is the Reader and not the priest or a deacon who proclaims the Word in the first and second readings on a Sunday: the Reader is the authorised layperson for this role. It is a privilege to proclaim the Word of God since Catholics believe that Christ himself is present in the Word, since it is Christ himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in church. As the CTS leaflet "Being a Reader at Mass" states: "Do remember, being a reader at Mass is a service to the liturgy, the Church and community, and requires a spirit of humility and fidelity, for which we should pray." Do not be shy about coming forward to the priest after Mass and letting him know of your willingness to read. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>4. Sunday 11am Mass Choir An enthusiastic and committed group of singers leading the singing at a Mass which offers a more traditional approach to our musical celebration. Friday night is practice night. Contact: Ben Saul via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>5. Sunday 9.30am Mass Music Brief practice before Mass at 9.00. Music is varied with both traditional and more recent compositions. If you can hold a tune in your head or on an instrument, then please come and join us, we really would be delighted to have you. Contact Mike Lilford or John Renn via email stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>9.30am Sunday Mass on the 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays of the month</p>

<p>6. Sunday 6pm Mass Music The music group meets at 5pm (instrumentalists) or 5:30 (singers) to prepare for mass. Our emphasis is on leading the congregation in song. Currently the instrumental line-up is guitar, mandolin, violin and piano and our style is towards the folky end of the musical spectrum. If you would like to join us please speak to a member of the group after mass. Contact: Philip Gascoyne via email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>7. Flowers Ours is a rewarding ministry to join. In giving our time to God we have the chance to decorate His house and to pray with others. It provides a wonderful outlet for creativity, and the incomparable pleasure of working with beautiful flowers. We are fortunate in having the gift of companionship - belonging to a welcoming and supportive group. What better way is there of relaxing than working with nature, providing a release from the stresses and strains of life. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>8. Welcoming Ministry A smile and warm greeting is given at all Masses as people are welcomed into the church and given the necessary mass leaflets and hymnals. St Thomas' has many tourists, pilgrims and transient worshippers as well as a large, faithful congregation and the welcoming ministry ensures all are made to feel at home in our parish worship. We know this is valued by our visitors. Please come and join us. Contact: Tessa Metcalfe: tessa.metcalfe@btinternet.com and Sheelagh Smith: sheelagh.smith@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>9. Sacristans A dedicated and constant Team of Sacristans carry out this essential ministry in opening and closing the church when required, and prepare the Altar and Sanctuary for church services. New members to this vital team are welcome. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>

<p>10.Church Cleaning & Laundry We are always looking for help with cleaning the church brass and regular dusting of the statues and other church objects. We also need help with laundering the church linen. If you would like to help contact email:stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
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Witnessing Our Catholic Faith

In an increasingly secular world we should be openly proud of being Catholic. Public affirmation of our faith and strengthening our faith through praying with each other is vital to the health of our Catholic Community. Below are some of the ways we do this as a Parish

Who & What	When
<p>1. Baptism Preparation Baptism is the basis of the whole Christian life and the gateway to the life of the Spirit. It is the door that gives access to the other sacraments. It is always a great joy when children of the parish are brought forward for Baptism. Baptisms are usually celebrated on a Sunday at 12.15 or during a Sunday Mass. Please fill an enquiry form - available through our website or at the back of the Church if you want your child baptised. There is a preparation session for parents once a month. For adults considering baptism into the Catholic Faith, please see below regarding RCIA. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>During a Sunday Mass or after the Sunday Mass at 12.15pm as needed</p>
<p>2. First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Programme Led by Fr. Anthony and supported by four catechists. This year, lessons will be scheduled for Sunday morning at 9am so that the children could also take part in the 9.30 Parish Mass. First Communion day will be celebrated on Sunday May 12th 2019 and the Going Forth Mass the following week, Sunday 19th May 2019. Contact: Kathleen Kerr & Annie Kean via The Parish Office or email:stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Parents Meeting Monday 10th December 2018 Children's Programme starts 6th January 2019</p>

