

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

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

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton. email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Sylvester Adeniyi CSSp

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

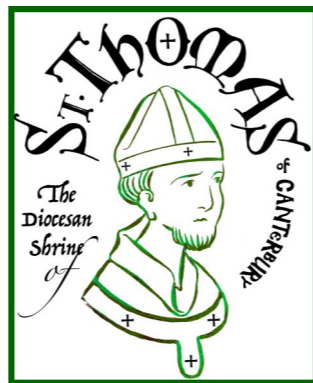
St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): open Sunday mornings & weekdays (Times on Shop Door)

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Fr Tom Herbst (01843 230 774) email: tjherbst@gmail.com

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)

Office open: Monday - Friday
10am - 3pm for all parish business
(Closed for lunch: 1 - 1.30pm)



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 their ideas or email socialstthomsrca@gmail.com

Gift Amnesty Sale thank you to all who supported our 1st ever Gift Amnesty Sale. With your support we made £79.78p towards future church projects.

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 younger parishioner's fundraising drive for Lepra. Come support us.

Union of Catholic Mothers will be holding their monthly meeting in the church hall after the 9:30am mass. All are welcome to attend our group meeting.

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. 22nd-29th May 2020. Any age welcome. Come and join us. Find out more. 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 - 01/02 February - no second collection
Next weekend - 08/09 February - Racial Justice Sunday - a collection to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society

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 ORGAN: To all users of the organ loft. Please **DO NOT** touch the organ unless you have the permission of the Parish Priest or the Musical Director.

THE HALL LIFT: The Hall lift is still not available - our apologies to all those adversely affected. A very big thank you to those parishioners who have donated towards the costs of these repairs.

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: 7th March, 4th April and 2nd May** All welcome.

Save the date. Sunday 15th March at 12h15 - Our Parish **AGM** will be held in the Hall, followed by tea and coffee.

7th March 2020 at 7pm in the Presbytery - **New Parishioners' meeting.** If you are new to the parish and have not yet signed up - please complete a form (at the back of the parish or online) and return to the Parish Office.

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 Gillhenny, Bill Parker, Fr Paul Perry, Anne Queenan 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, Tony Weber and Phyllis Stirton

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month: Marisa Arevalo, Deidre Lovell, John Todd and Theresa Wicker.

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 25/26 Jan 2020:
Offertory: £1036.13 loose & £645.50 gift aided: Total £1,681.63
2nd Collection - SVP raised £709.02

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord Lk 2: 22-40
8 am Des Fisher - RIP (Angela Nichols)
9:30 am Anne Quinin (Noreen Egan)
11 am Phil Long - health & wellbeing (Sean & Aideen)
6 pm Barbara Stenfalt - RIP (Kathleen Kerr)
Monday 3rd February St Blaise Mk 5: 1-20
Blessing of the Throats
7.30 am Athena Berba - RIP (Filipino Community)
12 noon Claire Ogilvie - RIP
7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday 4th February Feria Mk 5:21-43
NO EARLY MASS
12 noon Elizabeth, Arthur & son, Martin Kingham - RIP
7.30 pm RCIA
Wednesday 5th February St Agatha Mk 6: 1-6
NO EARLY MASS
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
12 noon Deceased Members of Lawlor & Everson Families
6 pm Social Committee meeting
7.30 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 6th February St Paul Miki and Comp. Mk 6: 7-13
7.30 am Part & Flanagan Families - RIP (Mrs Bage)
12 noon NO MIDDAY MASS TODAY
Scripture Group
7.45 pm Prayer and Pub
Friday 7th February Feria Mk 6: 14-29
7.30 am Morning Prayer
10.30 Hospital Mass
12 noon Thanksgiving for Ryan Joshua Oligo (Arvie & Lyn)
Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
7.30 pm NO MASS
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 8th February St Josephine Bakhita Mk 6: 30-34
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Peter Geldard)
12 noon Oskar Rehlis on his birthday (Fransiskus Soyo)
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)
6pm (Vigil) Margaret Kelly - RIP (Mary Stevens)
Sunday 9th February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 5: 13-16
8 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Michael McDermott' recovery (Noreen Egan)
11 am Hubert Schlarmann - RIP (Sheila)
12.15 Baptism of Zymirah Muingilu Odofin
4 pm Mass for the Polish Community
6 pm Fiona Galt's intentions

2nd
Collection:
Racial
Justice

Funeral Service for the late Mrs Tedina Linehan in St Thomas' on Monday, 10 February 2020 at 9.30 am

From Fr Anthony ...

"Gathered by the Holy Spirit let us proceed to the House of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him in the breaking of bread." These words are from the introduction to the blessing of candles on this feast of the Presentation which we celebrate today. It was Simeon led by the Spirit, who came to the Temple and meeting Mary and Joseph took the child in his arms. The words he said we recite every evening at night prayer. It is known as the "Nunc dimittis" and is the third canticle given to us by Luke in his Gospel. Simeon recognised this child was the salvation for all people not just the people of Israel. "My eyes have seen your salvation which you have made ready in the presence of all nations, a light for revelation to the gentiles and for the glory of your people Israel." Anna found Jesus in the temple began to speak about the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. Both Simeon and Anna recognised Jesus. The question for us is: Where do we find Jesus? Do we recognise him in our daily life? We encounter Jesus as we enter the Church and celebrate Mass. People have often said to me I don't need to go to Church to pray. It is true we can pray anywhere but by taking part in the Eucharist we truly encounter Christ. In the often-quoted passage from the Vatican Council Document on the Liturgy we read "Christ is always present in His Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations. He is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of His minister, ... but especially under the Eucharistic species. By His power He is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes. He is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. He is present, lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (paragraph 7). Therefore we recognise Jesus at the celebration of Mass but do we recognise him in others: In the poor and destitute, in the refugee and immigrant, in the prisoner and the person sleeping rough? For Anna she not only recognised Jesus but spoke of him. She told others of him. Let the Spirit lead you to recognise Jesus in your prayer and liturgical worship & do not be afraid to speak of him to others.