

Image of Christ from the cupola of Pammakaristos Church, Istanbul, Turkey

Capernaum is the base for Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the incident in the synagogue there is the first public act of Jesus' ministry after his rather private gathering of companions for his mission.

The story of the exorcism on the sabbath is the first of four such encounters between Jesus and demonic powers. The mention of the "unclean spirit" simply tells us that there was something wrong with the person concerned: it is the opposite of what is (ritually, not morally) holy, that is, reflecting God with whom the fullness of life and being a complete human being is associated. Jesus' acts of power, commonly known as "miracles", are examples of the kingdom of God breaking into situations in human existence where a person is somehow impeded from enjoying full health.

In a way, this incident confirms publicly Jesus' identity as "the Holy One of God", recalling the private announcement to Jesus himself at his baptism. It is a feature of Mark's writing that supernatural forces perceive who Jesus truly is, unlike the human characters in the story. This initial encounter with the forces of evil shows Jesus as the stronger one, who has authority over such hostile beings and can subdue by the power of his word. The people react with astonishment to the successful exorcism and declare that the word of Jesus' teaching is different from that with which they are familiar, namely that of their scribes, as mentioned at the beginning of the passage. The exorcism enhances Jesus' authority as a teacher and Mark also presents Jesus as a mysterious figure who provokes questions about himself, as throughout the Gospel narrative people will ask, "Who is this...?" ■

### SAY

Father, may your kingdom come!

(see Matthew 6:10/Luke 11:2)

### DO

Consider how you could help the Church's involvement in the social concerns of your local area. Then get involved.

### LEARN

Capernaum, a city on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, becomes the base for Jesus' ministry in Galilee.

Jesus' acts of healing and the like are called "acts of power" in the Gospel tradition, rather than "miracles".

The synagogue was a place of prayer and instruction: the Temple was the place of sacrifice.



Roman ruins at Capernaum. Capernaum was a fishing village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee.

### REFLECT

In Mark's version of the Good News, Jesus is presented as a teacher, but there is little record of what he actually said. Generally, Jesus teaches through his deeds, which is often a more effective way of communicating a message. His acts of power ("miracles") illustrate God's saving action in the human realm.

In Matthew's Gospel account, Jesus describes the gates of hell not being able to prevail against the Church. This description suggests the Church as being on the attack, entering the stronghold of evil and sin. Too often, we think of sin in personal, individual terms, what we ourselves do wrong. In

the Bible, sin is usually something social, something seriously wrong in the way in which human affairs are organized: the existence of poor people is seen by the prophets as an indictment of society, not an unfortunate, inevitable by-product of the economic system.

If we are to continue Jesus' mission today, then the Church has to confront those forces which deprive people of what they need to flourish as human beings. But the Church is not the bishops: the Church is the people of God. As such, the word of God has a message for us today: we are asked to interpret it in terms of our present world – and to act. ■

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

Save us, O Lord our God!  
And gather us from the nations,  
to give thanks to your holy name,  
and make it our glory to praise you.

**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,  
we bless you,  
we adore you,  
we glorify you,  
we give you thanks for your great glory,  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,  
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sins of the world,  
have mercy on us;  
you take away the sins of the world,  
receive our prayer;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,  
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

**COLLECT**

Grant us, Lord our God,  
that we may honour you with all our mind,  
and love everyone in truth of heart.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

**FIRST READING** Deuteronomy 18:15-20

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people:  
"Your God will raise up for you a prophet like  
myself, from among yourselves, from your  
own brothers; to him you must listen. This is  
what you yourselves asked of the Lord your  
God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly.  
'Do not let me hear again' you said 'the voice  
of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on  
this great fire, or I shall die'; and the Lord said  
to me, 'All they have spoken is well said. I  
will raise up a prophet like yourself for them  
from their own brothers; I will put my words  
into his mouth and he shall tell them all I  
command him. The man who does not listen  
to my words that he speaks in my name,  
shall be held answerable to me for it. But the  
prophet who presumes to say in my name a  
thing I have not commanded him to say, or  
who speaks in the name of other gods, that  
prophet shall die.'"

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM** Psalm 94

Response:

**O that today you would listen to his voice!  
Harden not your hearts.**

1. Come, ring out our joy to the Lord;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come before him, giving thanks,  
with songs let us hail the Lord. (R.)

2. Come in; let us bow and bend low;  
let us kneel before the God who made us  
for he is our God and we  
the people who belong to his pasture,  
the flock that is led by his hand. (R.)

3. O that today you would listen to his voice!  
"Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your fathers put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my  
work." (R.)

