

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HU

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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)



From Fr Anthony ...

On the Feast of the Annunciation this year 25th March, Pope Francis issued an Apostolic Exhortation to young people and to the entire people of God. This was written in response to the Synod that met last October and is entitled *Christ is Alive*. I wonder how many young people have read it or planning to read it? I would love the opportunity to explore this letter with a group of young people to hear their response to what has been written. Like most Apostolic exhortations it is not short! I would like to give you a flavour of what he wrote to encourage you to read it yourself.

Pope Francis says reflecting on Jesus as a young person can prove inspiring for all those young people who are developing and preparing to take up their mission in life. *"This involves growing in a relationship with the Father, in awareness of being part of a family and a people, and a people, and in openness to being filled with the Holy Spirit and led to carry out the mission God gives them, their personal vocation. None of this should be overlooked in pastoral work with young people, lest we create projects that isolate young people from their family and the larger community, or turn them into a select few, protected from all contamination. Rather, we need projects that can strengthen them, accompany them and impel them to encounter others, to engage in generous service, in mission."* We are reminded to be open to the signs of the times. The Pope recognises that many young people do not ask the Church for anything because they do not see her as significant for their lives. *"A Church always on the defensive, which loses her humility and stops listening to others, which leaves no room for questions, loses her youth and turns into a museum. How, then, will she be able to respond to the dreams of young people? Even if she possesses the truth of the Gospel, this does not mean that she has completely understood it; rather, she is called to keep growing in her grasp of that inexhaustible treasure."* These are for me challenging words. Chapter four is entitled *"A great message for all young people"* - in which three great truths are expressed. The first is that God loves you. *"Never doubt this, whatever may happen in your life. At every moment you are definitely loved."* The second great truth is that Christ, out of love, sacrificed himself completely in order to save you. *"Young people, beloved of the Lord, how valuable must you be if you were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ! Dear young people, you are priceless! You are not up for sale! Please, do not let yourselves be bought. Do not let yourselves be seduced."* The third truth, inseparable from the second, is Christ is alive! *"Alive, he can be present in your life at every moment, to fill it with light and to take away all sorrow and solitude. Even if all others depart, he will remain, as he promised: 'I am with you always, to the end of the age' (Mt 28:20). He fills your life with his unseen presence; wherever you go, he will be waiting there for you. Because he did not only come in the past, but he comes to you today and every day, inviting you to set out towards ever new horizons"*. The Pope encourages young people to allow the Holy Spirit to open their hearts to receive this message. *"Ask the Holy Spirit each day to help you experience anew the great message. Why not? You have nothing to lose, and he can change your life, fill it with light and lead it along a better path. He takes nothing away from you, but instead helps you to find all that you need, and in the best possible way."*

6pm (Vigil) Annie Galvin (*E Corcoran*)
Sunday 05th May 3rd Sunday of Easter *Jn 21: 1-19*

8 am People of the Parish
9.00 am First Holy Communion Lessons in the Hall
9:30 am Celia Welch - RIP & intention of UCM members
11 am Alfi McKay - RIP & Lucy McKay (*Jim & Family*)
2.00 pm Filipino Celebration of Flores de Mayo in church
4.00 pm Confirmation in the Hall
6 pm Julia Pilkiene - RIP 10 years (*Family*)

Monday 06th May Feria *Jn 6: 22-29*
BANK HOLIDAY
NO EARLY MORNING MASS
12 noon N J Abraham - thanksgiving
7 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 07th May Feria *Jn 6:30-35*
7.30 am Amal Thankachen - good health (*Family*)
12 noon Ian Ashbee - RIP (*Alison Jordan-Hargreaves*)

Wednesday 08th May Feria *Jn 6: 35-40*
7.30 am Joanna Nam - RIP (1st Anniversary) (*Sangwoo Han*)
12 noon Jimmy Bulgar, Maria Sadler & Flo & Sammy Gunn - RIP (*Bernadett Lyons*)
7 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
8.00 pm Parish Liturgy Meeting

Thursday 09th May Feria *Jn 6: 44-51*
7.30 am Danny Bannon - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)
12 noon Giovanni & Maria Castrofilippo - RIP (*Joe & Rosa*)
Scripture group in Upper Room
7.45pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 10th May Feria *Jn 6: 52-59*
7.30 am Morning Prayer
12 noon John Wilkins - RIP (*Jo Wilkins*)
7.30 pm Charles Westendarp - welfare (*Pat Gibson*)
8.00 pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th May Feria *Jn 6: 60-69*
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Sylvester*)
10h30 Rehearsal for First Holy Communion - Hall
12 noon Joanna Hamilton - RIP (*Mrs Riley & Eva*)
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Anthony*)
6pm (Vigil) Joanna Nam - RIP (1st Anniversary) (*Sangwoo Han*)
7.30 pm Introduction to the Holy Land Talk in the Hall

