

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HU

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: Executive Principal Mr M Walters; Academy 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: First session on Sunday, 6th January 2019

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

Journey in Faith: now in recess



100 Club: Pleeze..... we need 27 more people to subscribe £25 to the 100 Club to reach 100 people! Please take a form from the Narthex or on line and return to the Office with the subs before 11 Jan 2019. Thank you!

Christmas Fair update; A huge **Thank You!** to everyone for supporting our fair last Sunday, to all who volunteered their time, baked yummy cakes and donated items for all our stalls and those who came and enjoyed what was on offer. Together we raised a fantastic **£471.57!**

A parishioner is looking for a copy of the Douay Rheims translation of the Bible, translated from the Latin vulgate. If anyone has a copy and/or any old missals that they no longer need or use please could you hand them to the Office at the presbytery.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

A wonderful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

Thursday, 21st November till Thursday, 28th 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.

St Patrick's Weekend Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 16th March 2019. Details on poster in Narthex. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278/07740 175557 or knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET. One Saturday each month at 3pm in the Church as follows:

5th January 2019, 2nd February 2019, 2nd March 2019, 6th April 2019, 4th May 2019, 1st June 2019 and 6th July 2019.

The Solitude Group meets at Greyfriars on the 3rd Saturday of the month, this Saturday. See notice in Narthex for details. Newcomers please phone Louise on 07962 256908 in advance re access.

CHRISTMAS FAIR RAFFLE WINNERS: The following unclaimed prizes are awaiting collection in the Parish Office: Pink ticket # 126; Orange ticket #240; Pink ticket #196; Pink ticket # 322 (Christine)

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.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

THIS weekend- 15/16 December - There is no 2nd collection this weekend

Next weekend - 22/23 December - Collection for SVP - Gift Aid envelopes available in the Narthex

Sadly we have to say goodbye to Fr George Marsden who moved on Friday to his new residence of St. Peter's Meadow Row, Vauxhall, London which is run by the Sisters of the Poor. We will miss him tremendously and thank him for his many years of ministry with us a devoted priest. There is a card at the back of the Church. Please sign it today.

Fr Sylvester, when asked "Are you settling in" says, "I am settled." Recently he celebrated 19 years of ordination to the priesthood. He will be with us until the summer next year. It is good to have him with us.

Servers and Eucharistic Ministers at Christmas Services:

Would those who can serve at the various Christmas Masses please add their names to the appropriate list/s in the Narthex. You will be contacted to confirm your duties. Thank you

Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury. Sung Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral Crypt on Saturday, 29 December 2018 at 8pm

Diocesan Directories 2019 are now available in the Shop- £3.00 for Standard bound and £3.50 for Spiral bound copies.

Thursday Scripture Group: are in recess until 10 Jan 2019

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 is given out via these grants.

CAROL SERVICE in the K & C Hospital Chapel, at **10.30 am on Wednesday 19th December** in the chapel, 2nd floor of the 1937 building. Everyone is welcome - all faiths (or none) to celebrate the joy of Christmas.

Red Box Charity appeal: This year the Union of Catholic Mothers is supporting the Red Box charity this Christmas. They are in need of tights for ages 8-9 to size 20-22, underwear. Any donations gratefully received. These can be left at the Presbytery before 11 Jan 2019

Christmas Eve Family Mass: We encourage our children to participate in the Nativity story at 6pm Mass on 24th December. If you have nativity costumes at home, please dress your children in these before Mass. There are also a limited number of costumes available which Nieves will distribute before Mass

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 Grealy, Michael Chukwuelue, Dr Michael Goggin and Miss Sukhawati

Thank you! Collections for weekend 08/09 December 2018:
Offertory: £922.81 loose & £663.40 Gift Aided -Total **£1586.21**
2nd Collection: There was no second collection this weekend

From Fr Anthony ...

I sometimes used to write in cards for those who were getting married, Philippians 4:4. Those who were curious had to look up the verse in the New Testament. In the NRSV (New Revised Standard version) it reads "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice." In the Jerusalem translation, which we use at Mass, it reads, "I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord, what I want is your happiness". The third candle on the Advent wreath which we light this weekend is coloured rose. (Pink). The celebrant at Mass wears rose vestments. This reflects the call to be full of joy, to be happy. The first word in Latin of the Entrance Antiphon for today's Mass is "Gaudete". Rejoice. It is as though we are commanded to rejoice. How do we attain happiness? How can we be people who always rejoice especially when we are very much aware of great sadness, poverty and injustice that surrounds us in our world? In our personal lives we might be suffering, full of anxiety and have very little hope. But what gives us joy and happiness is knowing that the one we await, Jesus, who is the Christ, has conquered sin and death. In the resurrection he won the victory over death and redeemed the human race. Christ has taken on what frightens us most. His love is more powerful than anything that can overwhelm us. We rejoice because the king is in our midst and we have no more disaster to fear. This is the very heart of Christianity. As bishop Robert Barron said recently: "Don't reduce Christianity to the works of social justice, doing good. The heart of the matter is the mystery foreseen by Zephaniah, proclaimed by Paul. Jesus has gone all the way down that we may be brought all the way up. That is the good news, that is the gospel, that is why we rejoice".



TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 16th December 3rd Sunday of Advent Lk 3: 10-18

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)

Monday 17th December Feria Mt 1:1-17

7.30 am Elizabeth & Harry Steward - RIP (Joan & Ann)

12 noon Joan - RIP

7-9pm PLEASE NOTE : NO ADORATION TONIGHT

7.30 pm St Anselm's School Carol Service

Tuesday 18th December Feria Mt 1: 18-25

7.30 am Special Intentions (Jean Povey)

12 noon Deceased members: Mariasy & Csorba Families

Wednesday 19th December Feria Lk 1:5-25

7.30 am Eugene Regan (nee Salvatori) - RIP (Joan & Ann)

10.30 - 11.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation

12 noon John Wilkins - RIP

7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 20th December Feria Lk 1:26-38

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Health of Joan Meakin & Margaret Mason

Scripture Group is in recess until 10 Jan 2019

Friday 21st December St Peter Canisius Lk 1:39-45

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Ray Olsen - health and well-being (Martina)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Agnes Monaghan's intentions

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 22nd December Feria Lk 1:46-56

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon Birdie, Sidney & Gladys - RIP (Gill family)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) Celia Rednap

Sunday 23rd December 4th Sunday of Advent Lk 1:39-45

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Elsa Porta - RIP (Porta Family)

11 am Catherine (Kath) Packer - RIP (Packer Family)

2.30 pm Syro Malabar Community Mass

6 pm Good Health

There is **NO MONDAY ADORATION** on 24 December 2018

There is **NO WEDNESDAY ADORATION** on the following dates:

Wednesday, 26 December 2018

Wednesday, 02 January 2019