

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)



TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil)	John Todd - RIP (Crow Family)	2nd Collection: SVP
Sunday 24th March Third Sunday of Lent Lk 13: 1-9		
8 am	Intentions of Father Sylvester (E Murphy)	GIFT AID SUNDAY
9 am	First Holy Communion Classes in the Hall	
9:30 am	Celia Welch - RIP & intentions of UCM families	
11 am	Francis Bown - RIP (His family)	
12.15	Baptism of Teddy Michael Sammut	
3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
6 pm	People of the Parish	
Monday 25th March The Annunciation of the Lord Lk 1: 26-38		
NO MORNING MASS		
12 noon	Eileen & Joseph Kemp - RIP (Majery Craig)	
6.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting	
7 - 9 pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
7.30 pm	FHC Parents' Meeting in the Hall	
Tuesday 26th March Feria Jn 4:5-42		
NO MORNING MASS		
12 noon	Sheila Charlton - RIP (Fr Anthony)	
7.30 pm	Lenten reflection on the Pope's letter on spirituality - Guadate et Exultate in the Hall	
Wednesday 27th March Feria Mt 5:17-19		
NO MORNING MASS		
10.30 - 11.30	Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)	
12 noon	Bridie, Sidney & Gladys - RIP (Pat Gill)	
7 - 8.30pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Thursday 28th March Feria Lk 11:14-23		
7.30 am	Welfare of Esmi Mills (Fr Anthony)	
12 noon	Kathleen Haley - RIP (Karoline & James Haley) Scripture group in Upper Room	
7.45pm	Prayer and Pub	
Friday 29th March Feria Mk 12:28-34		
7.30 am	Morning Prayer	
12 noon	Funeral of Frederick Prior	
7.30 pm	NO EVENING MASS	
8.00 pm	Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
Saturday 30th March Feria Lk 18: 9-14		
9.00 am	Baptism Course in Presbytery	
10.30 - 11.30	Reconciliation (Fr Joe Feeley)	
12 noon	Stanley Metcalfe - RIP (Tessa Metcalfe)	
4.30 - 5.30	Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)	
6pm (Vigil)	John Todd - RIP (Al and Tim) John to be received into the Church at Mass	
Sunday 31st March Fourth Sunday of Lent Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32 (Laetare Sunday; Mothering Sunday)		
8 am	People of the Parish	
9:30 am	Vincent Siudad - RIP (Vibal Family)	
11 am	Catherine (Kath) Packer - RIP (Bernard & Family)	
3.00 pm	Stations of the Cross	
6 pm	Keith Purbrick - RIP (Chris & Lesley Smith)	

From Fr Anthony ...

I don't react to well when people talk about "Catholic Guilt". This phrase is often used by those who are not long active in their faith or who feel antagonistic towards Catholicism. I think that this phrase means that Catholics can feel excessively guilty which can sometimes lead to scrupulosity. During this time of Lent and in the Gospel today Jesus is asking us to recognise our need to repentance and healing. In other words we need to ask ourselves: "Am I guilty of living a life that is not in conformity with the call of Jesus to love God and love others? In the opening prayer this weekend we say: "O God, author of every mercy and all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy." It is good and healthy to be honest with ourselves and with God who sees our heart, and admit that we need healing and his mercy. Our children celebrated Reconciliation for the first time last Saturday. In preparing them for this celebration of the sacrament we were not trying to make them feel guilty. We were helping them to realise that articulating their lack of love, their sin, they could experience healing and forgiveness. Happily they were able in their own words to articulate why they were coming with a sense of sorrow. "Bless me father for I have sinned...". Someone was telling me recently that when they were being prepared for first confession many years ago, they had to have 10 sins ready to tell the priest. I thank God that those days have gone. Those who are preparing for Baptism this Easter will take part in the Scrutinies. These are rites for self-searching and repentance. According the ritual, they are meant to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective or sinful in the elect (those preparing for baptism). "They are meant to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong and good. They are celebrated in order to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan, to protect them against temptation, and to give them strength in Christ." When the first Scrutiny is celebrated, the gospel from Year A (John 4:5-42) is read, the wonderful and powerful encounter of Jesus with the Samaritan woman at Jacobs well. Here was a woman not only coming to the well for water but also thirsting for living water. Jesus didn't tell her off but this loving encounter challenged her and in opening her heart she was transformed and she led others to meet Jesus. This could be our prayer today: Lord Jesus, you are the fountain for which we thirst, you are the Master whom we seek. In your presence we dare not claim to be without sin, for you alone are the Holy One of God. We open our hearts to you in faith, we confess our faults and lay bare our hidden wounds. In your love free us from our infirmities, heal our sickness, quench our thirst and give us peace.

PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be **Saturday, 23rd March 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 /website).