Sunday 12th May 4th Sunday of Easter *Jn 10: 27-30*
8 am Ciju Jacob's intentions
9:30 am First Holy Communion Mass - for the children
11 am First Holy Communion Mass - for the children
4.00 pm Polish Community Mass
4.00 pm Confirmation in the Hall
6 pm People of the Parish

2nd
Collection
Ecclesiastical
Education

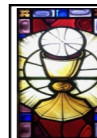
PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be **Saturday, 25th May 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: Rehearsal on Saturday, 11 May at 10.30
Celebration Masses, 12 May: 9.30 and 11am
CONFIRMATION 2019: Sessions in the Hall as per schedule



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. Next weekend, 12th May, our young people celebrate their First Holy Communion at the 9.30 am and 11 am Masses. Please keep them, their families and their catechists in your prayers on this special day.



PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS 2019:
Sunday, 5th May 2019 The U.C. M are holding a meeting in the upper room after the 9; 30am mass, all are welcome
Wednesday, 8th May 2019 - Parish Liturgy Meeting
Saturday, 11 May at 7.30 pm - Holy Land Talk in the Hall



GIFT AID ENVELOPES
We still have **21 weekly gift aid envelope boxes** which have not been collected. Collect these either from the Narthex at the weekend Masses or from Linda in the office during the week.

We welcome Mateo Waclawski to our Church family. Mateo was baptised on Sunday, 28th April 2019

INTRODUCTORY TALK 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. Taking place on Saturday, 11th May at St Thomas' Hall at 7.30pm. All Welcome, especially Holy Land Pilgrimage participants.

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt and Cake Sale. Thank you all for supporting our Easter Celebrations, the delicious cakes donated raised **£85.10p** for Father Freddy's work in South Sudan. Thanks to the Union of Catholic Mothers for donating the Easter Eggs given out to all the children. *The Social Committee.*

Monthly Parish Tea Dances continuing 26th May at 12noon with Stuart and Hannah in the parish hall. Open to everyone, no partner or experience required, we will put the spring in your step!

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.

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.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY EVENTS:
Poetry in a Quiet Garden. 2-5pm Thursday 23rd May at Eudaemonia Quiet Garden (Broad Street)
Introduced by Victoria Field, a quiet afternoon using poetry to structure the silence. Victoria was formerly Poet in Residence at Truro Cathedral and has a wide experience of using poetry to explore spirituality, ending with afternoon tea. No charge (Donations to Quiet Garden Trust welcome) but please book, as numbers are strictly limited, by email to petertoon@aol.com or by phone to 01227 451991

'Thy Kingdom Come' Prayer Evening: 6:30pm Sunday 2nd June at St Mary Bredin. All are welcome for an evening of worship and prayer.

The National Pray for Schools Fortnight running 12th-26th May! As part of the fortnight, there is an evening of prayer for our local schools on May 20th from 7.30pm - 9.00pm at Canterbury Baptist Church. We'd love you and your congregation to come and join us as we intercede for our local children, youth and teachers. (all welcome).

More details on the posters in the Narthex for all the above.

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
This weekend- 04/05 May - There is no second collection
Next weekend - 11/12 May - Ecclesiastical Education - helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate as well as ongoing formation of the clergy.

CAFOD Volunteer Day Meeting: Celebrating our Common Home: Saturday, 11th May 2019, 9.30 - 14.30 at Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London, SE1 7JB. Join us for an opportunity to hear a first-hand account of our work overseas and an introduction to our new Climate Campaign "Our Common Home" as well as to participate in a number of interesting workshops. We will finish the meeting with a Laudato Si-inspired Creation Mass. For more information and to book a place, contact Sarah Cadwallader on 0208 466 9901 or email southwark@cafod.org.uk

THANK YOU FROM THE SVP: The SVP would like to thank Parishioners for the generous financial support they continue to give to the society every month. Since January we have been able to help many people in our community. All requests for help are considered carefully at our weekly meetings. Please remember that for many of those we help there is no money available elsewhere for them to access and so the SVP is a life line to many. Here is a summary of what your money has been used for so far this year: Multiple Asda and Tesco vouchers purchased for people to buy fresh food items, often to supplement dried food received from the Food bank. Money for gas top ups needed for both cooking and heating Carpeting 3 beds; 1 Mattress; 1 cooker; 1 Washing machine; Curtains; Payment for Pest control services and help with the repair cost of a broken window for a vulnerable family. We could not do any of this without your support so thank you all very much.

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 Aubyn, 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 27/28 April 2019:
Offertory: £1041.63 loose & £474.10 Gift Aided -Total **£1813.88**
2nd Collection: St George's Cathedral raised **£475.17**