

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

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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 ...

In all three of the stories in Luke's Gospel today we have something or someone who is lost. The lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son - often known as the prodigal son. The shepherd searches for the lost sheep and the woman searches for the lost coin and the father searches the horizon waiting for the son to return. What Jesus is telling us when he tells these stories that God is searching for us. Many talk about the spiritual life as our quest for God, our search for God. The spiritual life is sometimes described as finding God in our lives. I think that it is the other way round. God is searching for us. What we need to do is to allow ourselves to be found by God. God is passionate about us. St Catherine of Siena has a phrase that expresses this. She says that God is "mad in love" with us. Here are some of her words. "O eternal Father! O fiery abyss of charity! O eternal beauty, O eternal wisdom, O eternal goodness, O eternal mercy! O hope and refuge of sinners! O immeasurable generosity! O eternal, infinite Good! O mad lover! And you have need of your creature? It seems so to me, for you act as if you could not live without her, in spite of the fact that you are Life itself, and everything has life from you and nothing can have life without you. Why then are you so mad? Because you have fallen in love with what you have made!"

So often people imagine God as a distant figure, sitting in judgement on us, waiting for us to do the right thing. In the first reading this weekend from Exodus God says to Moses about the people of Israel who have apostatised: "Leave me, now, my wrath shall blaze out against them and devour them;" After Moses pleads God relents. This suggests this is God's perception of his creation. Bishop Robert Barron in his reflection on this gospel says that the three stories suggest there are three ways of being found. The coin represents people who are spiritually dead. They don't know they are lost. They are so far from God, so alienated from their real purpose. They have wandered in the land of unlikeness. They are closed in themselves. There is hope because God diligently searches and finds those who don't now they are lost. The sheep are those who know they are in trouble. They realise that they are spiritually compromised. God finds them too and carries them home on his shoulders. Finally, in the story of the prodigal son. The son has gone into conscious rebellion against his Father, and there are those who consciously rebel against God and realise they are lost and are seeking a way back.

What is common to all three stories is that there is rejoicing in being found.

We need as a parish and a church to rejoice in those who return. Perhaps we need to open our hearts and let God find us.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

2nd Collection
Support of
Home Missions

6pm (Vigil) Ruben - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Sunday 15th Sept. Twenty Fourth Sunday (C) Lk 15: 1-32

8 am Sussama & Annamma Jacob & Jacob Thomas - RIP (*Jacob*)

9:30 am People of the Parish

11 am Anne McAlinden - RIP (*Monica O'Neill*)

6 pm Raymond & Lorna D'Sousa - Golden Wedding (*Pereira*)

Monday 16th Sept. Sts Cornelius and Cyprian Lk 7: 1-10

7.30 am Foundation Mass - Lucy Richards - RIP

12 noon Peggy Tee Gek Hong

7 - 9 pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Confirmation Catechist meeting

Tuesday 17th Sept. St Robert Bellarmine Lk 7: 11-17

7.30 am

12 noon Isabella Rose Fetherston-Dilke on her birthday

7.30 pm Becket 2020 meeting

Wednesday 18th Sept. St Edith of Kemsing Lk 7: 31-35

7.30 am

10.30 - 11 am Reconciliation (*Fr Sylvester*)

12 noon Rhona Spendlove - health & wellbeing (*Josie Carr*)

7.30 - 8.30pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 19th Sept. St Theodore of Canterbury Lk 7: 36-50

NO EARLY MORNING MASS

10.30 am Committal of the Late Bernadette Lee at Canterbury Cemetery

12 noon Rob McGillie - RIP (*Mary*)

Scripture Group in Upper Room

7.45pm Prayer & Pub Introduction

Friday 20th Sept. St Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions Lk 8: 1-3

7.30 am

Morning Prayer

12 noon Sister Elizabeth and Sister Mary

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Rachele Castro - RIP (Filipino Community)

8.00 pm Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 21st Sept. St Matthew the Apostle Mt 9: 9-11

9.30 am New Altar Servers' Training in the church

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Anthony*)

12 noon Keith Purbrick - RIP (*PV*)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Sylvester*)

6pm (Vigil)

Sunday 22nd Sept. Twenty Fifth Sunday (C) Lk 16: 1-13

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE HARVEST

8 am

9:30 am Agnes Nattrass - RIP (*Lilford Family*)

11 am People of the Parish

12.15 Baptism of Reggie Coleman

6 pm Josephine Donohoe - good health (*Burton Family*)



PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised....our next preparation meeting will be in the Presbytery on **Saturday, 12th October 2019, at 9.00 am.** Places are limited so please call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from Office /website).



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020. The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be on Sunday, 17th May 2020 at the 9.30 & 11 am Masses. Registration forms are available in the Narthex.

CONFIRMATION 2020: The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred on Sunday 31st May 2020 at 11 am Mass. 2019/2020 Registration forms are available in the Narthex.

