

LETTER

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
2HJ

Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm
 for all enquiries, appointments, bookings and all parish business
 (Closed for lunch between 12.30 - 1.00pm)



Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com

Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

Parish Deacon: Rev. David Avery

Executive Head Teacher: Mr Michael Walters (01227 826200);

Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

PRAYERS & INTENTIONS

St. Martina

Sixth Sunday Mk9:38-43,45,47-48

St. Mary - RIP (Pamela Dodds)

(Mary & Cyril Scott)

Sutherland

St. Lisieux Lk 9:46-50

Thomas Family

Cherry

St. Ignace of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Michael's Angels Mt 18:1-5,10

Thomas Family

Health

Lk 9:57-62

St. Michael (Fr Sylvester)

(Austin)

St. Michael and Gabriel at Mass

Invited to join the family in the

St. Michael's Mass

St. Ignace of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Ignace Group (Link Lane Rooms)

St. Ignace of Assisi Lk 10:1-12

St. Ignace & Thanksgiving for Diya

(Frances Family)

3-16

St. Elizabeth (Elizabeth Murphy)

St. Ignace of the Blessed Sacrament

St. Ignace Group (Joe & Bernie Bracken)

St. Ignace of the Blessed Sacrament

Lk 10:17-24

St. Ignace (Anthony)

Thomas Family

Sylvester)

St. Ignace (Holmes Family)

Sixth Sunday Mk 10:2-16

St. Ignace (Pamela Dodds)

St. Ignace (Sharon Baker)

St. Ignace Mass

St. Ignace (Fr Daniel Weatherley)

From Fr Anthony ...

Do I belong to Christ or do I belong to the rubbish dump of life?

This is a question that Sylvester O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap. posed in his reflection on this Sunday's gospel. Mark's gospel gives us some challenging imagery of cutting off hands, feet; tearing out eyes should they cause us to sin. Jesus is not advocating self mutilation in a literal sense.

Sin does not reside in our hand or eye which might be its instrument. Sin is in the will. It is better to ask what these organs represent. Our hands are for welcoming and greeting, for serving and giving, healing and caressing, reconciling and uniting, praising the Lord in work and prayer. Such hands belong to Christ. But hands can be cold and withdrawn: closed and off-putting, thieving and deluding: violent and hurtful: destructive and sinful. Such hands are already cut off from Christ. Feet are for going and mission: for standing firm in storm and trial: for bringing the good news. Such feet belong to Christ. But feet are also used for running away from responsibility: shifting with every passing wind or fad: marching with menace, terror or destruction. Such feet do not belong to Christ.

Eyes are windows of the soul: they let in God's heavenly light and fill us with wonder, goodness and praise: windows that shine out with the love of God which is in the heart, through attentiveness caring and sharing. But these same eyes may be smudged and darkened. Those who do evil hate the light and avoid it less their actions should be exposed. Eyes can be darkly fascinated by lust and violence. Dark shifty eyes express hatred, prejudice and coldness.

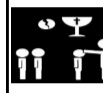
Thus our hands, feet and eyes are made for God's service. They are consecrated in baptism to be members of Christ's body on earth today. But if we live contrary to Christ's way, then we do not belong to him. We deserve the rubbish dump. That is the meaning of what is translated as hell.

The word in the Greek text of Mark is *Gehenna*. This was a steep ravine on the Western and Southern sides of Jerusalem. In Old Testament times the valley was the setting for idolatrous worship (Jeremiah 7:31) and child sacrifice to the pagan God Moloch. It now served as a rubbish dump. A rubbish dump is never without a fire and the maggots and bacteria are ever busily decomposing all matter there. When Jesus spoke of *Gehenna* as a place of everlasting punishment, he was using imagery familiar to his listeners. As the commentator Fr Sylvester O'Flynn says, "Preachers and artists down the centuries have exaggerated the image of fire beyond all proposition and context." Here it means the rubbish dump of wasted life and talent. Belonging to Christ or to the rubbish dump? Where does my life, every part of it, stand?

PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 13 October 2018** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so please call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from Office).



