

# NEWSLETTER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton. email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi Parish Deacon: Rev. David Avery email: 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

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)

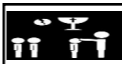
Office open: Monday - Friday 9am - 3pm for all parish business  
(Closed for lunch between 12.30 - 1.00pm)



## PARISH MATTERS



**Baptism Preparation:** To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be in 2019, date to be advised, 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:** Parents meeting on **10 December 2018 at 7.30pm**

**CONFIRMATION 2019:** Sessions begin on Sunday, 13 January 2019 at 4pm in the Hall

**Journey in Faith:** Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in Presbytery



**CRIB OFFERINGS 2018:** This Christmas, our Crib Offerings will be donated to the Catholic Children's Society's Southwark Crisis Fund which provides emergency grants for children and families in our Archdiocese who are facing a crisis in their lives. Every single penny donated to the Crib will be given out via these grants.

### DIOCESAN JOB OPPORTUNITIES:

**Chaplaincy Advisor and Chaplain at HMP Rochester**  
Please see details for both jobs on the notices in the foyer.

**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 Seafront – see poster for details on this event and more information on 'Seeking Sanctuary'.

### Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

A wonderful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Wednesday 20th November till Wednesday 27th November 2019 led by Canon Anthony Charlton.**

The Pilgrimage includes visits to all the major religious sites: Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, Jericho, Sea of Galilee. Staying at Hotels in Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Tiberias. Flight from London Heathrow. Accommodation 2 nights in Tiberias, 2 nights in Bethlehem and 3 nights in Jerusalem. On this basis, package price including flights would be: £1369.00 (based on 2 sharing). All room have ensuite facilities. Price includes half board accommodation (2 lunches included) entrance fees, portage and tips for drivers and courier. Full service of English speaking guide. Handsets and bottle of water supplied daily. Forms and information from Fr Anthony or 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 Dittrich, 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, Tony Ashworth and Fr George Marsden

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

John Wilkins, Frances MacDonald, Keith Purbrick, Mark Ventress, Dermot Egan, John Butler, Nick Greal, 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) 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*

4 pm *Polish Community Mass*

6 pm Michael Chukwuelue - RIP (*Family*)

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December Feria** Lk 5: 17-26

7.30 am Deceased members: Cadogan & Hurley Families

12 noon Aleyamma Abraham - RIP

7-9pm **PLEASE NOTE : NO ADORATION TONIGHT**

7.30 pm *First Holy Communion Parents' meeting in Hall*

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December St Damasus 1, Pope** Mt 18: 12-14

7.30 am Shelagh - wellbeing on her birthday

12 noon Intentions of Yvonne Morrissey & family

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

**Wednesday 12<sup>st</sup> December Our Lady of Guadalupe** Mt 1: 23-27

7.30 am Welfare of Becky

10.30 - 11.30 *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)*

12 noon Dermot Egan - RIP (*Sue Nolan & family*)

7.30pm **PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December St Lucy, Martyr** Mt 11: 16-19

7.30 am Eric Beauchamp - RIP (*Henniker Family*)

12 noon Michael Reynolds - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

*Scripture Group meeting in Upper Room*

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December St John of the Cross** Mt 17: 9a,10-13

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Alexander's Intentions

*Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

7.30 pm Jacob Thomas - RIP (*Ciju Thomas*)

8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December Feria** Lk 3:10-18

10.30 - 11.30 *Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)*

12 noon James Lee & Family - welfare (T Riley)

4.30 - 5.30 *Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)*

6pm (Vigil) Denis & Jerry Corcoran - RIP (*E Corcoran*)

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 3rd Sunday of Advent** Lk 3: 1-6

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Mark Ventress - RIP (Group 87 HCPT)

11 am Joel Pinto (*B Pereira*)

6 pm Joao Ferreira - RIP (*Elizabeth Ferreira*)

**PLEASE NOTE: No Adoration on Monday, 17th December as the St Anselm's School Carol Service will take place in the Church.**

### From Fr Anthony ...

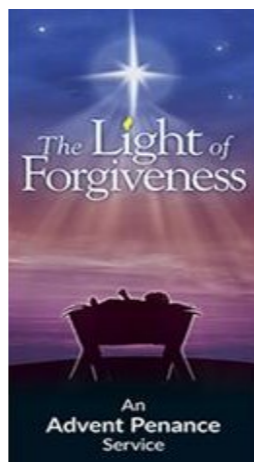
The pressure is on. When am I going to write all those cards? Have I accidentally left off anyone from the Christmas present list? Will I cope this year with the family coming for Christmas dinner? Will I be celebrating alone? Let us leave those anxieties and worries aside for a while. We need to make space for Jesus in our heart. The cry of John the Baptist is "In the wilderness prepare a way." Mountains and valleys can make our journey awkward and slow. They are barriers that need to be overcome. How do we prepare a way that is straight and smooth this Advent so that we can welcome Christ with great joy into our lives and hearts?

As Fr Sylvester Flynn\* suggests we need to have a look at our lives or to examine our conscience. What are the paths we need to straighten? Are there attitudes or behaviour that have deviated me from loving God? Are there times when I have allowed anger or resentment blind me to the way of love? The valleys to be filled in are the times when I have wandered from a sense of God's presence or enthusiasm for God's work was low. The mountains to be laid low are the obstacles which I imagine to be insurmountable because I have forgotten to trust in God; or the hills to be levelled can be the areas of pride where, because I am good at something, to look down on others in judgement. The winding ways can represent the delaying tactics I employed on my journey back to God. Do I delay, postpone, procrastinate.? Do I say: "tomorrow, Lord"? How do we make the rough ways smooth? We need to acknowledge the jagged edges of our personalities which irritate others or rub them up the wrong way. It could be my insensitivities, my lack of generosity, my unwillingness to compromise or my attempts to dominate others in subtle ways.

This coming Tuesday, 12 December at **7.30pm** we are having an Advent Penitential Service with the opportunity to go to Sacramental confession.

*The Lord waits for my return. I will receive him a welcome guest into my heart.*

\* "Good News of Luke's Gospel"



**100 Club December Winners!** Congratulations to our big prize-winners who each win £250.00: Philip Gascoyne (no. 12), Cyril Scott (no. 15), Jane Ramsay (no. 73) and Phyllis Stirton (no. 89)

**ERRATA: Everyday First Aid Training** in Canterbury. Please note this training is for groups only, not individually based. Church groups are encouraged to consider this offer. With my apologies, Linda

The Solitude Group meets at Greyfriars on the 3rd Saturday of the month, this Saturday, for a quiet morning of prayer. We begin with refreshments at 9.00am, followed by a short reflection, and then quiet time in the chapel or grounds. We end at 11.45am. Please see notice at the back of the Church for details. Could any newcomers phone Louise on 07962 256908 in advance to be advised of access to Greyfriars through the winter months.

### 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

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

The Annual Archdiocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is from Friday 23rd August – Friday 30th August 2019. The Pastoral Theme for 2019 is "Blessed are you poor, for the kingdom of God is yours" (Lk.6:20). January 7th 2019 will be 175 years since Bernadette's birth and April 16th will be the 140th anniversary of her death.

**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

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

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

**Next weekend - 15/16 December** - There is no 2nd collection this weekend.