

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 St Thomas of Canterbury

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: Exec Prin Mr M Walters; Academy Prin: 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, 21st March 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.

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.

29th March from 10.30am TABLE TOP SALE Sell your unwanted items and help raise funds to support our church. Pre booked tables only £5 limited availability (table s provided) plus tea/coffee. For more information : socialthomasrc@gmail.com

HOMELESSNESS CONFERENCE WEDNESDAY 11TH March 2020 7-9pm Canterbury Baptist Church St Georges Place Offering inspiration for our response to this great social need in Canterbury. All welcome

SPECIAL FORTHCOMING MASSES. Please diarise:
Tuesday, 24th March 2019 - **Feast Day of Oscar Romero.** Extra Mass at 7.30pm
Wednesday, 25th March - **THE ANNUNCIATION.** Midday Mass will have Musical accompaniment

HCPT GROUP 587 SUMMER PILGRIMAGE HOLIDAY TO LOURDES. 22nd-29th May 2020 . Any age welcome. Come and join us. More info at group587@hcpt.org.uk or Annie Judge mob:07866515797 or Fr Anthony canterbury@rcaos.org.uk Leaflets in the Narthex **WANTED:** 2 strong helpers to assist with luggage and wheelchairs for this Pilgrimage.

Thanks from the St Vincent de Paul Society
The SVP wish to thank all congregations once again for their great generosity in the monthly collections. Our ability to respond where there is genuine financial need makes such a difference to the lives of our clients when such assistance is often unavailable from other sources. To give a few examples, we have helped families with small children carpet their homes, provided the most urgent of white goods where necessary, and transformed the garden an elderly and infirm client to provide a calm and restful environment outdoors.

FOOD BANK—many thanks for your continued generosity to the Food Bank. It is much appreciated, especially the donations of baby food and nappies. No one chooses to go to a Food Bank, so thoughtful donations mean a lot.

Week of Prayer for Lent: 28 Feb – 6 March
The final event in Christian Together Canterbury's Year of Prayer is at St Stephen's Church (CT2 7JU) 7:30pm on Friday 28th February. This also opens a Week of Prayer for Lent. There will be a series of events during the week and the church will be open from 10 – 4, Monday to Friday, with resources for different ways of praying. See poster in the Narthex or visit www.ststephenscanterbury.net

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS
This weekend - 29 Feb/1March: No second collection
Next weekend - 7/8 March: **Uma Hoza (Holy Spirit)**

NOTE TO ALL EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS
At the beginning of the Lamb of God please enter the sanctuary, proceed to the credence table and administer the gel provided before lining up by the Altar to receive Holy Communion .

HALL LIFT
With grateful thanks to the generosity of parishioners we have been able to secure the funding for mending the hall lift. There have been some paperwork issues that have taken time but we expect to go ahead with the repairs very soon & the ability to ascend upwards will be available to all of us! Fr.Anthony

CHURCH KNEELERS
With grateful thanks to the generosity of parishioners, we are able to go ahead and start a programme of recovering the kneelers in the nave of the church where they are most worn. This work will start in March and be finished before Easter. My great thanks also to one of our parishioners who is project managing the whole exercise. God is working in our community. DV.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES 2020
Please note all Gift Aid Donors who use the weekly envelopes. **New envelopes will be issued out after all Masses on the 14/15th March 2020.** PLEASE get in touch if you no longer wish to have these envelopes or would prefer to pay via standing order through the bank. We are always looking for new donors for the Parish. You can contribute as little or as much as you want—there are no commitments and you can stop at any time. In order to Gift Aid you just need to pay tax and the parish can claim back from HMRC 25p for every pound of tax you pay. More information is available from the Parish Office or get in touch via email: canterburygac@rcaos.org.uk.
Thank you

Saturday, 14th March 2020 from 10.30am to 1pm - A MORNING WITH ST OSCAR ROMERO (Julian Filochowski of the Romero Trust) in Canterbury Cathedral Lodge - small AV room. Reserve your place by visiting the Parish Website **events** section or by filling in the form in the Narthex and returning to the Parish Office. Your acknowledgement will allow free entry into the cathedral Precincts for this event. Refreshments served from 10am (donations welcome)

