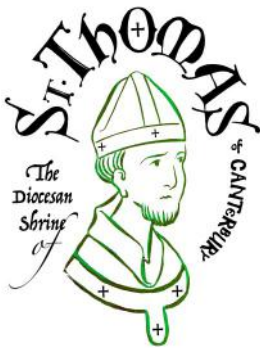


NEWSLETTER



CATHOLIC CHURCH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate Canterbury Kent CT1 2HJ

Telephone: 01227 462896 Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

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

Parish Priest: Canon Anthony Charlton email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Howard email: 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

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 open Mondays, Tuesdays,
Thursdays and Fridays 10am to 3.00pm
(closed from 1.00pm to 1.30pm for lunch)

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

Saturday 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord Mt 1: 18-24

8.00am Thanksgiving (*Mary Wright*)
9.30am Teresa Kelly & Maria Sadler- RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)
11.00am David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)
THERE IS NO MASS AT 6PM TODAY

Sunday 26th Dec: The Holy Family (C) Lk 2: 41-52 (and St Stephen - first Martyr)

8.00am Mary, William and Tony Ashman RIP
9.30am For the Filipino Community and Family
11.00am Athena Berba RIP
6.00pm People of the Parish

Monday 27th Dec: St John the Evangelist Jn 20: 2-8 (Public Holiday)

10.00am Marie Sheridan RIP

Tuesday 28th Dec: Feast The Holy Innocents Mt 2: 13-18 (Public Holiday)

10.00am Welfare of Sebastian and Family

Wednesday 29th Dec: Feast Saint Thomas of Canterbury Lk 22:24-30 or Mt 10: 28-33

10.30-11.30am Reconciliation and Adoration
12 noon Patrick, Sean, Con and Jim Lyons RIP
8.00pm Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral, crypt.

Thursday 30th Dec: 6th day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Lk 2: 36-40

7.30am THERE IS NO MASS THIS MORNING
12 noon Gemma Castro - Welfare

Friday 31st Dec: 7th day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Jn 1: 1-18

12 noon John Delaney RIP
After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm
11.15pm: **First Mass of Mary, Mother of God**
Majella - welfare

Saturday 1st Jan: Mary, the Holy Mother of God Lk 2:16-21

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration
12 noon Ignatius Dempsey - RIP
6.00pm (Vigil) Peter, Philomena and family - Wellbeing

Sunday 2nd Jan: 2nd Sun after the Nativity (C) Jn 1: 1-18

8.00am Wellbeing of the Delaney Family
9.30am Michael Simpson - RIP (*Charlotte Crowther*)
11.00am John Crowley - welfare (*Josie Carr*)
6.00pm People of the Parish

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa 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, Simon Lam, Sr Anne Bross (formerly of our parish), Jennifer Lang, Pauline Lilford, Barbara Markham, Patricia Gray, Patrick Sellars, Sr Margaret McGrath, Angela Nichols, Sandra Monger, Philomena Brown, Rhona Rollings, Stuart Allen, Tom Carr, Shaena Metherill, Mary Jeffries, Gerry Cash and Philomena Wickenden.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Apollonia Citro, Bianca Wood, Deideri Maria (Vedova Roffinella), Angelina Glynn, Graham Wheeler, Baby Francis Anthony Delaney, John Farrell, Fr Chris O'Brien, Tracy Samuels, Josephine Howard, Canon Richard Hearn, Edward Asplin, Fr Robert Ellis, Lis Rowe, Marie Sheridan, Joan Coleman and Jason Hoford.

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in December 2021 and January 2022:

Anne Sexton, Sylvia Guy, Layla Green and Paul Card

Masks at Mass (and in our shop too!) The return to stricter Covid restrictions, announced by the Prime Minister this week, means that people must now wear face masks, sanitise their hands, keep a social distance and be aware of fellow worshippers' safety when at Mass and in the church shop. Thank you

CHRISTMAS MASS OFFERINGS: All offerings made at the Christmas Masses are gifted directly to the priests. If you make Offerings over the Christmas weekend, please be sure to identify them as **CHRISTMAS OFFERING**. This way, we can ensure that they are processed correctly. Envelopes for this purpose are available in the church.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2021

Catechists

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.



Diary Note:

Wednesday, 29th December 2021: **The Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury:** Please join us at 8.00pm for Vespers in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral. Mask are required (unless exempt)

The Feast of the **EPHANY** is on **THURSDAY, 6th January 2022** is a Holy Day of Obligation. There will be three Masses: **9.30 am, 12 noon and 8.00pm**

Father Anthony, Father John and the Parish Office Team wish all parishioners a Very Happy Christmas and a peaceful, safe New Year.



From Fr Anthony ...

Welcome to all of you who have come today to celebrate the birth of Jesus, our Saviour and King who came to us as a weak and helpless child, to confound the strong and bring peace to all.

At least this Christmas we are able to meet as families again and celebrate this wonderful birth. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those of our parish that have done so much throughout the year, especially during lockdown and after, to help in the smooth running of this parish community. I was humbled to see so many step-up and volunteer to keep the church open during the times of Covid restrictions. It was good to have the extended times of adoration each day. Thank you for sharing your time and talents. I would like to thank all those who look after the sacristy, prepare for the Masses, clean the brass, the linen and care for church building. Flower and colour are important and we thank those who week after week do the flowers. They are lovely this Christmas.

For us the Mass is the source and summit of our life in Christ. I know that there are those who have not been able to return to Mass and join us live-streaming. We miss you. It hasn't been easy for Fr John and myself to visit the hospital or care homes. Gradually some of the Eucharistic ministers and making home visits. Music is such an important part of the Liturgy and I am very grateful for the ingenuity of the 9:30 group who record the music we use. They have just recorded Silent Night with some of our children's voices. We have benefited from the excellent skills of a mixing engineer. (Not sure if that's the right term!). The musicians at 6pm Sunday evening have returned, which is a great blessing. I am grateful to those who read at Mass and those who serve Mass. We also remember all those who act as welcomers.

We were very fortunate that Archbishop John Wilson visited us for the feast of the Translation of St Thomas of Canterbury on July. He also blessed our fully-refurbished shop which is doing good things thanks to new and old volunteers. Thanks also go to all our catechists who prepare adults for Baptism and the other sacraments of Initiation, those who prepare our children for Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We are gradually reintroducing the children's liturgy of the Word at 9:30am Mass. We had a good celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation last month and were lucky to have had a good team of catechists to prepare our young people. Thank you. Thanks also to those who have been involved in the synodal process. There was a great response from you and the parish council will be looking at the responses that relate to parish life as a way forward for us.

The administration of the parish is important to us. We thank all those who are on the finance and maintenance committee. They give their time and talent to tackle the difficult task of making sure the building is in good order and that we use money given with due diligence. At present we are not having a collection during Mass. Thank you to all who have moved to standing orders for their weekly contribution. My thanks go to those who are involved in Safeguarding and thanks goes to our parish administrator for her cheerful presence and welcome when people come to the door or phone and to our housekeeper who keeps everything ship shape. We thank our premises manager and those who help to keep everything in working order so that so many can use the facilities.

Last but not least I would like to thank Fr John for all his work as assistant and our Episcopal Vicar for Kent who lives with us.

A Christmas Blessing

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

