

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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Email: hersden@rcaos.org.uk



Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton**

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini**

email: giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: **Miss Linda Scott** (based at St Thomas')

Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): Open **Sundays from after 9.30 Mass until 12 noon**

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: **Fr Mark Wharton** (markwharton@rcaos.org.uk)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: **Miss Lisa D'Agostini** (01227 462539)

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Executive Principal: **Mr M Walters**; Academy Principal: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

2nd Col.: Priest's Training Fund

6.00pm (Vigil): David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

Sunday 21st Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter Jn 10: 11-18
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Jennifer - RIP (*Graziella*)

11.00am: Josephine Curley - RIP (*Carina, Colette & Camille*)

6.00pm: Rebecca McBrien - RIP (*Connolly Family*)

Monday 22nd April: Feria Jn 10: 1-10

12 noon: Helen Fleming (Successful operation)

6.00pm: *Evening Prayer*

Tuesday 23rd Apr: St George Jn 15: 18-21

12 noon: Sheldon and Michelle - 27th Wedding Anniv.

6.00pm: *Evening Prayer*

Wednesday 24th Apr: Sts Justus & Mellitus Jn 12: 44-50

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Healing and restoration of voice

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

6.00pm: *Evening Prayer*

Thursday 25th Apr: St Mark the Evangelist Mk 16:15-20

7.30am: NO MASS THIS MORNING

12 noon: Bruce and Anita Johnson - RIP

Friday 26th Apr: Feria Jn 14: 1-6

12 noon: John Murphy - RIP

6.00pm: *Evening Prayer*

Saturday 27th Apr: Feria Jn 14: 7-14

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall*

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Mia Paderanga- Jameson

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Robert Scott - RIP

Sunday 28th Apr: Fifth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 1-8

8.00am: Kuriyakose Chandy - RIP

9.30am: Filipino Community and their families

11.00am: Christine Metcalfe - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **St George's Cathedral**

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 21st Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter Jn 10: 11-18
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 28th Apr: Fifth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 1-8

10.00am: Marion Nash - RIP

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Heather Dandison, Maria Krynicki, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Jean Crane, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, William Humphries, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine, Pauline Ryan, Tita Riley, Mary De Wolf, Brian Collins, and Louis de Marigny

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Molly Kelly, William Edwards Jr, Nan Weber, William Quinn, Barbara Markham, Sancho Vibal, Eva Lee, Nicholas Murphy, Cecilia Adekunle, Deirdre Mills, Janet Rogers, Judith Ross, Lewis Rising, Heinz Vogel, Bill Parker, Sr John Baptist, Judith Roser, Mary Cawthorn, David Tully, Joe Gunn, John Keily, Mary Jeffries, Germaine Reid, Patricia Gibson, Vince Dalton, Sean Tanzey, Christine Metcalfe, Ken Clark, Fr David Standley, Keith Taylor, Francoise Heaton, Sheila Elliott and Ron Cameron,

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in April 2024:

Peter Johnson, Wilmot Johnson, Anita Johnson, Brian Henley and Maria Luz Peregrino.

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **20/21 April:** Priest's Training Fund: this collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. It also supports certain forms of ongoing formation of the clergy.

Next weekend: **27/28 April:** St George's Cathedral: this collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of the Mother Church of our Diocese.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2024

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 11 May 2024** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from office, online or in the Narthex)

From Fr Anthony...

One of the abiding memories I have of my first visit to the Holy Land was travelling on a bus from Jerusalem to Jericho and seeing in the distance, across the valley, a local shepherd walking along a path with his flock of sheep following behind him. He was leading them to place where they would be safe and have plenty to eat. A father of a friend of mine worked as shepherd in nearby Faversham. His shepherding was very different. I spent a day with him and his wife. I went with him and his sheep dog to where his flock were being pastured and his dog would round them up into a circle in the middle of the field. The shepherd would scan the flock and by merely looking at them, he could tell if any of them were in difficulty and needed attending to. On the day I was there, a lamb had been rejected by the ewe and so he was being hand reared in the kitchen of the farmhouse by the shepherd's wife.

These two experiences of mine help me understand more deeply the imagery Jesus gives us when he talks about himself as the Good Shepherd. He is the one who leads us. He knows us and he cares for us. We do not always want to be shepherded. We want our independence and to go it alone. We can very easily get lost or into difficulty. But even at these times the Good Shepherd does not abandon us. Remember the parable of Jesus and the lost sheep. Each one of us is important and significant. Jesus always searches for us, and he will never abandon us. It is important that we come to know the Shepherd in our personal and communal prayer. He wants us to share in his work of shepherding. Parents do this with their children, teachers do this with their pupils and catechists do this in their work of sharing faith with those they guide.

One of my treasured possessions is an icon that was made for me on an anniversary of ordination. It is at present in the window of our shop in Canterbury Lane. It depicts Christ with a lamb over his shoulder. This reminds me of Pope Francis' words to a group of priests involved in the education of seminarians. "I wish you to be shepherds with 'the smell of the sheep'", the Pope said. He said priests should be "people capable of living, of laughing and crying with your people, in a word, of communicating with them". He said priesthood isolated from the people of God, is neither a Catholic priesthood nor a Christian one. "Strip yourselves of your pre-constituted ideas, your dreams of greatness, your self-assertion, in order to put God and people at the centre of your daily concerns. On this Vocations Sunday let us pray that young men will hear and then answer the call to be good shepherds.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

May Rosaries: During May we will be saying the Rosary from 11h30 (before 12 noon Mass) in the Church. If you would like to lead the praying of the Rosary, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The Pope's Prayer intention during May is: **For the formation of religious and seminarians:** We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

2nd Collection this weekend, 20/21 April: Priest's Training Fund: The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 5 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
· Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
· Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
· Cash / Cheque – please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church.



LISS (Life in the Spirit Seminars): a 5-week course, encouraging the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit in St Thomas' Parish Hall, Tuesdays 23rd April to 28th May, including Pentecost day retreat Saturday 18th May at St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Register using QR code or contact Sheldon on bagley.sheldon@gmail.com. For online Zoom registration, use: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/liss>



AFRICAN MASS! AFRICAN MASS!

There will be a special mass celebration for all Africans in the parish this April.
Date: 28th April 2024; Time: 2:00pm (14:00)
Venue: St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church.
There will also be a get-together/bring and share in the church hall immediately after the Mass. All are invited.

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th 2024 at St George's Cathedral If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th+ wedding anniversary this year, please email us at milkent@rcaos.org.uk as soon as possible, and no later than May 31st 2024.

New Opportunities Fair has been postponed to 26 May 2024 from 10h30 to 13h00. Come and meet the organisations supporting our community, if you would like to get involved, please contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com

Plant and Cake Sale 19th May in the church hall donations of Plants, seeds and cakes welcome on the day please see poster for more details.

TEA AND COFFEE WEDNESDAYS: From 24th April, tea and coffee will again be available after the 12 noon Mass every Wednesday in the hall- all are welcome.

HCPT (GROUP 587) SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

25 May - 1st June 2024. £960 (accommodation only £645). For more information contact Annie Judge (07866515797 / anniejudge@hotmail.com) or chat with Father Anthony. There are also leaflets in the Narthex.