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, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, David Bull, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Fr Paul Perry, Anne Queenan, Martin Flanagan and Bridget Laverty.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
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, Phyllis Stirton, Collette Renault and Michael Dunne and *Margaret Stevenson*

Please pray for those whose first anniversaries are this month:

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 22/23 Feb 2020:
Offertory: £614.03 & £871.46 gift aided: Total **£1485.49**
2nd Collection - raised £504.07 for The Poor Prishes

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) Gary Honeybell RIP (*Maria Thomas*)
Sunday 1st March 1st Sunday in Lent Mt 4: 1-11
8 am People of the Parish
9:30 am Norah Whiting (*John Whiting*)
11.00am Nigel Newport RIP
(*Fiona Cadwallader*)
6 pm Maria's Family
Monday 2nd March Feria Mt 25: 31-46
7.30 am NO EARLY MASS
12 noon NJ Abraham & Aleyamma Abraham RIP
7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday 3rd March Feria Mt 6 7-15
7.30 am NO EARLY MASS
12 noon Paul McLoughlin birthday (*Cherry*)
7.30 pm RCIA
Wednesday 4th March Feria Lk 11: 29-32
7.30am NO EARLY MASS
10.30am: Reconciliation (*Fr Anthony*)
12 noon Frederick Prior—RIP (*Mrs Prior*)
7.30p.m Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 5th March Feria Mt 7: 7-12
7.30 am Ivy Ann Kilcoyne—RIP (*Mr Kilcoyne*)
12 noon Intentions of Pat & Carol
Scripture Group
7.45 pm Prayer and Pub
Friday 6th March Feria Mt 5: 20-26
Women's World Day of Prayer
7.30 am MORNING PRAYER
12 noon Christine, Stasia & John—RIP
Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
2.00pm: Women's World Day of Prayer Celebration
followed by refreshments in the hall
7.30 pm Welfare of Patricia Feeley
Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Saturday 7th March Feria Mt 5: 43-48
10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Anthony*)
12 noon NJ Abraham & Aleyamma Abraham RIP
Divine Mercy Chaplet
4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (*Fr Sylvester*)
6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish
7.00 pm New parishioners Function
Sunday 8th March 2nd Sunday in Lent Mt 17: 1-9
8 am Theresa Wicker—RIP (1st Anniv.) (*Mary McGillie*)
9:30 am Des Fisher—RIP (*A. Burton*)
11.00am Welfare of Rafael David Teilo Gee
(*Mary Alexander*)
4pm: Polish Mass
6 pm Cathy Davis—RIP (*Mandy Hunter*)

From Fr Anthony ...

The Prayer after Communion for this Sunday reads, "Renewed now with heavenly bread, by which faith is nourished, hope increased, and charity strengthened, we pray O Lord, that we may learn to hunger for Christ, the true and living bread, and strive to live by every word that proceeds from your mouth.

This echos the first temptation of Jesus in today's Gospel. Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty night. He was very hungry and the devil, the tempter, Satan, points out that all he needs to do is to turn the stones into loaves, after all he was the Son of God.

What is wrong with that? Jesus had the ability to do this. Why is this a temptation?

The temptation Jesus faced was to use his power for his own purpose. Jesus was given a work to do by his Heavenly Father. Simply put, by turning stones into bread Jesus was doing this to satisfy his own needs rather than doing Gods will. Just as Christ was tempted to use his messianic powers to his own advantage we can be tempted to use our power, authority, influence and position for our own advantage, to satisfy own desire for boosting our own important. For example, applying this to the life of a priest, I could use my position as a priest to live a comfortable life, to be a petty tyrant, and I could see the priesthood as giving me status, I could use my position to satisfy my own needs. The tempter is asking Jesus to turn the stones into bread. The bread can be a symbol of all the good things of life which we naturally and inevitably desire. These can be affection, comfort, joy, pleasure, rest, relief from pain, the enjoyment of health and well-being. There is nothing wrong in seeking these good things but if we seek these alone we are forgetting God's will and desire for us. During this Lent, our pray, fasting and almsgiving makes us more sensitive to what God is calling us to be. We are called to rely on "every word that comes from the mouth of God". We are being offered nourishment, God's life of the spirit. We are being offered the Eucharist as celebrated daily, the Word of God, the scriptures.

Let us ask for the grace to hunger for Christ, to feed on his word and the Eucharist, to put God first in our life.