<p>3. Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) The RCIA is the liturgical and catechetical process designed for adults attracted by Christ and his teaching. It supports them as they seek to respond more deeply and to enter into the Communion of the Church. Sponsors (and occasionally Godparents) may be sought from our parish community. Contact: Louise Beesley via The Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Programme Starting 25th September 2018</p>
<p>4. Confirmation Programme Baptism, the sacrament of Confirmation and the Eucharist constitute the 'sacraments of Christian initiation.' Confirmation represents the completion of baptismal grace: by confirmation, the baptised are 'more perfectly bound to the Church and are enriched with a special strength of the Holy Spirit' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1285). In short, the sacrament of confirmation completes the sacrament of baptism: it is a coming of age. Here in the Parish, the confirmation formation programme runs from New Year to Pentecost, meeting on Sunday afternoons from 3-4.30pm. Application forms will be available from Autumn Term 2018. Contact: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Programme starts January 2019 Sacrament of Confirmation 9th June 2019 at the 11am Mass.</p>
<p>5. Breakfast Mass Group After 7.30am Mass each Wednesday we meet to share breakfast at Weatherspoon's. It's good to talk and the food is plentiful, good and cheap! All are welcome. Contact: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>6. Sunday Coffee after the 9.30 Mass Come and meet fellow parishioners after the 9.30 mass for a mug of tea or coffee. There are refreshments and games available for the children. If you would like to help the preparation team: contact John and Marie-Claire Renn Telephone: 01227 768848 or via the presbytery email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year (except August)</p>

<p>7. The Union Catholic of Mothers Canterbury are united with prayer, love and care ensuring that a UCM member never stands alone. We have the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To help Catholic women appreciate the Sacramental character, responsibilities and permanence of marriage, and to live in unselfish love observing the laws of God and His church; • To assist Catholic women bring up their children as practising Catholics and public-spirited citizens; • To teach and defend Christian values in family life and to ensure a Catholic education for their children; • To offer love, sympathy and practical help to any family in difficulty; • To foster vocations in life especially in Christian Marriage and Family Life; <p>Our events aim to help our spiritual life grow in a meaningful manner. Each celebration and gathering is full of joy, camaraderie and memorable moments. Everyone is welcome.</p> <p>For anyone wishing to contact us for more information, our email address: ucmcanterbury@gmail.com or visit our UCM Facebook page.</p>	<p>We have a monthly meeting usually the 1st Sunday of each month after the 9:30am mass in the Parish hall.</p>
<p>8. The Canterbury Solitude Group</p> <p>We are a group of people who seek to spend prayerful time in silence in the company of others. We meet in Greyfriars Chapel. Our time together is based on a Franciscan model of solitude developed from St Francis's Document on Solitude.</p> <p>Each morning begins with refreshments, before we move into prayer. One of the group presents a short reflection, we then spend time in solitude in the chapel and grounds before gathering for an optional sharing.</p> <p>Our group is ecumenical, founded within our parish. If you would like to join us just come along. For more information -</p> <p>Contact: Louise Beesley 07962 256908 or email: solitudegroup@gmail.com</p>	<p>3rd Saturday of the month Greyfriars, Stour Street, 9am - 11.45am.</p>