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019: Sessions in the Hall as per the schedule
CONFIRMATION 2019: Sessions in the Hall as per the schedule
JOURNEY IN FAITH: Sessions in the Presbytery as per published schedule



The Canterbury Gregorian Music Society will hold its A.G.M. on Saturday 30th March in the Cathedral Lodge at 10.00 for 10.30 a.m. After the brief formal business, parishioner Chris Smith will give a talk on two thirteenth-century manuscripts, the Worcester Antiphonal and the Hereford Noted Breviary, highlighting pointers to the Anglo-Saxon ancestry of some of England's pre-reformation liturgy. ALL ARE WELCOME: entry for members is free of charge: for non-members a charge of £5 per head is made. Tea and Coffee included. The meeting is expected to end at about noon. If you intend to come, please notify Jonathan Butchers (email jonathan.butchers@gmail.com, telephone, 07974 738324) for catering purposes.

CTC Lent Lectures, 'Saints through the Ages': St Peter's Anglican Church: Tuesdays 12.30 followed by light lunch (£4 suggested donation). See poster in Narthex.

GIFT AID SUNDAY 23/24 MARCH 2019

Weekly parish Mass collection Gift Aid boxes are now available in the hall foyer after each Mass this weekend. PLEASE pick up yours & thank you as ever for your generosity plus Gift Aiding it! For people who pay by **standing order** - there are special envelopes for second collections that currently don't get captured by the Gift Aid process, so please come and get your envelopes too - many thanks. Please consider Gift Aiding your weekly donation if you don't at the moment. It's simple and we get so much back from the Tax People from it! See the poster in the Narthex for details

Red Box Appeal - Fr Vincent Oates MHM wishes to thank everyone in the parish for our welcome last weekend. If you did not get a chance to take a Red Box and you wish to do so, please contact Linda in the Office. We currently do not have a local Secretary but as soon as this post has been filled we will notify the Parish.

Our Filipino Brothers and Sisters are reminded that the next Filipino Community Mass will take place on the 7 April at 3pm in the Church.

DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET. Starting time: **12.30pm (after Saturday Mass)** once a month: 6th April, 4th May, 1st June & 6th July 2019.

Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - only a few places left!

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.

Silent Prayer Workshops led by John Renn

Dates: 13th April. **Time:** 10 to 11 am
Venue: Saint Thomas' Church, "Upper Room". All welcome.

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This weekend- 23/24 March - SVP - Gift Aid Envelopes in the Narthex, thank you
Next weekend - 30/31 March - there is no second collection



PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS 2019:
We regret to inform Readers that the Reader's morning has been postponed until after Easter. Details to follow.

Monday, 25th March, 6.00 pm: Parish Council Meeting
Tues, 26th March, 7.30 : Lenten reflection on the Pope's letter on spirituality - Guadate et Exultate in the Hall

STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CHURCH

Sunday, 31st March, 4th (Laetare) Sunday 3.00 pm
Sunday, 7th April, 5th Sunday of Lent 4.30 pm
Sunday 14th April, Palm Sunday 3.00 pm

CHURCH DIARY 24 MARCH TO 10 APRIL

Please note that due to the absence of Father Sylvester, some adjustments have needed to be made to the Parish Diary. These include the cancelling of Masses which has resulted in Mass Intentions needing to be moved. If this has affected your requested Mass please contact Linda in the office. Thank you

GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON! Monthly Parish Tea Dances with Stuart and Hannah starting on Sunday, 14th April at 12 noon in the hall. No partner or experience required. More info to follow.

PARISHIONER NOTICES

A parishioner, Mrs N Joseph, is looking for help with improving her English - both spoken and written, If you can help, please phone her on 07466618834.

Please see the advertisement on the Notice board for Airport and Long Distance Taxi services by parishioner Vinod Anthony

DEMENTIA FAMILY PRAYER. Prayer Cards for Families coping with Dementia are available in the Narthex.

The Union of Catholic Mother are holding their monthly meeting on the 7th of April in the church hall after the 9:30am mass all are welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP: Wednesday evening meetings will restart on 27th March 2019 at 7.15 pm in the Link Lane Rooms (behind the Church). ALL WELCOME. For more information please contact Isabel on 07421 748995

Please remember in your prayers:

Gloria Soar, Suzy Drayton, 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, Fr Louie Kitt, Pauline Ryan, John O'Driscoll, Fr Kevin St Albyn and Margaret Jones

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Canon John Bailey, Marissa Arevalo, Teresa Wicker, Vincent Siudad, Lawrence Ajewole Adeniyi, Raphael Adeniyi, John Todd, Frederick Prior.

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 16/17 March 2019:
Offertory: £1102.19 loose & £550.85 Gift Aided -Total **£1653.04**
2nd Collection: no second collection
Special Collection: CAFOD Family Fast Day raised £1180.91