

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: Next three sessions on Wednesday in Hall.



2ND COLLECTION: Our second collection today will be in support of Uma Hoza (Holy Spirit), a small charity set up by a group of friends to support the victims of genocide in Rwanda and the Congo. Any funds raised are channelled through long term religious contacts in support of specific projects. The latest venture is to try and raise £1500



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

THE SANTA MARTA GROUP - an international initiative of Catholic Bishops worldwide, working in partnership with the police and other agencies to bring an end to human trafficking - a form of modern-day slavery, is appealing for volunteers to be trained to assist in creating awareness of the problem of modern-day slavery in our parishes. Two training dates are available: Saturday, 28th March 2020 at The Hermitage, More Park, West Malling, Kent, ME19 6HN from 10.00am to 2.30pm or Saturday, 4th April 2020 at St Thomas of Canterbury Hall (**Entry in Canterbury Lane**) Canterbury Lane, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2HJ from 10.00am to 2.30pm. Please, bring a packed Lunch. If you are interested in being a Volunteer, please speak to your parish clergy.

Diocesan Job Vacancies

We currently have two job opportunities available. For more information, please look on the Diocese's website www.rcsouthwark.co.uk
Marriage Tribunal Administrator - full time; Tooting Bec, London SW17
Safeguarding Office Administrator - based at Cathedral site London SE1.

Fr Tom Herbst OFM, Catholic Chaplain at the UKC, a Franciscan theologian and engaging teacher, will be giving talks on the Gospel readings of the 3rd, 4th & 5th weeks of Lent. These readings are considered essential for preparation for RCIA candidates and are apt Lenten reflections. In the Church hall at 7.00 pm on the following days:
Wed 11th March The Woman at the Well
Wed 18th March The Man Born Blind
Wed 25 March The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead

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: 4th April & 2nd May**

MAP QUIZ NIGHT: A big thank you to everyone who braved the elements last Saturday night and help raise in excess of £250 for essential medical supplies for the Palestinian people in the Occupied territories, Gaza and refugee camps in neighbouring Arab countries. Simon

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

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.

SECOND AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

This weekend - 7/8 March—Uma Hoza— for Rwandan and Congolese genocide victims

Next weekend - 14/15 March—no second collection

From Fr Anthony ...

I am writing this on Thursday as the Coronavirus, Covid-19, is dominating the news. The chief medical officer is warning that a nationwide epidemic is looking "likely". Because of the current situation, we have listened to the advice of the Bishops of England and Wales and changed some of the ways we do things at Mass. These changes are listed elsewhere in the newsletter. My question is; "Does my life of faith make a difference to my attitude to this present crisis?" The psalms point us in the right direction. In Psalm 26 we read, "the Lord is my light and my help; whom shall I fear?"

In this time of crisis, there are those who are very fearful with some people resorting to panic buying. In the Old Testament we have the story of Queen Esther. She has to face her husband and plead for her people, the Jewish nation, who are threaten with annihilation. Her prayer in preparation for this meeting is, "Remember Lord; reveal yourself in the time of our distress". She asks for courage and that she may find the right words to use. She then goes into the presence of the king. We need to ask for healing of our fear. We pray for all those who are involved caring for the sick and all in the NHS who are managing the crisis. We pray for those who are anxious about their livelihood and loss of earnings. We ask for guidance in the best ways to tackle this disease. We ask for wisdom in learning from the way the virus arose and spread and how we can use this learning to plan for the future.

Here is a prayer I found.

Jesus Christ, you travelled through towns and villages "curing every disease and illness." At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbours from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

6pm (Vigil) People of the Parish

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 Gee (Mary Alexander)

3.00 pm Stations of the Cross

4pm: Polish Mass

6 pm Cathy Davis—RIP (Mandy Hunter)

Monday 9th March Feria Lk 6: 36-38

7.30 am Holy Souls

12 noon Carla Boseley, Bill Jordan, Maria Sadler—RIP (Bernadette Lyons)

7 - 9 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 10th March Feria Mt 23 1-12

7.30 am Intentions of Rev Fr Roberto Reyes (Helen Natress)

12 noon M. Abraham RIP

7.30 pm NO RCIA THIS EVENING

Wednesday 11th March Feria Mt 20: 17-28

7.30 am Repose of the Soul of Bridget Filimore (Carol Perry)

10.30 am Reconciliation (Fr. Sylvester)

12 noon Frank Chrystal—RIP (Mrs. Chrystal)

7.00 pm Lenten Talk by Fr Tom Herbst in the Hall

7.30 pm Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 12th March Feria Lk 16: 19-31

7.30 am Phyllis Stirton—RIP (Angela Nichols)

12 noon Intention of Fiona Galt

Scripture Group

7.45 pm Prayer and Pub

Friday 13th March Feria Mt 9: 14-15

7.30 am MORNING PRAYER

12 noon William & Hannah Phelan—RIP (Nora King)

Exposition & Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

7.30 pm Phyllis Stirton—RIP (Jean Pegg)

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 14th March Feria Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32

10.30 - 11.30 FIRST RECONCILIATION

12 noon Mary Yeo—RIP (Anna Nicholson)

4.30 - 5.30 Reconciliation (Fr Anthony)

6pm (Vigil) John Todd— RIP

Sunday 15th March 3rd Sunday in Lent Jn 4: 5-42

GIFT AID SUNDAY

8 am Phyllis Sirton—RIP (SVP)

9:30 am Wellbeing of the Edwardes Family (John & Jackie Thackeray)

11.00am Terry Parkinson— RIP (Sue Nolan & Family)

3.00 pm Stations of the Cross

6 pm People of the Parish

2nd Collection:
Uma Hoza

Coronavirus precautions at St Thomas of Canterbury

We have reached Stage Two of the recommendation given by the Bishops Conference of England and Wales.

Here are the key things for us to do as a parish:

- ◆ We are suspending distribution of communion under both kinds.
- ◆ At Communion we recommend the host be received on the hand only.
- ◆ We are suspending the physical sign of peace.
- ◆ We have removed holy water stoups.
- ◆ I advise those most vulnerable (elderly, people with weakened immune systems and long term conditions like cancer, diabetes and heart disease) to refrain from large parish gatherings and stay at home. Unfortunately I don't know what it means by "large gathering".

- ◆ Cease use of shared hymn books and missals which could help transmit the virus
- ◆ Please sanitise your hands as you come into church using sanitized gel dispensers that are available at the entrance of the Church

The best way of protecting us from spread is still for everyone to use universal good hygiene, which will effectively disrupt spread of the virus. See the posters in the entrance of the church.

If any of you have cold or flu symptoms please refrain from attending Mass, public events, or the sacrament of reconciliation (It may be an ordinary cold but equally it is important to ensure a precautionary approach.)

Please could all ministers of the Eucharist sanitise their hands before and after distributing communion. Use the hand gel provided.

Canon Anthony Charlton

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

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— 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.

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, Patrick Prior & John Mehlin

Thank you! Mass Collections at weekend 29 Feb/1 Mar 20:

Offertory: £ loose & £476.06 gift aided: Total **£1315.00**

2nd Collection - for SVP of **£658.12**