

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

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 **Saturday, 19th January 2019, 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).

The following meeting is on **Saturday, 16th February 2019 at 9.00 am**



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019: First session on Sunday, 6th January 2019

CONFIRMATION 2019: Sessions begin Sunday, 13 January 2019, 4.00pm in Hall

JOURNEY IN FAITH: recommences on Tuesday, 8th January at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery



The **Funeral Mass** of the late **Celia Welch**, will take place here in St Thomas's on **Thursday, 24th January 2019 at 12 noon**.

The family have requested that donations be made to: **Headway East Kent** and **The Stroke Association**.

We welcome **Father John Diver** who will be our supply Priest this weekend.

PARISH MEETINGS:

Wednesday, 09 January 2019 : Parish Council Meeting

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.

"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 or via email sraelrederwin@gmail.com

Good Counsel Network: On Saturday 12th January, 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. This is the day before the 22nd anniversary of the founding of the Good Counsel Network, for details of our live saving work see; www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Week of prayer for Christian Unity: 18 to 25 January 2019. Cathedral Service Wednesday 23rd 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- 05/06 January - There is no 2nd collection this weekend

Next weekend - 12/13 January - There is no 2nd collection this weekend

100 Club 2019: The 100 Club at St Thomas's was established to help raise funds for our Parish through the forum of a lottery. As a member, you are asked to do nothing more than donate £25 per year and then sit back and hope that your number comes up for the monthly prize of £20 and have a wonderful feeling of knowing you were involved in achieving the named beneficiary project for the year. We have BIG PLANS for our Parish for 2019 but we need 17 more people to subscribe to reach 100 people! Please take a form from the Narthex or access on line and return to the Office with the subscription before 11 Jan 2019. Thank you!

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 please donate through the Office at the presbytery.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET. One Saturday each month at 3pm in the Church as follows: 2nd February 2019, 2nd March 2019, 6th April 2019, 4th May 2019, 1st June 2019 and 6th July 2019.

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

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, 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, 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, Miss Sukhawati, Phyllis Higenbottam, Kevin Hackman, Darcey Campbell and Celia Welch

Thank you! Collections for weekend 29/30 December 2018:

Offertory: £767.10 loose & £534.30 Gift Aided -Total **£1301.40**

Crib Offerings - For Children's Society: **£181.88**

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 06th 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

2.30 pm Filipino Community Mass

6 pm Francis and Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP

Monday 07th January St Raymond of Penyafort Mt4:12-17,23-25

7.30 am Good Health

12 noon Tessa da Franca - RIP (*Brigid Rowe*)

7.30 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 08th January Feria of Christmas Mk 6:34-44

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Funeral Mass of Kevin Hackman

RCIA : Rite of Welcome and Rite of Election

Wednesday 09th January Feria of Christmas Mk 6: 45-52

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Frank Chrystal - RIP

7 - 8.30 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

8.00 pm Parish Council Meeting

Thursday 10th January Feria of Christmas Lk 4:14-22

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Terence Woram - RIP (*Joanne Cook*)

Scripture group in Upper Room

Friday 11th January Feria of Christmas Lk 5:12-16

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Wellbeing of Rita McCann (*Rose Link*)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm NO EVENING MASS

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 12th January Feria of Christmas Jn 3:22-30

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Henry Horst - RIP (*Brigid Rowe*)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) Ignatius Dempsey - RIP (*Dempsey Family*)

Sunday 13th January Baptism of the Lord Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

8 am Danny McGrath's intentions (*Margaret McGrath*)

9:30 am Nora Rainsford - RIP (*Levey Family*)

11 am People of the Parish

12.15 pm Baptism of Freya Hollingsworth

3.30pm Confirmation Classes in the Hall

6 pm Frances Brown - RIP (*Geraldine*)

Rite of Acceptance - RCIA

From Fr Anthony ...

At the beginning of this New Year I would like to write some reflections on the Mass, the Eucharist, which, as you know, is the source and summit of the Christian life. Today I want to start at the very beginning before we make the sign of the cross. The moment when we gather together we become the Sunday assembly. Coming to Mass is not merely an individual duty. When we gather together, Christ is really and truly present. Jesus promised he would be with us - *where two or three are gathered in my name I am there*. We need to remember that Christianity is not a matter between the individual and God, but between the individual and the church and God. As one writer put it "*Here there is one of the most pressing pastoral problems of today in relation to the Sunday Eucharist: to liberate people from their individualism; to help them see themselves not as so many individuals, journeying through life in splendid isolation from one another, but as a people bonded together in the Lord.*" (Sean Swayne)

One of the great changes that took place after 1964 and as a result of the Second Vatican Council was the change from the congregation being merely a passive presence, where only the voice of the priest and server was heard, to a full active and conscious participation by all present. In the introduction to the Roman Missal we read: "*For the celebration of the Eucharist is an action of the whole Church, and in it each one should carry out solely but completely that which pertains to him or her, in virtue of the rank of each within the People of God.*" I would like to thank all those who take on responsibilities as Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Musicians, Singers, Welcomers, Offertory Helpers and Servers in this parish. Even if you are not involved in one of these particular ministries you participate through your singing, and articulating the responses of the Mass. "*The acclamations and the responses of the faithful to the priest's greetings and prayers constitute that level of active participation that the gathered faithful are to contribute in every form of the Mass, so that the action of the entire community may be clearly expressed and fostered.*"

This year we plan to make significant changes to the entrance to our church. The idea is to make it more welcoming and inviting. The plans have already been approved by the Art and Architecture committee of the Archdiocese and, once one of three tenders for the work has been chosen, with the agreement of the Archdiocesan Finance committee, work will begin. Our coming into church is important. We need to cultivate within ourselves a welcoming heart, a heart which even when weighed with sadness radiates the peace and joy of the Lord. We rejoice that we have a wonderful opportunity every Sunday to share in the death and resurrection of Christ. Let us not be outsiders or mere onlookers.