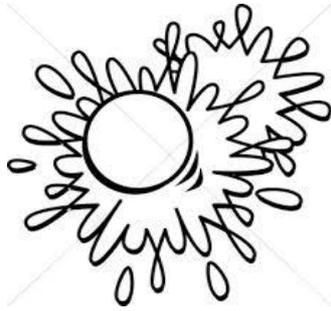
<p>9. Scripture Group After midday Mass we meet in the Upper Room to discuss the liturgy for the following Sunday. Bring a packed lunch but tea, coffee and biscuits are provided! In a friendly atmosphere all are welcome. Contact: Patty Baxter, 01227 462200, Sheila Schlarmann, 01227 451903, Chris Richmond, 01227 450161</p>	<p>Every Thursday</p>
<p>10. Lenten Groups A series of Lenten discussion groups each Lent. A programme will be held in 2019- look out for details in the Newsletter. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Annually in Lent</p>
<p>11. Safeguarding our Parish Parishioners with a leadership role in parish groups in this directory need to be aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding. Advice? Access the Southwark Diocese website: www.rcsouthwark.co.uk (Go to 'Safeguarding' and downloadable resources to locate 'Parish Resource Pack' or to the website of the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service (CSAS) - www.csas.uk.net - resource area). Advice is also always available from the Southwark Safeguarding Office Team - telephone 020 7261 1606 (e-mail: office@sgo-rcdsouthwark.org) Contact: with the parish safeguarding representative, Peter Jones, who processes volunteers' Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) clearance, can be made via the parish office</p>	
<p>12. Anselm Study Circle A new group, to discuss in depth theological issues, based on articles published in scholarly journals like <i>Communio</i> or <i>Concilium</i>. All welcome. Contact email: Prof Ghazwan Butrous: G.butrous@kent.ac.uk</p>	<p>Meets 4 times a year - see news- letter & web- site for dates</p>
<p>13. Charismatic Prayer Group Prayer, song and scripture reflection. For more information please contact Sophie 07780025906</p>	<p>Every Wednesday 7pm-9pm Link Lane Counselling Room</p>



Deepening our Faith

If we are to bring others to Christ we must ensure our own relationship with Him is developed and maintained through our participation at Holy Mass, an active prayer life and partaking of the Sacraments. Pope Francis tells us that Eucharistic Adoration and Confession are two pillars of sharing the Gospel.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Eucharistic Adoration Spending quiet time in the presence of Our Lord in order to refresh and restore us in His service. Contact: See Newsletter for details</p>	Monday (7pm - 9pm) Wednesday (7pm - 8.30pm) Friday (8pm - 9pm)
<p>2. Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) In forgiving our sins, Christ reaffirms and renews us in His Service, giving us grace and strength to meet our vocational, spiritual and pastoral needs. Contact: See Newsletter for details</p>	See Newsletter for details
<p>3. Pilgrimages Pilgrimages to Lourdes and the Holy Land are being planned for 2019. Look out for details in the Newsletter. Contact: Parish Office: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	See Newsletter for details
<p>4. Spiritual Direction Spiritual direction is the practice of being with people as they attempt to deepen their relationship with the divine, or to learn and grow in their own personal spirituality. The person seeking direction shares stories of his or her encounters of the divine, or how he or she is experiencing spiritual issues. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	As needed



Sharing the Gospel with our Youth

Focusing on retaining and sustaining our future generations of Catholic faithful is essential for the continuity of our faith. So often the demands and attractions of the secular world claim our young people as they struggle to find what our Catholic faith can offer them. Below are some of the things we offer in our Parish.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Pub & Prayer For young adults in the Parish, this group is for people between the ages of 18-35(ish) who live, work or study in Canterbury. Our weekly sessions aim to provide some degree of spiritual formation for young Catholics as well as organised social events. The first part of the evening we meet in the Parish room at 7.45pm and then socialise locally. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Weekly Thursday evenings from 7.45pm</p>
<p>2. Children's Liturgy Group They have their own Liturgy of the Word at 9:30am For the under sixes and over sixes in separate groups each week. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>At Sunday 9.30am Mass</p>
<p>3. Children's Music Welcoming all young people to be part of our worshipping community through using their musical talent. We hope in 2018/19 to encourage and develop our young people's musical talents much more. Look out for the Newsletter for further information. Contact email: Ben Saul via stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>Term Time See Newsletter for further information</p>

<p>4. Catholic Schools Canterbury has two excellent Catholic Schools: - St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: http://www.st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/ - St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: http://www.stanselmscanterbury.org.uk/</p>	<p>Contact websites for further information</p>
<p>5. Universities Canterbury is home to two universities, both of which have chaplaincies. The Universities share the Catholic Chaplain - further details of name & contact number will be given on the website.</p> <p>- The University of Kent https://www.kent.ac.uk - Canterbury Christ Church University https://www.canterbury.ac.uk</p> <p>Contact your University Chaplaincy for further information or speak to one of the parish priests</p>	<p>Contact websites for further information</p>



Fundraising for our Faith

Prayer, attending Holy Mass and regular receiving of the Sacraments feeds our inner spiritual needs. We also have to look at the practical needs of our community and how to fund our maintenance and development. Below are some of the ways we do this in our Parish.

