

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  **St Thomas of Canterbury**

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 10am - 3pm for all parish business
(Closed for lunch from 1 - 1.30pm)



TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE: 18 - 25 January

6pm (Vigil) Thomas Cribbin - RIP

Sunday 19th January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Jn 1: 29-34

PEACE DAY - We pray today for peace on Earth!

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Margaret Bromley - RIP (Mrs Riley)

11 am Bridget Fahey - RIP (McConkey Family)

12.15 Baptism of *Jamie Robert Wilson, Riley Richard Wilson and Dolly Grace Frost*

6 pm Intentions of Fr Michael Stack, Srs Bridie & Betty - Coolock Convent (Yates family)

Monday 20th January St Fabian and St Sebastian Mk 2: 18-22

7.30 am Tom Nichols - RIP (Angela Nichols)

12 noon Funeral Service for Anthony Weber

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm FHC parents' meeting in the hall

Tuesday 21st January St Agnes Mk 2:23-28

7.30 am Rebecca Bridger - wellbeing (Pauline Ryan)

12 noon Joseph Kunnasseril - RIP (Jimmy)

7.30 pm RCIA

7.30 pm Becket 2020 Planning Meeting in Upper Room

Wednesday 22nd January St Vincent Mk 13: 1-6

7.30 am Iolanda Di Paco - RIP (Mr Di Paco)

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon Jacqui Nichols - RIP (Angela Nichols)

7.30 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 23rd January Feria Mk 3: 7-12

7.30 am John O'Sullivan - RIP (Insall Family)

12 noon David & Gladys Murphy - RIP (Elizabeth Murphy) Scripture Group

7.30 pm Taize prayer

Friday 24th January St Francis de Sales Mk 3: 13-19

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Francis & Michael Joe Keavney - RIP

Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Pio Q Tabo Sr - RIP (Ignacio Family)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 25th January Conversion of St Paul Mk 16: 15-18

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon John Delaney - RIP

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

6pm (Vigil) Peter Latham and Family

Sunday 26th January 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 4: 12-23

8 am John Pearl (Sharon Baker)

9:30 am Margaret Bromley - RIP (Mrs Riley)

11 am Bozena Abkowicz - RIP (Gordon Family)

12.30 Baptism of Raphael Saul

6 pm People of the Parish

2nd
Collection:
SVP

From Fr Anthony ...

Approaching the seventh decade of my life has given me pause to think and reflect. There is a prayer said at the graveside at the end of a funeral which reads: "Lord God, whose days are without end and whose mercies beyond counting, keep us mindful that life is short and the hour of death unknown. Let your Spirit guide our days on earth in the ways of holiness and justice, that we may serve you in union with the whole Church, sure in faith, strong in hope, perfected in love." In this prayer we ask that the Spirit guide us in ways of holiness and justice in the days we have left on earth. What are the ways of holiness? Every one of us is called to live a life of holiness. The great call in the fifth chapter of the Vatican II document "Lumen Gentium" on the Church is God's call to all to holiness. Pope Francis in his apostolic exhortation on holiness "Gaudete et Exultate" ("Rejoice and Be Glad"), which he wrote in 2018 was about holiness. He says the Lord wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence. His purpose in writing the letter was to "repropose the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time..." When I am asked "what does it mean to be holy?" I always reply: "being holy is becoming the person God created you to be. In other words, being whole. It takes a lifetime to grow to maturity." As we begin Ordinary time of the liturgical year, we are presented with two themes to consider this Sunday. We can link these with being holy. We begin an Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity from Saturday 18th January till the feast of the Conversion of St Paul on Saturday 25th January and in England and Wales this Sunday has been designated Peace Sunday. A call to be holy means a call to love and that love needs to be expressed in our love for one another not just Catholics but all those who are baptised. In the Catechism of the Catholic Church it suggests that one way of responding to the call for unity is conversion of heart. This means we "try to live holier lives according to the Gospel"; for it is the unfaithfulness of the members to Christ's gift which causes divisions; We are also encouraged to pray in communion because "change of heart and holiness of life, along with public and private prayer for the unity of Christians, should be regarded as the soul of the whole ecumenical movement, and merits the name 'spiritual ecumenism;'" As we keep Peace Sunday, we heed the words of Pope Francis who says "peacemakers truly "make" peace, they build peace and friendship in society. "It is not easy to "make" this evangelical peace, which excludes no one but embraces even those who are a bit odd, troublesome or difficult, demanding, different, beaten down by life or simply uninterested. It is hard work; it calls for great openness of mind and heart. Building peace is a craft that demands serenity, creativity, sensitivity and skill. Sowing peace all around us: that is holiness"

PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children baptised our next preparation meeting will be in the Presbytery on **Saturday, 16th February 2020, 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: Sundays as per schedule at 9am in the Hall.
CONFIRMATION 2020: Sundays as per schedule at 4pm in the Hall
RCIA 2020: Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.