Parents' meeting on Monday, 30th September, 8pm in the Hall. First Candidate session Sunday, 6th October, 4pm in the Hall

RCIA 2020: Our programme commences on 24th September 2019. If you are a Catholic adult who has not made your first communion or being confirmed, or a non-Catholic who is thinking of becoming a Catholic, please complete an *Initial Enquiry Form* available in the Narthex.



New Altar Servers Training

The next training day for new altar servers is on 21st September at 9.30 am in the Church. Application forms in the Church Narthex.

St Thomas of Canterbury Holy Land Pilgrimage

Thursday 21st November - Thursday 28th November 2019
You are invited to a final meeting on **Saturday 12th October at 7:15pm in Thomas Parish Hall.** We will confirm travel arrangements and distribute booklets and have some spiritual input to prepare us to be pilgrims.



We have a facebook page! St Thomas of Canterbury, please like and share to keep updated on events happening in our church community.

100 Club Winners: Congratulations to our September draw winners: Josie Carr (No 62) & Sheila Schlarmann (No 69)



CATCHING LIVES WINTER SHELTER

This winter the Canterbury Community Shelter will be running for 3 months from **Sunday 1st December 2019 through to Saturday 29th February 2020.** St Thomas' will again be providing the Hall for use on Friday evenings.

If you would like to return as a volunteer please let Graeme know. Induction sessions (which you are welcome to attend as a refresher) are taking place on

-Thursday 7th November 18:00-19:30

-Tuesday 12th November 18:00-19:30

-Saturday 16th November 14:30-16:00

Please contact Graeme Solly Project Leader directly at Catching Lives Tel: 01227 464904 or email: www.catchinglives.org if you cannot make these refresher sessions; any of your details have changed; you are a potential new volunteer; or you are a current volunteer unable to assist this year.

For those of use who cannot volunteer our time and talents, please consider donating in other forms to assist with the running of the shelter. These donations can be left with Linda in the office.

Beginning Experience Weekend

A healing weekend for men and women who are separated, divorced or widowed will be held from 18th to 20th October 2019 at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex.

For more information please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 01322-551503 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend - 14/15 Sept - Catholic Education Services

Next weekend - 21/22 Sept - There is no 2nd Collection

SUNDAY TEA DANCES: Dates for tea dances with Hannah and Stuart confirmed! Sundays starting from 12 noon: 6th October, 10th November and 15th December. No partner required, just bring your best smiles. Everyone welcome for tea even if you do not want to dance.

St Thomas Church is to be the venue for the **World Day Of Prayer Service**, celebrating the people of Zimbabwe, on **Friday 6th March 2020 at 14.00**, to which all the church communities and the people of the Canterbury area are warmly invited, with refreshments afterwards in St Thomas Church Hall.



Harvest Festival: we are holding a small festival to celebrate the harvest on the **22nd September** in the church hall from 10:30 till 11:45am.

We are asking for donations of the following:
Tinned food (in date) either before or on the date of the Harvest. These will be donated to **Catching Lives.**

Any **fresh produce** to decorate the altar, can these be donated by Thursday 19th please.

Finger foods to share with other parishioners in the hall on the day. There will be craft and activities for the children and tea, coffee and cakes (more details on poster in the Narthex)

CHRISTIAN TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY NEWS

'United', an evening of prayer and worship, hosted by New Life and Vineyard churches, 6pm on Sunday 3rd November at the New Life Hub, Roper Close. Details on poster in the Narthex.

CTC invite you to gather with us at Canterbury Cathedral at **7:30pm on Saturday 18th January 2020** to begin the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with a service of prayer and worship. More to follow, but please save the date in your diaries.

Fr Freddy a Franciscan priest who works in South Sudan will be celebrating Mass on Friday 4th October at 7:30pm. The parish collected money for his work with children during Lent last year. After Mass there is a gathering in the Hall when he will meet us and speak about his work. As it is Harvest Fast Day there will be some simple refreshments.

NEW EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Training sessions for New Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are being held on **Wednesday, 25th September** and **Wednesday, 9th October at 7.30 pm** in the Presbytery

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Maurice Crosland, Barbara Brett, Hannelore Hall, Mary Dittrich, Kathleen Hutchinson, A. Charles Ryan, Pat Gibson, Phyllis Stirton, Fr Louie Kitt, Fr Kevin St Aubyn, Margaret Jones, Fr Timothy Finigan, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, David Bull, Joan Sutton, Rachele Castro, Audrey Martin, Fr Wilfrid McGreal, Elizabeth Gilhenny and Jean Gale

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Christine Mahy, Father Alexander Fraser, Fr Alan Wright, John Reidy, Daniel Bannon, Eileen Donovan, Jean Vanier, Beryl Sammut, Norah Pitt, James Chamarette, Michael Haggard, Tsige Buta, Agnes Nattrass, Ossie Correa, Elizabeth Simpson, Tony Ashman, Dr Kazimierz Krynicki, Gillian Dyche, Fr Gerard O'Brien, Fr Gregory Moore, Bernadette Lee and Rachele Castro

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 07/08 Sept 2019:
Offertory: £951.36 loose & 428.60 Gift Aided -Total **£1,379.96**
2nd Collection: Catholic Education Services raised £374.59