

# NEWSLETTER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk) Web Site: [www.stthomasofcanterbury.com](http://www.stthomasofcanterbury.com)

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton. email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi Parish Deacon: Rev. David Avery email: [davidavery@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:davidavery@rcaos.org.uk)

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

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: [tjherbst@gmail.com](mailto:tjherbst@gmail.com)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Principal: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200);

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

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): open Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm for 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 **NEXT Saturday, 08 December 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



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019:** Parents meeting on **10 December 2018 at 7.30pm**

**CONFIRMATION:** Parents meeting on **Tuesday, 04 December at 7.30 pm** in the Hall  
**Journey in Faith:** Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in Presbytery



**2019 PARISH DIARIES** Available at the back of Church - Donation of £1.00 suggested please!

**Everyday First Aid Training** in Canterbury. Normally costing £120 (£100 plus vat) per two hour session, the **British Red Cross** received funding meaning they can offer free training on a first come, first served basis. These courses are not for the purposes of "First Aid at Work" qualification or health & safety compliance, but to increase confidence and willingness to act in a first aid emergency. More information from Derek Causarano, Adult Education Coordinator (British Red Cross in Kent) at 07734 577920 or [dcausarano@redcross.org.uk](mailto:dcausarano@redcross.org.uk)

**SEEKING SANCTUARY** invite you to the inauguration of the memorial to the 200+ people who have died attempting to seek sanctuary here. Led by the Bishop of Dover, Right Rev Trevor Willmott. 3 pm, Saturday 15th December 2018, on Dover Seafont – see poster for details

**AMOS TRUST BETHLEHEM CAROL SERVICE** - Thursday, 6th December at 7pm in St Peter's Methodist Church - more details on the notice Board. Please join the Trust for this special event.

**CHRISTMAS FAIR:** 9th December 10:30 -1:30 in the Hall. Thank you for the donations received so far! If you can help on the day of the fair, please phone Sherene on 07805490217.

### OUR PARISH 100 CLUB

Application forms in the Narthex at the back of the church. Completed forms and cheques or cash to be left at the Parish Office please. Than you for all your support.

**MISSING PRESCRIPTION GLASSES.** If anyone picked up a pair of patterned prescription glasses on Sunday 25 November, please hand them to the office.

### 'Come back to me' – Teaching and Leading in Catholic Schools

Are you a Catholic and a teacher, middle or senior leader in a community school or academy and are interested in moving to the Catholic educational sector? The Archdiocese of Southwark Education Commission invites you to one of two twilight sessions: Teaching in and Leading Catholic Schools. The session will include information about the uniqueness of Catholic schools and practical tips in relation to the application and selection process.  
14th January 2019 – Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road SE1 6HR from 6:30pm to 8:30pm  
17th January 2019– St Francis Catholic Primary School, Queen's Road, Maidstone ME16 0LB from 6:30pm to 8:30pm

### Please remember in your prayers:

Gloria Soar, Suzy Drayson, Agnes Daly, Theresa Punnett, Lorna Feeney, Toni-Lee D'Amiral, David Tully, Winifred May, 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 Ditttrich, June Carver, Sean Maple, Kathleen Hutchinson, Rosa Maria Santos, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Price, Mrs Cleary, Barbara Markham, A. Charles Ryan, Pat Gibson, James Hayes, Stephen Rogers, Phyllis Stirton, Lisa Hood, Mary Connolly, Darcey Campbell, Gemma Macey, Joan Meakin, Margaret Mason and Tony Ashworth

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

John Wilkins, Frances MacDonald, Keith Purbrick, Mark Ventress, Dermot Egan, John Butler, Nick Grealy, Michael Chukwuelue, Dr Michael Goggin and Miss Sukhawati

**Thank you! Collections for weekend 24/25 November 2018:**  
**Offertory:** £927.52 loose & £716.06 Gift Aided -Total **£1643.58**  
**2nd Collection:** For **Catholic Youth Services** raised **£448.67**.

### TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Intentions of Eileen Browning (Gill)

**Sunday 02<sup>nd</sup> December First Sunday of Advent** Lk21:25-28,34-36

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Dermot Egan - RIP (UCM members)

11 am Mary Fleming - RIP (Gill)

6 pm Maureen Pepper - RIP (Debra Pepper)

**Monday 03<sup>rd</sup> December St Francis Xavier** Mt 8: 5-11

7.30 am Denis Corcoran - RIP (A Mallion)

12 noon Frances & Michae-Joe Keavney - RIP

7-9pm PLEASE NOTE : NO ADORATION TONIGHT

**Tuesday 04<sup>th</sup> December St John Damascene** Lk 10: 21-24

7.30 am Good Health

12 noon Requiem Mass of Dr Michael Goggin

7.30 pm Journey in the Faith (RCIA) in the Presbytery

7.30 pm Confirmation Parent's Meeting in Hall

**Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> December Feria** Mt 15: 29-37

7.30 am Ruth Fleming - RIP (Tessa Metcalfe)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Ronald Colbeck - RIP

7- 8.30pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Thursday 06<sup>th</sup> December Feria** Mt 7: 21, 24-27

7.30 am Good Health

12 noon William & Edna Heyes - RIP (Sheila Schlarman)

