

# NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
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St Thomas' Shop (462896): open Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton. Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi Parish Deacon: Rev. David Avery

Also assisting: Fr. George Marsden. Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Executive Head Teacher: Mr Michael Walters (01227 826200);

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

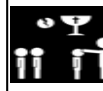
Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm  
for all enquiries, appointments, bookings and all parish business  
(Closed for lunch between 12.30 - 1.00pm)



## PARISH MATTERS



**Baptism Preparation:** To all parents wishing to have their children baptised...our next preparation meeting 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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019  
**CONFIRMATION:** 2019 Confirmation Mass takes place on 16<sup>th</sup> 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: [guildofourladyandstjoseph@gmail.com](mailto:guildofourladyandstjoseph@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, 6<sup>th</sup> 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 helps us to care for our common home**  
An excellent new film produced by CaFE (Catholic faith exploration film company), sponsored by the Bishops. I would very much like to organise a free and inspiring evening of film, food & friendship responding together to Pope Francis' call to care for creation and to pass on a healthy planet to our children's children. I can't do this on my own and am looking for help to organise an evening for the parish. If you are willing to help please contact me. Thank you. Fr Anthony

**ADORAMUS FEEDBACK:** A short feedback and discussion session led by our two parish representatives - Fiona Galt and Steve Williams, will be held at approximately 7.00pm (after the 6.00pm Mass) on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October in the Hall. Light Refreshments will be served.

**USE OF THE PARISH FACILITIES:** Please would ALL GROUPS who wish to make use of either the Church, Hall or Upper Room during 2019 contact Linda in the office.

**DAMAGE TO HALL FLOOR:** Over the weekend of 22/23 September, our refurbished hall floor was damaged with black shoe scuff marks. This is not only unsightly but gives our caretaker, Andrzej, unnecessary additional work. Please could all users of the Hall not wear shoes with black soles, especially when playing games or doing exercise-type activities. If activities do cause damage, please let us know so that we can fix it quickly. Thank you.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day:** "On Family Fast Day (Friday 5 October), CAFOD invites us to share in the abundance that God has given us. We are asked to fast, pray and give to help people like Longora, who lives in a remote village in Uganda (see poster in the back). Please collect your Fast Day envelope from the church this week and give what you can."

**Eucharist: Parish Mission and Ministries:** presented by Canon Luke Smith. This is the next of, and final, in our Deaney series of reflections on the Eucharist. It will be at St. Teresa's, Ashford on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> October from 10.30 am - 3.30 pm. See Poster in Narthex for details.

**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, Angeline Frizell, Mary Gillette, Christopher Browne, Erlinda Rogers, David Bull, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Mary Donellan, Janette Hughes, Vlasta Cerna, Amanda Watts, Maurice Crosland, Barbara Brett, Hannelore Hall, Mary Dittrich, June Carver, Sean Maple, Kathleen Hutchinson, Rosa Maria Santos, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Price, Mrs Cleary, Dolores Klosky, Barbara Markham, A. Charles Ryan, Pat Gibson, James Hayes, Stephen Rogers, Phyllis Stirton, Lisa Hood, Mary Connolly, Darcey Campbell and Michael Goggin

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

John Spillett, Katie Cobbett and Deacon David Pease, Berhard Hilder-Brando, Maurice Penfold, Jean Munier, George Emmanuel Gomez, Joao Ferreira, Fr John Mulligan, Fiona Tucker, John Wilkens and Keith Purbrick

**Thank you! Collections for weekend 15/16 Sept 2018:**  
**Offertory:** £760.63 loose & £643.77 Gift Aided- Total **£1404.40**  
**2nd Collection:** for SVP raised **£491.83**

### TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) In Thanksgiving (Martina)  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September Twenty Sixth Sunday** Mk9:38-43,45,47-48  
8 am People of the Parish  
9:30 am Canon Bernard Hegarty - RIP (Pamela Dodds)  
11 am Peter Murphy - RIP (Mary & Cyril Scott)  
12.15 Baptism of Jessica Sutherland  
6 pm Joao Ferreira - RIP  
**Monday 01<sup>st</sup> October St Therese of Lisieux** Lk 9:46-50  
7.30 am Intentions of the Thomas Family  
12 noon Chris Silcock - birthday (Cherry)  
7-9pm Benediction Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
**Tuesday 02<sup>nd</sup> October The Guardian Angels** Mt 18:1-5,10  
7.30 am Intentions of the Thomas Family  
12 noon Alison Pierce - Good Health  
**Wednesday 03<sup>rd</sup> October Feeria** Lk 9:57-62  
NO EARLY MORNING MASS  
10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)  
12 noon Mr and Mrs Austin (Austin)  
Baptism of Dorothy and Gabriel at Mass  
(Parishioners are invited to join the family in the Hall to celebrate after Mass)  
7-8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
7 - 9 pm Charismatic Prayer Group (Link Lane Rooms)  
**Thursday 04<sup>th</sup> October St Francis of Assisi** Lk 10:1-12  
NO EARLY MORNING MASS  
12 noon Alice Frances - RIP & Thanksgiving for Diya  
(Frances Family)  
**Friday 05<sup>th</sup> October FERIA** Lk 10:13-16  
CAFOD Family Fast Day  
7.30 am Morning Prayer  
12 noon Keith Purbrick - RIP (Elizabeth Murphy)  
12.30 - 1.30 Benediction and Adoration after Mass  
7.30 pm Welfare of Olivia Brennan (Joe & Bernie Bracken)  
8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
**Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> October St Bruno** Lk 10:17-24  
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)  
12 noon Intentions of the Thomas Family  
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)  
6pm (Vigil) Sadie Reynolds - RIP (Holmes Family)  
**Sunday 07<sup>th</sup> October Twenty Seventh Sunday** Mk 10:2-16  
8 am People of the Parish  
9:30 am Betty Todd - RIP (Pamela Dodds)  
11 am Helen Flood Snr - RIP (Sharon Baker)  
3.00 pm Filipino Community Mass  
6 pm Zochowski Family (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?