

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

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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

Father Anthony, Father Sylvester and all he team in the Presbytery wish all Parishioners a Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and a Joyful and prosperous 2019

CHURCH SHOP: The Church shop will be closing from 1.00pm on Monday, 24th December 2018 for stock-taking and will re-open on Saturday, 5th January 2019.

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!

Week of prayer for Christian Unity: 18 to 25 January 2019. Cathedral Service Wednesday 23rd January at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS AT CHRISTMAS:

Please remember that the main offertory collections on Christmas Day (including Midnight Mass) are for the direct benefit of the priests. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please give generously! Thank you, Linda

CHRISTMAS TIDE MASS TIMES

Monday, 24th Dec 2018: CHRISTMAS EVE	
Mass	12 noon
Family Mass	18h00 hrs
Carols and Readings	23h30 hrs
Mass at Midnight	12 Midnight
Tuesday, 25th Dec: CHRISTMAS DAY	
Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord	09h30 hrs
Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord	11h00 hrs
Wednesday, 26th Dec: ST STEPHEN'S DAY	
Mass	10h00 hrs
Thursday, 27th Dec: ST JOHN THE APOSTLE	
Mass	12 noon
Friday, 28th Dec: THE HOLY INNOCENTS	
Mass	12 noon
Sat, 29th Dec: ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop and Martyr	
Mass in the Church	12 noon
First Mass of Sunday in the Church	18h00 hrs
Sunday Evening Prayer Cathedral Choir & Crypt	20h00 hrs
Sunday, 30th Dec: THE HOLY FAMILY	
Masses at the normal times	
Monday, 31st Dec: NEW YEAR'S EVE	
Mass	12 noon
1 st Mass of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God	23h15 hrs
Tuesday, 1st January 2019: NEW YEAR'S DAY	
Mass of the Feast of Mary, the Mother of God	12 noon

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.

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, Eamonn Scully 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 08/09 December 2018:

Offertory: £922.81 loose & £663.40 Gift Aided -Total **£1586.21**
2nd Collection: There was no second collection this weekend

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Monday 24th December FERIA Christmas Eve Lk 1:1-17

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Good Health

6.00 pm Family Mass - Claudia Upwood - RIP

11.30 Carols in the Church

12 midnight Midnight Mass - Francis Brown - RIP

Tuesday 25th December The Nativity of the Lord Jn 1:1-18

9.30 am David Heap - RIP

11.00 am Philip Ryan - RIP (A Charles & Pauline)

Wednesday 26th December St Stephen, 1st Martyr Mt 10:17-22

10.00 Kathleen and Mary Donovan - RIP (Callaghan)

Special Mass for Altar Servers

7 - 8.30 pm PLEASE NOTE : NO ADORATION TONIGHT

Thursday 27th December St John the Apostle Jn 20:1a, 2-8

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Greta Dickinson - RIP (Agnes & Helen Natrass)

Scripture Group is in recess until 10 Jan 2019

Friday 28th December The Holy Innocents Mt 2:13-18

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Welfare of Ethel Hostler (Daphne Miles)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Thanksgiving (Roser Family)

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 29th December St Thomas of Canterbury Lk 2:22-35

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Athony)

12 noon Peggy Mallon - RIP (Jean Povey)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

6pm (Vigil) Fr George Marsden - health & wellbeing (Una)

8.00 pm Evening Prayer in the Cathedral

Sunday 30th December The Holy Family Jn 1:1-18

8 am In Thanksgiving to St Anthony (George)

9:30 am Dermot Egan - RIP (Group 87 HCPT)

11 am Greta Dickinson - RIP (Agnes & Helen Natrass)

6 pm People of the Parish

SEE OPPOSITE PAGE FOR DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS MASSES

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

From Fr Anthony ...

Poor Thistle Shopping centre in Stirling! Their decision to turn down a request have a crib in the shopping precinct was covered by all the news outlets from the Scotsman, the Mirror, The Express to the Times. The reason they gave was that they wanted to appear "religiously and politically neutral" and avoid offending customers. They have now reversed their decision. A crib can now appear in the shopping centre. If you are walking down the high street in Canterbury towards Westgate, "Cafe St Pierre" have painted a large colourful picture of Mary and the Child Jesus covering most of their front window. This definitely won't put me off having a coffee and croissant there this Christmas time. We are given a Christmas season to reflect and celebrate the birth of Jesus. First there is the Octave (eight days) then the days till 6th January when we celebrate the Epiphany. This is a time of joy. When the angels appeared to the shepherds the night Christ was born they gave them this message. "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord." We get much of the Christmas story from Luke. His gospel is known as the gospel of joy. In the gospel today, the fourth Sunday of Advent, Elizabeth says to Mary "the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leap for joy." The birth of Jesus is a cause of great joy not just for Mary and Joseph but for the whole world. We share this joy because he is Saviour; he is the one who sets us free. We, the people who walk in darkness have the light which is Christ. This is the reason there needs to be images of the birth of Jesus in world of shopping and consumption. They remind us that our hope and our joy for the world resides in the birth of a child, not any child but Christ the Lord.

