

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

8.30 pm Solemn Easter Vigil - David Heap - RIP
Sunday 21st April Easter Sunday Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10
8 am Claudia Upward (Phyllis Stirton)
9:30 am Itohan Erhahon - RIP
11 am People of the Parish
12.15 Baptism of Lily McGee
Baptism and Confirmation of Amir Masomi
6 pm for Olga Douglas
Monday 22nd April Monday in the Octave of Easter Mt 28:8-15
NO MORNING MASS
10 am Intentions of Fr Sylvester (Mrs Nichols)
Tuesday 23rd April Tuesday in the Octave of Easter Jn 20:11-18
NO MORNING MASS
12 noon John Collins (Anne Mannion)
Wednesday 24th April Wednesday in the Octave of Easter Lk24:13-35
NO MASSES or RECONCILIATION TODAY
7 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 25th April Thursday in the Octave of Easter Lk24:35-48
NO MORNING MASS
12 noon Aleyamma Abraham - RIP
Scripture group in Upper Room
Prayer and Pub
7.45pm
Friday 26th April Friday in the Octave of Easter Jn 21:1-14
7.30 am Morning Prayer
12 noon Frederick Prior - RIP (Mrs Prior)
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7.30 pm Andrew Peter Kanny - RIP (Christine Kanny)
8.00 pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 27th April Saturday in the Octave of Easter Mk16: 9-15
9.00 am Baptism Preparation Course
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)
12 noon Adelina Paderanga (Mia P- Jameson)
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
6pm (Vigil) John Todd - RIP (Mary Reynolds)
8.30 pm - 6.30 am Rumanian Orthodox Easter Celebration
Sunday 28th April 2nd Sunday of Easter Jn 20: 19-31
DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY
8 am Mary Wright's intentions
9:30 am People of the Parish
11 am Brendan McCormack - RIP (Dorene McCormack)
3.00 pm Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church
4.00 pm Confirmation in the Hall
6 pm Ruby Cookman - RIP (Bob Cookman)

From Fr Anthony ...

I am sure that I have shared this before but one of the most enduring memories of my primary school days was when our parish priest, Fr Joe, talking to our class about the resurrection, said "If the resurrection of Jesus did not happen then would take off my roman collar and throw it away." With that he took off his collar. We are sat there open mouthed. Father Joe was recalling St Paul's words "How can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ... But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep." The resurrection was a real physical event. Belief in the resurrection of the dead has been an essential element of the Christian faith from its beginnings. "The confidence of Christians is the resurrection of the dead; believing this we live." (Tertullian)

As we celebrate this great feast, this life changing event, we need to ask ourselves: How does the resurrection of Jesus change the way we see things today? How does it affect the way I live my life? What difference does it make? Bishop Robert Barron in his podcast sermon for Easter Sunday reminds us of three things. The first thing is that the fact of the resurrection shows us that that this world, as we know it, is not all that there is. For some people this world is the final framework of their lives and death is the most frightening feature. For many, everything that comes into being will eventually fade away. The psalmist says of us that our span of life is seventy years or eighty for those who are strong. Even our world and the universe will eventually fade away. But the resurrection of Christ proclaims that death does not have the final word. We don't have to live as though death had the final word. In the light of the resurrection we see our time as a time of something in gestation. We are not meant to live here ultimately. Our life here is a preparation for life everlasting.

The second thing to remember is that the resurrection of Jesus declares that the cross, which for the romans was the ultimate symbol of torture and death was not victorious. For tyrants violence was the way that they get their way. The cross was the means the Romans use to subjugate and control. The risen Christ is the inspiration of rebellion and is the taunt of tyrants. Christ has been victorious over tyranny. Jesus had taken the worst that the world could possible have thrown at him and he returned alive and triumphant. The third thing to remember is that Jesus died and rose to bring everyone to new life. Salvation is open to all. Christ endured great suffering to be one with the whole of humanity. The resurrection shows that Christ can gather back to the Father everyone he has embraced through his suffering and death. Jesus went all the way down in his suffering to reach all those who wandered from God. What a great feast! What great hope! We will spend the next fifty days celebrating the resurrection. Father Sylvester, Deacon David and his wife Bridget and myself wish you a happy and joyous Easter. Thank you to all who have helped in making Holy Week prayerful and uplifting.

Resurrexit Sixut Dixit, Alleluia



PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be **Saturday, 27th 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 recommence 28th April 2019
Parents Meeting: Monday 29th April in the Hall

CONFIRMATION 2019: Sessions in the Hall recommence 28th April 2019 - There will be a guest speaker, Nichole Gillespi, speaking to the young people about her work in Uganda.



All of us in the Presbytery wish you every Blessing at this joyous Easter Season.

MEETING ON THE HOLY LAND. Luke Lavan, a parishioner who teaches archaeology at Kent University, is giving us an introduction to the Holy Land exploring the themes of places, people and texts reflecting his studies on the region. This will take place on Saturday, 11th May at St Thomas' Hall at 7.30pm. All Welcome



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - 28th April 2019

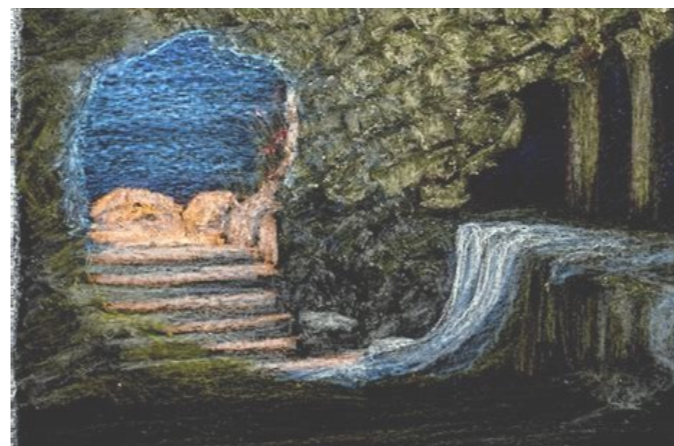
The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be said in the Church at 3.00pm.

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.

CATHOLIC HERALD: In the Easter edition of the Catholic Herald we are giving away an excellent free DVD about the life and times of Blessed John Henry Cardinal Newman – Lead Kindly Light. Please see poster in the Narthex for details

PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS 2019:

First Holy Communion parents meeting: Monday, 29th April 2019 in the Church Hall



SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend- 20/21 April - there is no second collection

Next weekend - 27/28 - St George's Cathedral - our Diocesan Mother Cathedral. This collection goes towards its upkeep.

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.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Some places are still available on the annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, led by Bishop Paul Hendricks. Dates: 23-30 August 2019. For details please see: www.tangney-tours.com/CA and its special section for Southwark.

Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ

Weekend Workshop / Retreats for the Bereaved at Aylesford Priory
Dates in 2019: 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) Phone: 01303 670880.

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, Fr Louie Kitt, John O'Driscoll, Fr Kevin St Albyn, Margaret Jones and Veronica Derbyshire

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 Alexander Fraser, Fr Alan Wright, Itohan Erhahon (sister of Fr Valentine), John Reidy and Daniel Bannon

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 13/14 April 2019:

Offertory: £1080.88 loose & £733.00 Gift Aided -Total £1813.88
2nd Collection: SVP raised £677.28