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019: Will be held at 9.30 and 11 am Mass on 12th May 2019

CONFIRMATION: 2019 Confirmation Mass takes place on 16th June 2019 at 11 am

Journey in Faith: Next meeting 02 October 2018 at 7.30pm in the Presbytery



The Guild of Our Lady & St Joseph warmly welcome you to a lecture - **Humanae Vitae 50 years on: A Jubilee Perspective**, commemorating the 50th anniversary of the publication of *Humanae Vitae*. To be held on **1 October, 2018** at **St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, London W1D 4NR**. Doors open at **6:45 pm**; the lecture begins at **7:00pm**. Q&A and refreshments will follow. Admission: **£5** at the door. Please register at: guidofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com

SVP/FOODBANK DONATIONS: The SVP organisation is grateful for the continued support and generosity that parishioners regularly give. We have been able to help local families over the recent months, providing much needed floor coverings, cots, beds, cookers and essential household items. Our weekly contributions to the Food Bank are gratefully received and it would help those in need to receive such items as: **Canned potatoes, smash, sweet corn, cup a soup, Washing powder, flash cleaner and large disposable nappies as well as Toiletries for both men and women.**

Shop Volunteers: Changing circumstances have taken a toll on the number of volunteers we have staffing the shop. If you are interested and could donate your time to this worthy cause, please contact Linda in the office or Father Anthony.

October Rosaries 2018. If you would like to lead the praying of the Rosary, before the 12 noon weekday Masses during the month of October, please sign the rota at the back of the church

Talent Show & afternoon tea with entertainment, 6th October 2-5pm in the hall: Our parish talent show is coming up next weekend and we are still inviting any youngster who would like to do a turn to get in touch with the Social Events group or even just come prepared on the day! But even if you are not involved in performing, just come along for a fun social afternoon with refreshments and lots of entertainment. Adults welcome too!

WINTER SHELTER 2018 - 2019: As in previous years, the Winter Shelter will be using our premises on Friday nights to help accommodate the homeless during the colder months. This year, the period has been extended to run for six months from October 2018 to March 2019. We again request your support and understanding for this endeavour.

Happy to be Catholic Club Meetings: These are held in the Upper Room after the midday Mass on Saturdays. The next meeting is on **6th October 2018**. All are welcome!

Donations towards new Hymn Books: If you wish to donate to this project, please contact Linda in the office. We are currently preparing the new books.

SECOND COLLECTION

This weekend- 29/30 September - No second collection
Next weekend- 06/07 October - Collection of CAFOD Fast Day envelopes

GLOBAL HEALING - how our faith can heal our world

An excellent new film produced by the Bishops' Conference (in partnership with the company), sponsored by the Bishops' Conference, is a free and inspiring evening of prayer and reflection together to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home, a healthy planet to our children's children. If you are looking for help to organise an evening of prayer and reflection, please contact me.

ADORAMUS FEEDBACK: A session led by our two parish priests, Fr Steve Williams, will be held at 6.00pm Mass on Saturday, 13 October. Refreshments will be served.

USE OF THE PARISH FACILITIES: We are looking for groups who wish to make use of the Upper Room during 2019 contact the office.

DAMAGE TO HALL FLOOR: In September, our refurbished hall floor was damaged by scuff marks. This is not only unsightly but also a safety hazard. Andrzej, unnecessary additional wear on the Hall not wear shoes with bling games or doing exercise-type activities. Please let us know if you have caused damage, please let us know. Thank you.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: "On Friday (13 October), CAFOD invites us to share in the suffering of the poor. We are asked to fast, to give up something (like Longora, who lives in a rented room in the back). Please collect your money for the church this week and give what you can."

Eucharist: Parish Mission and Ministry: Fr. Smith. This is the next of, and final, in the series of Eucharist. It will be at St. Teresa's, Ashford, from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm. See Poster.

Please remember in your prayers

Nick Grealy, Gloria Soar, Suzanne Punnett, Lorna Feeney, Toni-Louise May, Margaret Holman, Mary Angeline Frizell, Mary Gillette, Catherine David Bull, Alan Skeet, Louisa W. Vlasta Cerna, Amanda Watts, Hannelore Hall, Mary Dittrich, Judith Hutchinson, Rosa Maria Santos Cleary, Dolores Klosky, Barbara Gibson, James Hayes, Stephen Mary Connolly, Darcey Campbell

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

John Spillet, Katie Cobbett and Dr Brando, Maurice Penfold, Jean M. Joao Ferreira, Fr John Mulligan, Fr Purbrick

Thank you! Collections for the Offertory: £760.63 loose & £62.2nd Collection: for SVP raised