Who & What	When
<p>1. Gift Aid Scheme Donating through Gift Aid means the church can claim charities an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It won't cost you any extra. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, you can claim the difference between the rate you pay and basic rate on your donation. What you need to do? Please make a Gift Aid declaration for the church to claim. You do this by filling in a form. This is an invaluable source of income for our parish. To find out more: Contact: Sam Harmison via email:stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year</p>
<p>2. 100 Club One hundred people paying £25 per year. Each month two winners of £20 each are drawn with an annual draw of £250 prizes in December. This Club contributes considerably each year to special Parish Projects and your participation is greatly appreciated. Look out for the next joining invitation advertised in the newsletter. Contact: Mary McGillie via email:stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year Drawn Monthly</p>

<p>3. The Organ Fund Renewed fundraising will focus on using our new Grand Piano to raise funds for a new pipe organ for the Church. If you are a UK taxpayer gift aiding your donation can obtain us another 25%. The gift aid forms are in the church entrance. Please include the form with your donation and put the envelope, marked Organ Fund, through the Presbytery letter box. The clergy and fundraising team would like to thank those who have already donated. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>All Year Look out for events in the Newsletter</p>
<p>4. Fetes, Bazaars, Auctions etc Fundraising through shared community celebrations and events while adding to the financial well-being of the parish. A new group is forming to initiate ideas for this vital ministry. all help and ideas are welcome for 2017/2018 to bring our community together and have fun while we do it. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>As per Newsletter</p>
<p>5. The Parish Finance Committee The Parish Finance Council assists the Parish Priest in the administration of parish temporal matters. An active, well-informed parish finance council is a key element in promoting the financial health of our Parish and St Thomas is very blessed with having such a group of volunteers. The Council normally meets once every quarter and produce the annual accounts for the Parish at the end of each calendar year. Contact email: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com</p>	<p>As required</p>

Our Parish Community in 2017/18

Fulfilling Our Vision

...which is to build trusting relationships with each other across every age group & nationality so we can reverently share in joyous celebration of the Eucharist and share the Good News with all.

Focusing Our Objectives

The 3 "F's"

Faith

Finance

Fundraising & Fun

Growing as a Parish in 2018/2019:

Spiritually

- Our annual Open Air Mass has proven a great success and people have asked we continue to worship as one community each year this way;
- Our special liturgies for our patron saint St Thomas of Canterbury, a Mass held in the Cathedral on 7th July and Sung Vespers on 29th December - highlight our place as a centre of pilgrimage and as a shrine for the relics of St Thomas; we hope to build on these unique roles for our church and parish in the coming year;
- Our Catechists do wonderful and important work informing, nurturing and supporting the younger members of our community as they prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation and journeying with adults who are preparing for Baptism and Full Communion in the Catholic Church with our Journey in Faith programme;
- Our priests prepare families for baptism and couples for marriage through out the year as demand for these sacraments continues to be made
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is well attended every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays;
- Our newly formed Prayer and Pub night for the 18-30's years age group has been very successful and is growing. This now includes University students who are welcomed into Parish life rather than standing outside of it;
- Over 700 people from over 24 nationalities attend Mass each weekend in our Church; we welcome visitors from all over the world, our students who are

with us at a vital time in their personal development and our faithful parish members who come each week and praise God together;

- This year we would like to explore the possibility of a week of guided prayer and Alpha course.

