

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

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Web Site: www.stthomasofcanterbury.com

[St Thomas of Canterbury](https://www.facebook.com/StThomasofCanterbury)

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

2nd
Collection:
SVP

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 David Gee

6 pm People of the Parish

Monday 27th January St. Angela Merice Mk 3 22-30

7.30 am Intentions of Tucker & Sheridan Families (Kathleen & Philip)

12 noon Diane

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7 pm Open Air Mass meeting

Alpha meeting

Tuesday 28th January St. Thomas Aquinas Mk 3:31-35

7.30 am Anne Chronnell - RIP (Daphne Miles)

12 noon Jim Wright - RIP (Jo Wilkins)

7.30 pm RCIA

Wednesday 29th January Feria Mk 4: 1-20

7.30 am Dan Blake (James McGovern)

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon For all the Holy Land Pilgrims

2.00 Funeral at Barham for the late Martin Dunne

7.30 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 30th January Feria Mk 4: 21-25

7.30 am Anne Deumater - RIP (Elizabeth Dobbin)

12 noon Joh & Winifred Saunders - RIP (Jo Wilkin)

Scripture Group

Friday 31st January St John Bosco Mk 4 26-34

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Ron Shersby - RIP

Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Francis Brown - RIP (Philomena)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 1st February Feria Mk 4: 35-41

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Sylvester)

12 noon John Dunn - RIP (Mark Bateson)

Divine Mercy Chaplet after Mass

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish

Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord Lk 2: 22-24

8 am Des Fisher - RIP (Angela Nichols)

9:30 am Anne Quinin - RIP (Noreen Egan)

11 am Phil Long - health & wellbeing (Sean & Aideen)

6 pm Barbara Stenfalt - RIP (Kathleen Kerr)

From Fr Anthony ...

58 years ago I was presented a copy of the New Testament from the St Bede's Sanctuary Guild. Inscribed in the inside was "Awarded to Anthony Charlton for the best attendance during the Year." It was a translation from the Latin done by Ronald Knox. At home my family had a lavishly printed Family Bible which was purchased in 1958 with wonderful prints from old masters depicting various stories from Scripture. I don't think we ever read it as a family. In 1965 the bishops at the Second Vatican Council promulgated the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine revelation (Dei Verbum) which was instrumental in changing the way we Catholics understood the Scriptures. It inspired a new generation of biblical scholars, helping to imbue Catholic Worship with the Scriptures and encouraged countless Catholics to pick up the Bible and read for ourselves the word of God. Today Pope Francis is inviting Catholics across the world to deepen their appreciation, love and faithful witness to God and his Word. That's why, as established by a papal decree - the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, January 26 this year, is to be observed as a special day devoted to "the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God". As you know the Bishops of England and Wales have designated this year 2020 as "The Year of the Word." Their vision is that "Scripture is foundational to the life of the church and so we want to celebrate, share and live out our faith through deeper Scriptural engagement." The question we need to ask ourselves is; "What place does Scripture have in my life?" Is it a New Testament presented years ago or a family Bible that remains on my bookshelf unread? This Sunday at all Masses before the Liturgy of the Word the bible you have bought to Mass will be blessed. After the priest has blessed the Bible he says: "Make the Scriptures your constant study so that you may grow daily in the imitation of Christ" Pope Francis writes in his Apostolic letter about Sunday as the Word of God (Aperuit Illis) "We should never take God's word for granted but instead let ourselves be nourished by it in order to acknowledge and live fully a relationship with him and with our brothers and sisters (paragraph 12). In the Mass we are reading the Gospel of Matthew throughout the year. We have provided free copies of this Gospel. It is the New Revised Standard Version. Take a copy. Let it be in your pocket or handbag and find time to read it regularly. Take a copy of the newsletter home with you to use the Sunday readings as a source of your prayer during the week. Pick up a copy of The Wednesday Word that can help you prepare to hear next Sundays' readings. Come to the last of the sessions on the Scriptures, "Praying with the Parables" this coming Wednesday at 7:30pm in the Hall.

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.



LARGE PRINT HYMN BOOKS. We have a small number of large print hymn books available. If you would like to use one during Mass. please ask the welcomer to provide one for you. Please return the book to the Sacristy after Mass. Thank you

The **Social Committee** will be holding their planning meeting 5th February in the church upper room at 6pm. We would welcome ideas of events and activities that you would like to see in our church, all are welcome to attend and share ideas or email socialstthomsr@gmail.com

Don't Forget! Our **gift amnesty sale** this Sunday in the Hall from 10:30am-12:30pm

Cake Sale The Union of Catholic Mothers will be holding a cake sale on the **9th February** after the 9:30am mass. We will also be supporting one of our young parishioners who is fundraising for Lepra. Come support us.

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.

"The God Who Speaks" – Year of the Word 2020

To mark the special Year of the Word Archbishop John Wilson is inviting all Parishes in the diocese to join him for a special diocesan gathering in Aylesford on **Saturday 27th June**. More details will be published in due course, but please save the date in your diary.

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; 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 - 25/26 Jan - SVP - gift aid envelopes in Narthex
Next weekend - 01/02 February - no second collection

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: 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.

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.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES. Fr Anthony is thinking of taking a small group to Lourdes for 4 nights from 30th July to 3rd August 2020. 3 star hotels. Flying from Southend. Cost approx £450 (including flights) plus coach to airport. If you are interested in going please let Fr Anthony know (anthonycharlton@rcaos.org) by **5th February 2020.**
Thank you.

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.

A LIGHT FOR MY PATH - A prayerful encounter with God through Scripture
St Thomas' Church Hall 7.30pm to 9 pm on Wednesday: 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.*

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 Quinin and Margaret Stevenson

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

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, Tony Weber, Martin Dunne and Phyllis Stirton

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month: Joan Calloway, Lachlan MacDonald and Henry Vaughan.

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 18/19 Jan 2020:
Offertory: £896.09 loose & £534.79 gift aided: Total £1,430.88
2nd Collection - no second collection this weekend