

# NEWSLETTER

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HU

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk) Web Site: [www.stthomasofcanterbury.com](http://www.stthomasofcanterbury.com)

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)

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)



### TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) John Todd - RIP (Al and Tim)  
John Crawford received into the Church at Mass

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 Ciudad - 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)

**Monday 01<sup>st</sup> April Feria** Jn 9:1-41

NO MORNING MASS

12 noon Private Intentions  
7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Tuesday 02<sup>nd</sup> April St Francis Of Paola, hermit** Jn 5:1-16

NO MORNING MASS

12 noon William and Hannah Phelan (Nora King)  
7.30 pm 'Global Healing' Film in the Hall

**Wednesday 03<sup>rd</sup> April Feria** Jn 5:17-30

NO MORNING MASS

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)  
12 noon Colin Stone - RIP (Cherry Silcock-Stone)  
7 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Thursday 04<sup>th</sup> April St Isidore** Jn 5:31-47

7.30 am Ernest Punnett - RIP (Punnett Family)  
12 noon Francis & Michael-Joe Keavney - RIP (Mary, Geraldine)  
Scripture group in Upper Room  
7.45pm Prayer and Pub

**Friday 05<sup>th</sup> April St Vincent Ferrer** Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

7.30 am Morning Prayer  
10.30 am First Friday K & C Hospital Mass  
12 noon Lawrence & Raphael Adeniyi - RIP (Bland Family)  
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
7.30 pm NO EVENING MASS  
8.00 pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Saturday 06<sup>th</sup> April Feria** Jn 7:40-53

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)  
12 noon Rita & Wally Thundow - RIP (Kevin & Family)  
12.30 Divine Mercy Chaplet  
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)  
6pm (Vigil) Mary & Stan Crow - RIP (Crow Family)

**Sunday 07<sup>th</sup> April Fifth Sunday of Lent** Jn 8:1-11

8 am Kathleen Haley - RIP (Karoline & James Haley)  
9:30 am Celia Welch - RIP & UCM Families' intentions  
11 am Intentions of Cathy Gadd (Pat Gill)  
3.00 pm Filipino Community Mass  
4.30 pm Stations of the Cross  
6 pm People of the Parish

### From Fr Anthony ...

I am the eldest of three children in my family. Looking back at our childhood in Clapham I was the bossy one and the one that was expected to show a good example. I was dutiful. Just ask my brother and sister. I was always trying to please my Mum and Dad. My brother and sister got into a lot of scrapes and I went off to a junior seminary to train to be a priest.

Whenever I hear the Gospel parable of the prodigal son that is read this weekend, I identify with the elder son who all his life did the right thing. I seem to understand his indignation with his father, who welcomed with open arms the brother who had squandered half the family inheritance. You can imagine him saying "How could you kill the calf that we had been fattening.

How could you restore this son of yours to the centre of the family. Look how he insulted you by demanding the half of the property that would normally only come to him after you had died. He is only coming back because he was at rock bottom. There was nowhere else he can go. You will regret it because he will take advantage of you again. I don't believe he is genuinely sorry."

Those listening to this parable of Jesus were scribes, Pharisees, publicans and sinners. The attitude of the elder son was the attitude of the scribes and Pharisees. They thought they were doing well and pleasing God and thus they were on his good side because they kept the law and were faithful. They looked down on the publicans and sinners because they were not faithful to the law. These were the younger son in the parable. What was challenging to both groups was the unconditional love and overwhelming mercy shown by the father. The younger son was certainly not expecting the reaction that he got from the father. He had a careful rehearsed script that he didn't get to say. The elder son thought it was totally unfair and misjudged. He wanted no part of the celebration.

How do I react to this revelation of who God is? Do I really believe in a totally merciful God who is willing to forgive me anything or do I spend my days trying to please God who will only love me if I am good and toe the line? Those of us who are "elder sons" should be secure in the truth that all we do is seen by God; for God to love "younger sons" does not mean God loves "older sons" less. God's love is ever bountiful and infinite - there is no limit on how much love is available to all of us.

## PARISH MATTERS



**Baptism Preparation:** To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be **Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> April 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



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

**Tues, 2nd April, 7.30 pm in the Hall:** 'Global Healing' Film  
**Wed, 3rd April, 7.00 pm in the Hall:** Tom Herbst is presenting *Reflection on the Lenten Gospel: Rising of Lazarus*. All welcome.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS IN THE CHURCH

Sunday, 7th April, 5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent	4.30 pm
Sunday 14th April, Palm Sunday	3.00 pm

### GIFT AID GIVING

Thank you to those who collected their envelopes last weekend. 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

**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.

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

**Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land** from Thursday 21st November till Thursday 28th November is now fully booked. There is a waiting list. If you want more information please ring Gill Didino at Tangney Tours on 01732 88 66 66

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

**The 9:30am Mass welcome ministry** is seeking volunteers. Duties include handling out hymns/newsletter before Mass and collecting money for offertory during Mass. The commitment is only once a month. Email Sheelagh ([sheelagh.smith@talk21.com](mailto:sheelagh.smith@talk21.com)) for more information.

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.

**PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES:** HCPT Group (5)87: **4th - 11th October 2019** staying at Hosanna House. All ages welcome. For more information please talk to Father Anthony or Annie Judge on 07866 515797 or [anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com).

### 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

**Silent Prayer Workshops** led by John Renn  
**Dates:** 13<sup>th</sup> April. **Time:** 10 to 11 am  
**Venue:** Saint Thomas' Church, "Upper Room". All welcome.

### SECOND COLLECTIONS

**This weekend- 30/31 March** - there is no second collection  
**Next weekend - 06/07 April** - there is no second collection

**GLOBAL HEALING** - how our faith helps us to care for our common home A new film produced by CaFE (Catholic faith exploration film company), sponsored the Bishops. Join us for a free and inspiring evening of film, food & friendship responding together to Pope Francis' call to care for creation and to pass on a healthy planet to our children's children. Tuesday 2nd April at 7:30pm in Hall

**HOLY WEEK PENITENTIAL SERVICE:** Please diarise our Parish Penitential Service which takes place on Tuesday, 16th April 2019 at 7.30 pm. Please join us for readings, reflection and reconciliation.

**Canterbury Medieval Pageant** St Thomas's is again taking part in the Family Trail for the Medieval Pageant on Saturday, 6th July. If you could volunteer time and talents to this event, please contact Linda in the office.

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.

### 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, Fr Louie Kitt, 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 Ciudad, Lawrence Ajewole Adeniyi, Raphael Adeniyi, John Todd, Frederick Prior, Christine Mahy, Father Alex Fraser, Fr Alan Wright and Itohan Erhahon (sister of Fr Valentine)

**Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 23/24 March 2019:**  
**Offertory:** £997.27 loose & £650.55 Gift Aided -Total **£1647.82**  
**2nd Collection:** SVP raised **£644.74**