Practically

We want to:

- Redevelop our Narthex Space - to make our church more practically welcoming and open to all but also to create, within our sacred space, room for us to spend time with each other;
- Socialise with Each Other - setting up a number of Parish Events such as a fair or bazaar that will become annual events for us to come together as a parish and raise funds at the same time;
- Fulfil a challenging schedule of changes and repairs to the Hall and other Church Rooms to enable them to be used more efficiently by all in the parish;
- Continue to look for an alternative organ.

All volunteers are welcome and the form on page 27 can be used or email to the Parish Office on: stthomas.canterbury@talk21.com

And finally...

THE PARISH COUNCIL

We have set up a Parish Council in 2018. The purpose of the Parish Council is a leadership group through which priests and people work together in partnership to strive to discern the Holy Spirit among God's people in the parish and furthering the mission of Christ in Canterbury. It does this through building up a vibrant Christian community that is rooted in Baptism and marked by its faith, worship and service.

Membership of the Council can be found on the parish website.

Practical Ideas for Everyday Evangelisation

Our Catholic Faith is part of our daily life and we can share that faith just by behaving and speaking in ways that show by example - without undue fuss - what being a Catholic means today.

1. Wearing a cross or crucifix - even as a small lapel badge - as a reminder to ourselves and others that we are believers in Christ
2. Saying grace at mealtimes - wherever you are
3. Celebrating your saint's feast day - and find out something about them so you can tell people if they ask and as a reminder to yourself of why you were named after them
4. If someone mentions a relative or friend who is ill, offer to pray for the, Most people will be delighted they are being remembered
5. Similarly if you are ill or going through troubled times, ask others to pray for you and you welcome prayers from all people
6. Without putting yourself at risk of distraction - display a small cross or other religious symbol in your car as a reminder of God's presence is with you as you travel - may also calm any emerging road rage!
7. Display a crucifix or holy picture just inside your front door so your visitors know they are entering a Catholic house
8. Observe the Friday abstinence from meat when you are eating out with friends and colleagues and explain why you are doing this if you are asked
9. Know some of the saints "specialisms" e.g. St Thomas of Canterbury is known as the protector of secular clergy or St Anthony may help with finding things you have lost - bring them into conversation and explain why we prayer for their intercession
10. If you are lucky enough to work near our big Catholic Churches and Cathedrals make time during your lunchtime to pop in for a visit and light a candle and perhaps take a friend with you - people are interested in our sacred places and rites
11. Take a moment to say the Angelus at 12 noon or 6pm as a reminder to yourself of being one with a community around the world that is remembering Christ's incarnation
12. Language is the most visible indicator of a culture and our Catholic Faith is expressed through the words and phrases we use. Try not to join in the modern trend for using the phrase "Oh My God" or "OMG" in your conversation and avoid taking the name of our Lord in vain. Our Baptism brings us into a very special loving relationship with our Father and this language - used as an expletive or way to express shock or amazement - demeans that relationship. If we are feeling brave enough, we could also ask others not to do it in our hearing

Prayers for New Evangelisation

Loving Father,
You so loved the world that you sent us your only Son,
that we might believe in him and have eternal life.

May we encounter Jesus Christ anew this day
and live the *Good News* with joy.

Through the power of your Holy Spirit,
help us to "go out to the whole world and proclaim"
our faith with confidence.

Give us the courage to witness to the Joy of the *Gospel*
by our words and actions.
Help our parish to become more welcoming and missionary,
so that you may be known and loved by all people.

We make this prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ Your Son,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God for ever and ever,

Amen.

Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelisation, Pray for us.
St Thomas of Canterbury, Pray for us
St John Stone, Pray for Us
Blessed Oscar Romero, Pray for us.

Please cut out below and return to the Parish Office with your details



If you are interested in participating in any of the initiatives outlined in this Parish Directory, please complete the slip below and return it to the Parish Office. You will be contacted by the relevant Ministry member. Thank you and God Bless.

Name:

Email address:.....

Contact Phone

I am interested in participating in

.....

.....

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