

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

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, 16th February 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).

100 Club January 2019 Winners of £20 each!

Bridget Avery (72) Simon Brown (16)

The 100 Club has been able to raise £2000 for the two years 2017/18 to donate to the Parish funds. These will be used towards spiritual development of our community. Many thanks to all who participate in this fundraising - your generosity will reap rewards!

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.

Forms and information from Fr Anthony or the Office.

DIOCESAN VACANCIES

RESOURCE ASSISTANTS - Centre for Catholic Formation

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is looking for 2 part-time Resource Assistants to the Centre for Catholic Formation in Tooting Bec. Hours of work per Assistant will be 15 per week in term time only and will include some evenings and weekends. Salary range - £10.00 - £12.00 per hour depending on skills and experience.

ADVISER for CATECHESIS and ADULT FORMATION, KENT

The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is looking for an Adviser for Catechesis and Adult Formation covering Kent, to join the advisory team at the Centre for Catholic Formation. This is a full time role which will include working some evenings and weekends. Salary range - £30,000 to £35,000 pa depending on skills and experience.

If you would like an informal chat about the above 3 positions and/or visit the Centre for Catholic Formation, please contact the Director, Mark Nash, by email marknash@rcaos.org.uk. Job descriptions can be found at www.ctfootingbec.org.uk/jobs.

If you would like to apply for any of the above roles, please email your CV together with a covering letter to Sarah Wood, HR Manager. Email: sarahwood@rcaos.org.uk. Closing date Friday 1st February 2019.

TEAM SECRETARY MARRIAGE TRIBUNAL

The Southwark Metropolitan Marriage Tribunal manages applications for marriage annulment for the Diocese of Southwark. The administration team, based at the Centre for Catholic Formation in Tooting Bec, prepares all of the applications to go before the Judicial Vicar / Presiding Judge. They are looking for a new secretary to join this team. Working hours: 0900 - 1700 Monday to Friday. Salary range £23,000pa - £25,000pa depending on skills and experience. To apply please email a copy of your CV to sarah.wood@rcaos.org.uk by 8th February 2019. Please see the posters in the Narthex for more detailed information.

Bereavement Ministry

A 'Bereavement Training' day will be held on 9th March 2019 Aylesford Priory Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7BX. The course, presented by Elizabeth Partridge (Marriage & Family Life Team), is aimed at Laity and clergy who are already active in the ministry to the bereaved or see it as a ministry they would like to take on. Participants should be recommended by the parish priests. The course is not suitable for the recently bereaved. Information/bookings: Mrs. Elizabeth Partridge, Flat 3, 85 North Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 5ET or phone: 01303 670880 or see flyers in the Narthex.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This weekend- 26/26 January -SVP- Gift aid envelopes in Narthex
Next weekend- 02/03 February - no 2nd collection

PILGRIMAGES: Please see the notice in the Narthex with information on up-coming Pilgrimages to The Holy Land, Ireland, Poland and Lourdes



A Night at The Opera - Come and enjoy favourite Opera Classics in the style of a Glyndebourne Gala. (Bring your own food and drink) Featuring world renowned singers. In aid of the Organ Fund. **16th February at 7:30pm in St Thomas' Church Hall.** Tickets: £10 per head at the door or the Church Shop

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET. Change of Time! Please note new starting time: **12.30pm (after Saturday Mass)** once a month as follows: 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April, 4th May, 1st June and 6th July 2019.

The Fellowship of St Thomas More: You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Fellowship to be held in St Dunstan's Church Hall. London Road, Canterbury on Saturday, 2nd February 2019 starting at 2.30pm. The AGM will be followed by a film of the opening of the vault where ST Thomas's head lies and a discussion. Refreshments will be served. For more information on the Fellowship contact ST Dunstan's Parish Administrator at: dmpbenefice@gmail.com or 01227 786109

PARISH MEETINGS 2019 - please save the date:
Sat, 02 March, 10am -1pm : Eucharist Ministers' Meeting
Sat, 30 March, 10am -1pm : Readers Meeting
Both the above meetings in the Hall

Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ

Weekend Workshop / Retreats for the Bereaved at Aylesford Priory
Dates in 2019: March 22 - 24th and October 11 - 13th.
Cost: Single £177, Shared per person £160, Senior Citizens £171
Bookings: Aylesford Priory 01622 717272 Website: www.thefriars.org.uk
Enquiries: mflbereavement@rcaos.org.uk or earpartridge@gmail.com
Phone: 01303 670880.

Church Shop Post Christmas Sale: We are having a January Sale in our Repository/Shop of Diaries, Calendars and children's Christmas Books. Please support the shop which channels profits into Parish Projects.

Church Shop: Do you have time and talents to offer in a supportive, friendly church ministry? Our shop needs volunteers to cover various shifts. If you can support our Parish this way, please contact Maria Davis on 07791 534852.