Scripture Group meeting in Upper Room

**Friday 07<sup>th</sup> December St Ambrose, Bishop** Mt 9: 27-31

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon M Abraham - RIP

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm for Joanna & Magda's relationship

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Saturday 08<sup>th</sup> December Immaculate Conception of the**

**Blessed Virgin Mary** Lk 1:26-38

9.00 Baptism Course

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon Foundation Mass: Olwen Dixon - RIP

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) In Thanksgiving

**Sunday 09<sup>th</sup> December 2nd Sunday of Advent** Lk 3: 1-6

**Bible Sunday**

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Norman Pereira (Brett Pereira)

11 am Deceased sisters & brothers of Nora King

Baptism of Cameron Yiannaki at Mass

5 pm Polish Community Mass

6 pm Michael Chukwuelue - RIP (Family)

PLEASE NOTE: No Adoration on Monday, 10th December  
On Monday, 17th December. the St Anselm's School Carol Service will take place in the Church so there is no Adoration

### From Fr Anthony ...

Our family wasn't big into Christmas trees. In the living room the focus was the crib and behind it was a fairly insignificant plastic tree covered in tinsel. A friend of mind always has a big tree on which she daringly places candles which are lit occasionally when everyone is in the room. The tree is very much part of any home's decoration. But there are those who object to a tree being in the Sanctuary of the Church. This year, at St Thomas, the tree appears this Sunday. But there are no lights or decorations. This tree will be our Jesse Tree. What is a Jesse Tree? The Jesse tree helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. The Jesse tree is named from Isaiah 11:1: "A shoot shall come out of the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Jesse was the father of King David. We adorn a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. The ornaments of the Jesse tree tell the story of God in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history. This Sunday the children will hang the first seven ornaments on the tree. The Sun recalling God's creation, an apple reminding us of the story of Adam and Eve, Noah's ark or a rainbow reminding us that God saved the human family through Noah, a star reminding us of the promise made to Abraham, a ram recalling Abraham willing to sacrifice his son Isaac, a ladder representing the Jacob's ladder and the coat of many colours recalling how Joseph is used by God to save his people in Egypt. Each Sunday they will add more symbols until the tree is covered with images of our history of salvation.

At the end of the Advent season, as you decorate your own tree, here is a prayer you can say before you switch on the lights:  
Lord our God,  
we praise you for the light of creation:  
the sun, the moon, and the stars of the night.  
We praise you for the light of Israel:  
the Law, the prophets, and the wisdom of the Scriptures.  
We praise you for Jesus Christ, your Son:  
he is Emmanuel, God-with-us, the Prince of Peace, who fills us with the wonder of your love.  
Let your blessing come upon us  
as we illumine this tree.  
May the light and cheer it gives  
be a sign of the joy that fills our hearts.  
May all who delight in this tree  
come to the knowledge and joy of salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

The Union of Catholic Mothers are holding their monthly meeting today 2nd Dec. All welcome to attend. They are supporting two Charities for Christmas: Catching Lives (homeless shelter) and The Red Box Project ( tackling period poverty in schools) and are appealing for donations to be left in the hall on the 9th. More information on the fb page.

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR KEAVNEY FAMILY 2019** - Please could Mary or Caroline contact Linda on 01227 462896 regarding one of the requested Mass dates. Thank you

**Umbrella Centre - Becket's Café** - Join us on Saturday, 08th December from 10am - 12pm for this new community initiative providing a listening ear, free food and a cup of tea or coffee at the Umbrella Centre, St Peter's Place, CT1 2DB.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP:** Wednesday evening meetings have been suspended until further notice.

**DIOCESAN JOB OPPORTUNITY: CHAPLAINCY ADVISOR:** Please see details on notice in the foyer.

### Take some time to reflect this Advent

Advent is a very special season of the year – yet it can sometimes pass us by, because we're so busy preparing for Christmas. For the past few years, our diocesan Spirituality Commission has produced a series of short daily emails, to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent. They have been very well received, so we would like to make more people aware of them. To sign up: [www.southwarkdsc.org.uk](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk)

**GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK:** On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December, the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives.  
[www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com) Further information at: <http://www.goodcounselnet.co.uk/Prayer-and-Fasting-Days.html>

You are invited to join us at the next prayer vigil on Friday 7th December 2018 following the **10.30am** mass at St Francis Catholic Church, Week Street, Maidstone. Rosary and prayer outside the Marie Stopes abortion clinic, Brewer St. Return for refreshments at approximately 12.30pm. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 11 to 12 noon. If you are unable to join the vigil please be an intercessor in the church.

**LIVE NATIVITY PLAY** Minster Abbey, Wednesday, 12 December at 1.30pm - See Poster in Narthex for Details

"Come and See" Weekend - Have you wondered if you may be called to a life of prayer? The Benedictine Nuns at Minster Abbey invite you to find out more on 12 - 14 April 2019. Details about this event are at [www.minsterabbeynuns.org](http://www.minsterabbeynuns.org) or email [sraelrederwin@gmail.com](mailto:sraelrederwin@gmail.com)

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

**THIS weekend- 01/02 December** - SVP - Gift Aid envelopes in the back of the church

**Next weekend - 08/09 December** - There is no 2nd collection this weekend.