

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.

SPECIAL FORTHCOMING MASSES. Please diarise:
Wednesday, 26 February: **ASH WEDNESDAY** - Masses at 9.30 am; 12 noon and 8.00pm
Tuesday, 24th March 2019 - **Feast Day of Oscar Romero.** Extra Mass at 7.30pm with Musical accompaniment
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.

QUIZ NIGHT in aid of **MAP** (Medical Aid for Palestinians) will be held in **St Thomas' Church Hall** on **29 February 2020 at 7.35pm.** Please see poster in Narthex. More info from Simon at sws382@btinternet.com or phone/text 07849 834859

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

"**With Full Conviction**", presented by the Palmers Players at **2:30pm Saturday 29th February** at the **Friends' Meeting House.** See Poster in Narthex.

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 - 22/23 February - **Poor Parishes** - this collection enables grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.
Next weekend - 29 Feb/1st Mar - no second collection

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

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

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 (on the left as you enter the Cathedral Lodge gateway). Places are free but limited to 50. 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)

LENT READINGS: Our Shop has a wonderful selection of Lent Readings and commentaries. Please come in and browse!

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, and Anne Queenan.

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:

Marisa Arevalo, Deidre Lovell, John Todd and Theresa Wicker.

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 15/16 Feb 2020:

Offertory: £ 1119.51& £ 702.41 gift aided: Total **£1119.51**
2nd Collection - no second collection this week

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish

Sunday 23rd February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 5: 38-48

DAY FOR THE UNEMPLOYED

8 am 25th Wedding Anniversary
Jonathan & Arlyn Enabore (*Dory*)

9:30 am Mutch Family (*SVP*)

11 am Sean Carr (*Josie & Tom Carr*)

12.15 Baptism of Philip Edwards

6 pm Timmy O'Sullivan RIP (*Mary Insall*)

Monday 24th February Feria Mk 9: 14-29

7.30 am NO EARLY MASS

12 noon Frances & Michael Joe Kearney RIP

(*Geraldine & Mary*)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 25th February Feria Mk 9 30-37

7.30 am NO EARLY MASS

12 noon John Delany RIP

7.30 pm RCIA

Wednesday 26th February ASH WEDNESDAY Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

Ash Wednesday—distribution of ashes at Masses

9.30am Welfare of Pat (Pauline Ventress)

St Thomas' School present at Mass.

12 noon Victoria Austen Birthday (Austen)

8.00p.m Ray & Betty Scott (Health & Welfare) (Linda & Phys)

Thursday 27th February Feria Lk 9: 22-25

7.30 am NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon Pat Gill Birthday (Browning)

Scripture Group

7.45 pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 28th February Feria Mt 9: 14-15

7.30 am MORNING PRAYER

12 noon Frederick Prior RIP (Mrs Prior)

Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm NO MASS

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 29th Feria Lk 5: 27-32

10.30 - 11.30 Reconciliation (Fr Peter Geldard)

12 noon Mrs Powell RIP (*Gordon Powell*)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) Gary Honeybell RIP

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

From Fr Anthony ...

Some years ago, in a former parish, I was involved in publishing a pamphlet entitled 40-3-50.

40 was the numbers of days of Lent, 3 was the Triduum (Holy Thursday till Easter) and the 50 is the number of days of the Easter season finishing with Pentecost.

As we begin Lent this coming Wednesday, we are entering a season where each one of us have a wonderful opportunity to prepare for the greatest feast of the year, Easter. The suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus is the most important happening in our world and central to our happiness and well-being. The six weeks of Lent help us in our preparation to celebrate this outstanding event. Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday are seen as one day. We then spend 50 days reflecting and plumbing the depths of this event that has changed our lives and gives meaning to everything.

At the Easter vigil here at St Thomas' this year two people will be baptised, four others will be received into full communion into the Catholic Church and two people, who have been baptised Catholic will complete their initiation by receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time and receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation.

Pope Francis in his Lenten letter suggests that during this Lent we keep our eyes fixed on the outstretched arms of Christ crucified. "Let yourself be saved over and over again. And when you go to confess your sins, believe firmly in his mercy which frees you of your guilt." He also reminds us that the experience of mercy is only possible in a face to face relationship with the crucified and risen Lord...in a heartfelt dialogue between friends." This Lenten season let us focus on our daily practise of prayer. This could consist in a daily reading of the gospel and use it as a source of our prayer. You can buy a copy of "Day By Day" booklet which has the daily reading for Lent and Holy Week £1.00 in the Narthex. For almsgiving we have a Family Fast day on Friday March 6th, the money we save goes to the work of Catholic Fund for Overseas Development (CAFOD) and their special Lenten project. I also suggest that we again support the work of Fr Freddie in South Sudan. Our fasting during this season enables us to be more attuned to Jesus and open to his presence in our lives.

Grant O Lord that we may begin with holy fasting this campaign of Christian service, so that, as we take up battle against spiritual evils, we may be armed with weapons of self-restraint.

2nd
Collection:
**Poor
Parishes**