

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 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 ...

We know that in St Matthew's Gospel they were known as wise men.

Here were sophisticated, learned men, observers of the heaven, reading the signs in the heavens. They were men looking for integration and luminosity, looking for what is true and good and beautiful. They were very different from the shepherds that came to see the child laying in the manger. The shepherds were simple uncomplicated people and they represented the people of Israel. They came in response to the messenger of an angel. They went home rejoicing and praising God for what they had seen and heard. The wise men were very different from the shepherds. They came from the east. They represented the gentile world. God revealed the light of the world by the light of a star. Here was the sign of great hope. Here was the light that will enlighten the whole world. The word "epiphany" means manifestation or showing. The feast this weekend celebrates that God reveals himself to the whole world, represented by these outsiders.

And they came bringing gifts. This gift of gold recognised Jesus as the king. With the wise men we bring our commitment to work with Jesus in bringing about his kingdom on earth as we acknowledge him as our king.

Frankincense gives off a sweet-scented cloud to accompany or prayer rising up to God. Our gift is our prayer and commitment to making the Eucharist the source and summit of our life.

Myrrh is an oil extracted from the bark of a tree and is used in embalming a dead body. It reminds us that Jesus is the suffering servant who will take the sins of the people on himself.

Myrrh is our gift of faith and trust that Jesus has conquered death. He is our hope.

"O Light of God. Rising for us at the birth of Jesus, shine powerfully through the darkness of this age and guide us in the ways of wisdom"

O Light of God, resplendent in the teaching of Jesus, may we grow in faith and experience the delight of walking in your paths.

O Light of God, implanted in our hearts by the Spirit of Jesus, may we experience what it is the fall on our knees in adoration." (Sylvester O'Flynn OFM Cap)

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Andrews Barretto - RIP (Noronha Family)

Sunday 5th January Epiphany of the Lord Mt 2:1-12

8 am People of the Parish

9:30 am Michael Goggin - RIP (Goggin Family)

11 am Tony Ashman - RIP (Ashman Family)

6 pm Gemma Casser-Van Vuuren & sons (Hilary McKernan)

Monday 6th January Feria of Christmas Time Mt 4: 12-17, 23-25

NO EARLY MASS

12 noon Mrs Orinthia Soloman, Eliza & Locksley Steward & Jaywanti Patel - RIP (Bernadette Lyons)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 7th January Feria of Christmas Time Mk 6:34-44

NO EARLY MASS

12 noon Rita Phgelan - RIP (Nora King)

7.30 pm RCIA this week

Wednesday 8th January Feria of Christmas Time Mk 6: 45-52

NO EARLY MASS

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

12 noon Tony Pham - RIP (Pham Family)

7.30 - 8.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 9th January Feria of Christmas Time Lk 4: 14-22

7.30 am Roy Olsen - health and wellbeing (Martina)

12 noon Rev. Chris Dyckhopp SJ - RIP (Cherry Silcock-Stone) Scripture Group

Prayer & Pub in recess until 16th January 2020

Friday 10th January Feria of Christmas Time Lk 5: 12-16

7.30 am Morning Prayer

12 noon Funeral of Anne Cecelia Rotter

NO Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Philip Craven - RIP (Cherry Silcock-Stone)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th January Feria of Christmas Time Jn 3: 22-30

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Geldard)

12 noon Bishop Colin Davis, Mill Hill - RIP (C Silcock-Stone)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) Ignatius Dempsey - RIP (Al & Tim)

Sunday 12th January: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Mt 3:13-17

8 am Thanksgiving for 20 yrs priestly service of Fr Sylvester (Brigid Rowe)

9:30 am Wim Van Vuuren - RIP (Van Vuuren Family)

11 am Trudy Pasco - RIP (Noreen Egan)

6 pm People of the Parish

PARISH MATTERS



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children baptised our next preparation meeting will be in the Presbytery on **Saturday, 18th January 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: The first session is on Sunday, 5th January 2020 in the Hall.
CONFIRMATION 2020: The first Session is on Sunday, 12th January at 4pm in the Hall
RCIA 2020: Tuesdays at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery.



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

St Thomas' Church Hall 7,30pm to 9 pm on the following Wednesdays:

January 15th Reading and praying the psalms

January 22nd Reading and praying the Gospels

January 29th Reading and praying the parables of Jesus

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

CHRISTIAN TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY - Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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.

Taizé Evening of Prayer during Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18 - 25 January) at St Thomas' Church

Date and Time to be confirmed

Singing, Silence, Readings, Reflection, Intercessions

HCPT GROUP 87 - Easter children's pilgrimage to Lourdes 11th-18th April 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 us for details and take a leaflet from the church Narthex. Contact : Zuzana Revayova zuzana.revayova13@gmail.com 07776117966 or Annie Judge anniejudge@hotmail.com 07866515797

The Divine Mercy Apostolate of Marian Fathers is organising a Divine Mercy Retreat on Saturday - 18 January 2020 , 11:00 am - 4:30 pm at St Joseph RC Church, 68 Grande Park Road, Leyton, London E10 5ES; and Saturday, 25 January 2020 - 11:00 am - 4:30 pm at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London SE1 6HR
All welcome - No advance booking or registration is required
See poster in Narthex for details

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend - 4/5 January - there is no second collection

Next weekend - 11/12 January - there is no second collection

FLOOR REPAIRS During the weeks **6th to 16th January**, the Sanctuary Floor and the Floors of the Sacristies and their foyer will be repaired. **There will be no access to the Upper Room, toilet or kitchen during this activity.** Your understanding during this process is appreciated.

PILGRIM WELCOMING GROUP

If you missed our previous call for interest, there is another chance to join us in our meeting on Saturday 11th January 2020 at 10am in the Upper Room. Any queries to HELEN NATTRASS: helennattrass@btinternet.com

GROUPS' WINTER RECESS:

The **Prayer & Pub** group are in recess until 16th January 2020

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single Catholics of all ages (over 18 years) meet other single Catholics, one to one or at social events. Visit www.catholicsingles.org.uk, tel. 0161 941 3498

St. Thomas' Catholic Primary School is taking applications for their Reception Class intake for September 2020. In addition to the online KCC application form, we ask if you could please complete the school's Supplementary Information Form available from the school office or from our website on <https://www.st-thomas-canterbury.kent.sch.uk/admissions/>. Please send your Supplementary Information Form to the school by post or hand it in at the school office before 15th January 2020 with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate.

Canon Anthony will be available to sign supplementary application forms on Friday, 10 January between 3.30pm and 6.30pm at the Presbytery, 59 Burgate

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.

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 and Anne Queenen

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 28/29 Dec 2019:

Offertory: £1014.38 loose & £648.96 gift aided: Total **£1663.34**

2nd Collection - no second collection this weekend