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, Gemma Macey, Joan Meakin, Margaret Mason, Tony Ashworth, Eamonn Scully, Fr George Marsden, Fr Louie Kitt and Pauline Ryan

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, D'arcy Campbell, Celia Welch, Sarafin Arevelo and Henriette Soar

Thank you! Collections for weekend 19/20 January 2019:
Offertory: £999.18 loose & £590.50 Gift Aided -Total **£1589.68**
2nd Collection: No second collection this weekend

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) David and Gladys Murphy - RIP (E.M. Murphy)

Sunday 27th January 3rd Sunday (Year C) Lk 1:1-4, 4: 14-21

FINANCE SUNDAY

8 am Sarah's Health & Wellbeing (Mrs Burton)

9:30 am Celia Welch - RIP

11 am People of the Parish

2.30pm Syro Malabar Mass

3.30pm Confirmation Classes in the Hall

6 pm Alex Grogan - RIP (Catherine Grogan)

Monday 28th January St Thomas Aquinas Mk 3:22-30

7.30am Intentions of Jane Povey (Jean Povey)

12 noon Carmel Murray - Good Health (Gemma Macey)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30pm FHC Parents Meeting in the Hall

Tuesday 29th January Feria Mk 3:31-35

7.30am Wellbeing of John Matthew (Angela Nichols)

12 noon Intentions of the Burton Family (Mrs Burton)

7.30pm RCIA

Wednesday 30th January Feria Mk 4:1-20

7.30am Joe Arbuckle - RIP (Sr McGrath)

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon Welfare of Kathleen Purcell (Philomena)

7 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 31st January St John Bosco Mk 4:21-25

7.30 am Peggy Mallon - RIP (Jean Povey)

12 noon Roy Shersby - RIP (Osborne)

Scripture group in Upper Room

7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 01st February Feria Mk 4:26-34

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Funeral Mass of Henriette Soar

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm In Thanksgiving (Brett Pereira)

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 02nd February Presentation of the Lord Lk 2:22-40

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon Celia Welch - RIP (Mary McGeary)

12.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) Sheila Lloyd (MBE) - RIP (Scott Family)

Sunday 03rd February 4th Sunday (Year C) Lk 4:21-30

8 am Bryan John Hardy's Health and wellbeing

9:30 am People of the Parish

11 am Celia Welch - RIP (CSS for Parish)

2.30 pm Filipino Community Mass

3.30pm Confirmation Classes in the Hall

6 pm Delaney Family's intentions (Philomena)

ADORATION: Please note there will be NO Adoration on:
MONDAY, 4th or 11th February 2019.

From Fr Anthony ...



Continuing our reflections on the celebration of the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Christian life, I thought that as we will be having members of the Parish Finance committee speaking at all Masses this weekend about our finances, it would be appropriate to

reflect on the Preparation of Gifts and the collection.

This part of Mass used to be known as the Offertory and is now known as the Preparation of Gifts. The rubric in the missal at this point of the Mass says: "It is desirable that the faithful express their participation by making an offering, bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist and perhaps other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and of the poor." The Catechism says that from the very beginning Christians have brought, along with the bread and wine for the Eucharist, gifts to share with those in need. St Paul in his second letter to the people of Corinth writes: "But remember: anyone who sows sparsely will reap sparsely as well—and anyone who sows generously will reap generously as well. Each one should give as much as he has decided on his own initiative, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver". Our giving expresses not only our desire to help those in need but also our generosity to God. St. Cyprian, martyred in Africa in 258, chided those who came to Mass and received the Eucharist but made no offering of their own: "You are wealthy and rich and do you think that you celebrate the Lord's Supper, not at all considering the offering? Who comes to the Lord's Supper without a sacrifice and yet take part of the sacrifice which the poor man has offered? Consider in the Gospel the widow..."

The money we give at the offertory or which we give by direct debit is a symbol of the gift of the work of our hands. In the prayer the priest says as he raises the bread and wine slightly above the altar he uses the words "work of human hands". So both the gifts of bread and wine and the collection are symbols of the offering of ourselves. The Procession with the Gifts is a powerful expression of the assembly's participation in the Eucharist and in the social mission of the Church. It is an expression of the humble and contrite heart, the dispossession of self that is a necessary prerequisite for making the true offering which the Lord Jesus gave his people to make with him. The Procession with the Gifts expresses also our eager willingness to enter into the "holy exchange" with God: "accept the offerings you have given us, that we in turn may receive the gift of yourself."

The Bishops of England and Wales in their document on the celebration of Mass say: "The collection of money takes place first. As an integral part of the Eucharistic liturgy since apostolic times, its purpose and value will be better appreciated if, after the Prayer of the faithful, the priest celebrant, ministers, and people all sit and wait while the collection is taken and then made ready with the other gifts for the procession". This is something we don't do here at St Thomas's. The money is brought up separately from the bread and wine before the Preface begins and sometimes it is sneaked up by the side aisle and placed on the sanctuary while the Eucharistic prayer is being said. Perhaps we need more collectors and more bags for this to happen in our parish.

