

# 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](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: 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 Sunday, 13 January 2019, 4pm in the Hall

**Journey in Faith:** now in recess



**100 Club:** Pleezee..... 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!

**WINTER SHELTER:** We need VOLUNTEERS, especially overnight volunteers to the end of March 2019. If you feel you can give of your time, the Shelter Coordinator, Aziza Kilmister, would love to hear from you on 01227 464904. More information on the work of Catching Lives is at [www.catchinglives.org](http://www.catchinglives.org).

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

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.

**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

### '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, Angelina 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 Grealy, Michael Chukwuelue, Dr Michael Goggin and Miss Sukhawati

### Thank you! Collections for weekend 22/23 December 2018:

**Offertory:** £903.08 loose & £666.11 Gift Aided -Total £1569.19  
**Christmas Collection:** Not yet finalised

### TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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

8.00 pm Evening Prayer in the Cathedral

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> December The Holy Family** Jn 3:1-2

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

**Monday 31<sup>st</sup> December St Sylvester, Pope** Jn 1:1-18

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Celia Welch - RIP

11.15 John Davis - RIP (Brigid Rowe)

**Tuesday 01<sup>st</sup> January Mary, Mother of God** Lk 2:16-21

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Wellbeing of Diugwu Family (Mary)

**Wednesday 02<sup>nd</sup> January**

**Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen** Jn 1:19-28

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon John Spillett - RIP (Julie)

7 - 8.30 pm PLEASE NOTE : NO ADORATION TONIGHT

**Thursday 03<sup>rd</sup> January Most Holy Name of Jesus** Jn 1:29-34

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Hubert Schlarmann - RIP (Sheila Schlarmann)

Scripture Group is in recess until 10 Jan 2019

**Friday 04<sup>th</sup> January Feria of Christmas Time** Jn 1:35-42

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Philip Devasia - RIP (Tisha)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Celia Welch - RIP

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Saturday 05<sup>th</sup> January Feria of Christmas Time** Jn 1:43-51

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation

12 noon Thanksgiving (Hilary McKernan)

3 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation

6pm (Vigil) Jacqui Nichols - RIP (Angela Nichols)

**Sunday 06<sup>th</sup> January Epiphany of the Lord** Mt 2: 1-2

8 am Tom McGrath's intentions (Margaret McGrath)

9:30 am In Thanksgiving (Vival Family)

11 am People of the Parish

6 pm Francis and Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP

NO WEDNESDAY ADORATION on 02 January 2019

### From Fr Anthony ...

Don't let the cynics put you off thinking about New Year resolutions.

I think it is only natural for you and me to have some wishes and thoughts about our lives today and how we would like them to unfold. We are all encouraged to know our purpose in life. What do you want from your life? Into what are you going to put your time and effort and money? What gives meaning to your life? What enables you to get up in the morning and face another day? For those who are young - they have years to consider, if it pleases God. For others of us we have lived a long life - our plans are measured in days rather than years. For the twelve year old Jesus, travelling to Jerusalem, perhaps for the first time, his purpose became clear. The family were travelling to Jerusalem and to the Temple. It was here that he remained after the festival, while Joseph and Mary returned home to Nazareth. "The temple is understood as the place for the manifestation of the presence of the Father - as a sign of God's sovereignty, a sign of the one Lord, a sign of the one and only God." (Cardinal Carlo Martini S.J.) It is significant that the parents of Jesus were looking for him for three days. In answer to Mary's question, "Why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been looking for you anxiously" Jesus said: "Did you not know I must be in my Father's house?" The translation we hear this weekend in Mass is "I must be busy with my Father's affairs" Jesus was saying: "I am with the Father: I am in the Father, I must be in my Father's House." Jesus was clear who he was. Jesus was also saying it was necessary. "I myself be busy with my Father's affairs" At the end of Luke, when Jesus was walking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, he said: "Was it not ordained that the Christ should suffer and so enter into his glory?" Jesus had clarity about what his heavenly Father has asked of him. As we begin our New Year let us all be open to what God is asking of each of us. Let us listen in prayer. Let us ask for wisdom and discernment. Let us be like Mary and although we might not fully understand we can humbly listen and ponder.

**HAPPY New Year 2019**

### Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

A wonderful opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Jesus.

**Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> November till Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> 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 rooms 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.

**Quiz Night in aid of MAP** (Medical Aid for Palestinians): Saturday 19th January at 7:35 pm in St. Thomas's church hall. Cost £8 per person. Please bring own drinks and snacks. For further details phone or text Simon on 07849834859 after 6 pm please

**"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 via email [sraelrederwin@gmail.com](mailto:sraelrederwin@gmail.com)

Remember to check the notice boards and website for more information not able to fit in the newsletter.

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

**Thursday Scripture Group:** are in recess until 10 Jan 2019

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

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- 29/30 December** - There is no 2nd collection this weekend

**Next weekend - 05/06 January** - There is no 2nd collection this weekend