Don't Forget! Our gift amnesty sale on the 26th January from 10:30am-12:30pm in the church hall. We are appealing for donations of all unwanted Christmas gifts, toys etc. These can also be dropped off on the day in the hall. Plus the Philippino community will be selling food!

CHRISTIAN TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2020 in Canterbury

Theme: **Unusual Kindness**

Tuesday 21st Jan 7:30pm at the Abode Hotel – 'In the Father's Presence': an evening of worship and prayer, following on from our 'Revival Week' meetings in November 2019

Thursday 23rd Jan 7:30pm at St Thomas's – Taize Service on the theme of Unusual Kindness (see poster in narthex)

Friday 24th Jan 7:30pm at Sturry Church – Informal Christian Unity service

Thank you! from the SVP, for your generosity to the food banks. The following items are now especially needed:
Cartons of long life fruit juice;
Baby Foods; Baby Milk
and Baby Nappies.

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.

HCPT GROUP 587 SUMMER PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAY TO LOURDES. Hosanna House 22nd-29th May 2020 . If you or someone you know would like to join us as a child/teenager or helper for our pilgrimage to Lourdes please contact group587@hcpt.org.uk or Annie Judge mob:07866515797 or Fr Anthony canterbury@rcaos.org.uk Leaflets in the Narthex

Fully escorted **Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine**, Ireland, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. 16th March 2020. - £599.00 per person sharing. See poster in Narthex or contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend - 18/19 January - there is no second collection
Next weekend - 25/26 January - SVP - gift aid envelopes in Narthex

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Please note that there has been a change to the opening hours of the Parish Office. The office is now staffed **Monday to Friday from 10h00 to 13h00 and from 13h30 to 15h00.** The parish has an answer phone so please leave your name and number and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you, Linda

THE HALL LIFT: We have had to close down the lift in the Hall immediately because of necessary upgrade and repairs that must be carried out to make it compliant with health and safety standards. I realise that this will be a great inconvenience to those who cannot negotiate the stairs. The cost to the parish will be over £3,000. Remedial work will commence as soon as possible.

A LIGHT FOR MY PATH - A prayerful encounter with God through Scripture

St Thomas' Church Hall 7,30pm to 9 pm on **Wednesday:**

January 22nd Reading and praying the Gospels

January 29th Reading and praying the parables of Jesus

Led by Christopher Chapman, - experienced retreat leader and spiritual director, & author of *Seeing in the Dark, Earthed in God & Send my Roots Rain.*

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Please would all parishioners check the box of Christmas Cards and take those addressed to them. Any remaining next week will be destroyed to comply with GDPR.

Let God Transform your life - Silent prayer workshops led by John Renn in Saint Thomas' Church, "Upper Room" – above Sacristy from 10 to 11 am on **Saturday: 1st February 2020, 7th March, 4th April and 2nd May** All welcome. See Poster in Narthex for details

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, Pat Gibson, Phyllis Stirton, Fr Louie Kitt, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, David Bull, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Fr Paul Perry, Anne Queenen and Margaret Stevenson

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Tsige Buta, Agnes Natrass, Ossie Correa, Elizabeth Simpson, Tony Ashman, Dr Kazimierz Krynicki, Gillian Dyche, Fr Gerard O'Brien, Fr Gregory Moore, Bernadette Lee, Rachele Castro, A Charles Ryan, Fr Wilfrid McGrea, Margaret Jones, Jean Gale, Agnes Kabdebo-Gedeon, Tony Dyer, Fr Jim Kirby, Connor Chambers, Archbishop Michael Bowen, STL, PhL. Catherine Ferguson, Theresa Hodges, Wim Van Vuuren, Fr Tom Creagh-Fuller, Francis Sullivan, Brian Molloy, Margaret Bromley, Claire Ogilvie, Bernard Sullivan, Anne Rotter, Ben Mutch, John Leonard Perl, Des Fisher and Tony Weber

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month:

Joan Calloway, Lachlan MacDonald and Henry Vaughan .

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 11/12 Jan 2020:

Offertory: £1059.26 & £656.96 gift aided: Total 1,716.22

2nd Collection - no second collection this weekend