**SECOND READING** 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the  
Corinthians.

I would like to see you free from all worry.  
An unmarried man can devote himself to  
the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is  
pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to  
bother about the world's affairs and devote  
himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two  
ways. In the same way an unmarried woman,  
like a young girl, can devote herself to the  
Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is  
being holy in body and spirit. The married  
woman, on the other hand, has to worry  
about the world's affairs and devote herself to  
pleasing her husband. I say this only to help  
you, not to put a halter round your necks, but  
simply to make sure that everything is as it  
should be, and that you give your undivided  
attention to the Lord.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Blessed are you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth,  
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom  
to mere children. Alleluia!**

**GOSPEL** Mark 1:21-28

A reading from the holy Gospel according to  
Mark.

Jesus and his followers went as far as  
Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath  
came Jesus went to the synagogue and  
began to teach. And his teaching made a  
deep impression on them because, unlike the  
scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a  
man possessed by an unclean spirit, and it  
shouted, "What do you want with us, Jesus  
of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I  
know who you are: the Holy One of God." But  
Jesus said sharply, "Be quiet! Come out of  
him!" And the unclean spirit threw the man  
into convulsions and with a loud cry went  
out of him. The people were so astonished  
that they started asking each other what it  
all meant. "Here is a teaching that is new"  
they said "and with authority behind it: he  
gives orders even to unclean spirits and they  
obey him." And his reputation rapidly spread  
everywhere, through all the surrounding  
Galilean countryside.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**PROFESSION OF FAITH**

I believe in one God,  
the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the Only Begotten Son of God,  
born of the Father before all ages.  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, consubstantial with  
the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us men and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,

*(all bow during the next three lines)*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the  
Virgin Mary,  
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under  
Pontius Pilate,  
he suffered death and was buried,  
and rose again on the third day  
in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead  
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,  
the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is adored  
and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and  
apostolic Church.  
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness  
of sins  
and I look forward to the resurrection of the  
dead  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

O Lord, we bring to your altar  
these offerings of our service:  
be pleased to receive them, we pray,  
and transform them  
into the Sacrament of our redemption.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

**Let your face shine on your servant.  
Save me in your merciful love.  
O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I  
call on you.**

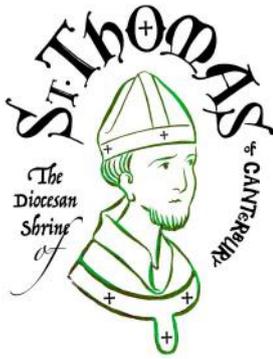
**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,  
we pray, O Lord,  
that through this help to eternal salvation  
true faith may ever increase.  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Do not waste time bothering whether you  
"love" your neighbour; act as if you did and  
you will presently come to love them.

C.S. Lewis

# NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com> St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard

email: [johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Administrator: Miss Linda Scott

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): OPEN SUNDAYS FROM AFTER 9.30 MASS UNTIL 12 NOON

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

The Parish Office is Closed & Linda is working from home. Linda can access emails via the church email so please contact her this way initially.

## ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

2nd Collection: Racial Justice

6.00pm (Vigil): for Friends & Acquaintances (*Connellan*)

### Sunday 31st Jan: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 1: 21-28

8.00am: John & Marjorie De Wolf - RIP (*Mary de Wolf*)

9.30am: Diugwu Family's intentions (*Mary Diugwu*)

11.00am: Roy Shersby - RIP (*Osborne Family*)

6.00 pm: People of the Parish

### Monday 1st Feb: Feria

Mk 5:1-20

7.30am: for all NHS frontline workers (*Judith Rosser*)

12 noon: Joseph McKee - RIP (*McKee Family*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

### Tuesday 2nd Feb: The Presentation of the Lord

Lk 2: 22-40

12 noon: Anne Walsh - RIP (*Kay & Josie*)

6.00 pm Live-streamed Prayer

### Wednesday 3rd Feb: St Lawrence of Canterbury

Mk 6: 1-6

7.30am: Welfare of Margaret Tucker

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Welfare of Doug Gibb (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

### Thursday 4th Feb: Feria

Mk 6: 7-13

7.30am: All children home schooling

12 noon: for the recovery of Fr Ottone Cantore from Covid (*Brigid Rowe*)

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

### Friday 5th Feb: St Agatha

Mk 6: 14-29

12 noon: Welfare of Rev. Paul Saunders

6.00 pm Live streamed Prayer

7.30pm: Welfare of Fr John Slater

### Saturday 6th Feb: St Paul Miki & Companions

Mk 6: 30-34

10.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Michael Quinn - RIP (*Crow Family*)

6.00pm (Vigil): Ossie Correa - RIP (*Noronha Family*)

### Sunday 7th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mk 1: 29-39

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Norah Whiting - RIP (*John Whiting*)

11.00am: The Carr Family - Thanksgiving

6.00 pm: for all NHS frontline workers (*Judith Rosser*)

## PARISH MATTERS

### Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Pat Gill, Angeline Frizell, Alan Skeet, Louisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittrich, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Joan Sutton, Audrey Martin, Elizabeth Gilhenny, Bill Parker, Lucy Purbrick, Josie Carr, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Pippa Swan, Fr John Slater, Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Fr Kevin Alban O.Carm, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Jean Boyce and Rev Paul Saunders

### Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Maria Bryant, Pamela Dodds, Roberto de Paco, John Todd, Carol Mary Kidby, Anna Hesketh, Tom Hodges, Rebecca Judge, Gertraude Katherine Brock, Vera Fletcher, Maria Daniels, Maria Prado, Hannelore Hall, Bernie Fisher, Joseph McKee, Tony Kenny, Michael Jones, Douglas Ricketts, Maurice Crosland, Patricia Collins, Andrzej Czupkowski, Chris Bateman, Pia Iannacci, Antonio Iannacci, Ellen Fitzgerald, Anna Koeller, Fr Michael Gwinell, Ann Sexton, Paulina Manfredini, Fr Michael Boland, Fr George Webster, Theresa Ramsundar, Canon Frank O'Sullivan and Margaret Willis

### Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are this month:

Anthony Weber & Tedina Linehan (Jan)

Margaret Stevenson and Raymond Scott (Feb)

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Our retiring collection **this weekend, 30/31 January 2021** is for **The Catholic Association for Racial Justice**. This collection is taken to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society.

**CHRISTMAS SHOE BOX APPEAL** Our Christmas Shoe-box Appeal in December allowed us to donate over 90 boxes to people in need in the local community via the SVP and Porchlight. Thank you for your generosity.

### SAFEGUARDING MESSAGE

The government have launched the "Ask for ANI" codeword scheme in partnership with Boots and independent pharmacies across the country for those who are victim to or at risk of domestic abuse. Please click here for more information on the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/pharmacies-launch-codeword-scheme-to-offer-lifeline-to-domestic-abuse-victims>

## From Fr Anthony ...

This Sunday in Catholic parishes in England and Wales we are keeping Racial Justice Sunday. The theme this year is "A Time to Act".

Here is a message from Bishop Paul McAleenan, lead bishop for Racial Justice.

Ethnic minorities have suffered disproportionately from the COVID-19 pandemic, demonstrating a systemic problem with racial injustice in our society. This was dramatically brought home with the brutal killing of George Floyd and the reaction it provoked. As Pope Francis reflects: "instances of racism continue to shame us, for they show that our supposed social progress is not as real or definitive as we think."

### **Dismantle structures of injustice**

These shameful reminders of racism demand meaningful action to confront and dismantle sinful structures of injustice. Our brother Bishops in the USA remind us that: "all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur."

Racism is a sin and a violation of human dignity in which we are all complicit. As Catholics we need to acknowledge and confront our own failings, as individuals and as a Church.

Every single one of our parishes, schools and organisations has a responsibility to actively practise anti-racism in all aspects of our mission.

We need to address the lack of visible diversity at every level, so that people can see themselves, their race, their culture and their history in the Church's life.

We need to engage suppliers and businesses from all parts of the community, seeking out those which promote diversity and inclusivity.

Most importantly we need to actively invite people from different ethnic communities to share their experiences and genuinely listen to their voices, however challenging this may be.

### **A Time to Act**

It is not enough to simply denounce racism. This is a time to act. In the words of the Holy Father: "This is a moment to dream big, to rethink our priorities — what we value, what we want, what we seek — and to commit to act in our daily life on what we have dreamed of. God asks us to dare to create something new."

Bishop Paul McAleenan

### **Prayer**

Lord Jesus Christ,

in your ministry

you were approached by people

of many different nations and cultures.

You listened to their cry for help,

treated them with love and compassion,

and brought them healing and wholeness.

In our own time may we provide

to all those who are suffer

the help that they need

and the care that they require.

May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit

to dream of a world made new

where the poor are not forgotten

but are given the opportunity

to live and flourish

with good health and equal prospects.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.

Amen.

### **First Reconciliation & Holy Communion Programme 2021**

It has been difficult to plan the First Holy Communion programme for 2021 as we are not allowed to have the usual teaching sessions with the children due to the Covid restrictions.

We would still like to run the programme if there are parents who would like their child to make their First Reconciliation and Holy Communion this year. With this in mind, we have come up with a timetable which would begin in March with a view to the children making their First Holy Communion on the **Feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday 5th June 2021**.

Parents would have to prepare the children using the '**I Belong**' book. **I Belong** is a very child friendly resource, with lively, colourful material which is based on the framework of our celebration of the Eucharist (Mass). There would, of course, be support from Fr. John and Annie Keane (catechist). The support will involve 6 sessions over zoom. The sessions are designed to aid you in teaching your children, provide a space for you to give feedback on your progress and to ask any questions about the programme.

If you would like your child to take part this year, please email the parish office ([canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)) for a registration form and return it by the **18th of February 2021**. Children must be Year 3 or above.

Get our Parish Newsletter emailed directly to you by subscribing at [stthomasofcanterbury.com/newsletters/](http://stthomasofcanterbury.com/newsletters/)  
This weekly eNewsletter also shares additional information from around the Parish.