

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

6..00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday, 12th Dec: 3rd Sun of Advent (C) Lk 3: 10-18

8.00am: Mary & Stan Crow - RIP (*Mary McGillie*)

9.30am: Tony & Sheila Mazzotti - RIP (*Gill Robinson*)
Baptism of Alba Craycraft during Mass

11.00am: Ben Mutch - RIP (*Mutch Family*)

6.00 pm: Deceased members of Paterson Fam. (*G & E Yates*)

Monday 13th Dec: St Lucy Mt 21: 23-27

7.30 am Belinda Sykes - RIP (*Helen Nattrass*)

12 noon: Michael Reynolds - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 14th Dec: St John of the Cross Mt 21: 28-32

12 noon: Mark Bush - RIP (*D Tulley*)

6.00 pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 15th Dec: Feria Lk 7: 19-23

7.30 am: Tony Nee

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Frances & Michael-Joe Keavney -RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 16th Dec: Feria Lk 7: 24-30

7.30 am: Deceased members of Man Family (*Sophia White*)

12 noon: Marie Sheridan - RIP (*D McConkey & Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: *Advent Reflection*

Friday 17th Dec: Feria Mt 1; 1-17

12 noon: David John Ribbans - RIP (*Rizalina Ribbans*)

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Pam & Tony Johnson - Golden Wedding

Saturday 18th Dec: Feria Mt 1: 18-24

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

Two priests will be available today

12 noon: Bridie Sullivan - RIP (*Noreen Egan*)

6.00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday, 19th Dec: 4rd Sun of Advent (C) Lk 1: 39-45

8.00am: Dominic Saldanha - RIP (*Mary Flanagan*)

9.30am: Jan Lepper - RIP (*Judge Family*)

11.00am: Catherine (Kath) Packer - RIP (*Bernard Packer*)

6.00 pm: Maureen Darrow - RIP (*Cookmans Family*)

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:

Anne Sexton

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 11/12 Dec: No second collection this weekend.

Next weekend: 18/19 Dec: No second collection this weekend.

100 CLUB Please renew your subscriptions or apply as a new members before 17 December 2021 to be included for 2022.

Porchlight shoebox appeal there is now a table in the All Saints Chapel for donated items. A list of needed items can be found on the church website.

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

First Reconciliation and Holy Communion Programme 2022

If you would like your child to participate in the 2022 programme, email the Presbytery (canterbury@rcaos.org.uk) for a registration form. Children must be Year 3 or above. Completed registration forms must be returned to the Presbytery with the child's baptismal certificate attached by the 23rd January 2022.

ACCOMMODATION: A French Catholic student, aged 19, is looking for accommodation in Canterbury from January to May. She is looking for a catholic family able to host her for 5 months. She will be studying at the Canterbury Christ Church University. She will be delighted to help the family as much as she can. Please contact Fr Anthony or the Office.

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.

CATHOLICPOST: This brand new monthly Catholic Newspaper has been compiled in response to the need for a national paper to provide thoughtful articles and a Catholic perspective on the news stories of the day. A complementary copy of this newspaper is available today.

From Fr Anthony ...

In the second reading at Mass this weekend we are encouraged to "Rejoice in the Lord always" and "do not worry about anything" but in every prayer and request make your request known to God with thanksgiving. The translation that we hear at Mass today is "I want to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I repeat what I want is our happiness".

This Third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday because these verses from Philippians are the entrance Antiphon at Mass. The Latin is "*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete.*" The celebrant wears rose coloured vestments and the third candle of the Advent wreath is often pink in colour.

Here is the challenge for us, we are called to live lives of Joy.

A book I often turn to is entitled "The Joy of God". It contains the collected writings of Sister Mary David, a Benedictine nun at St Cecilia's Abbey on the Isle of Wight. She was born in Philadelphia of Palestinian parents and graduated in English literature. She came to study at Oxford and entered the Monastery in 1985. She served as novice mistress and then as prioress. She died of cancer in August 2017. At the beginning of the chapter "Called to Joy" she quotes Dom Delatte, "It is the duty of each one of us to be joyful. It is a remarkable religion in which joy is a precept, in which the command is to be happy, in which cheerfulness is a duty".

Our joy comes from surrendering ourselves to God's will, of being and doing at every moment what he desires us to be and to do.

In the Gospel today the tax collectors and the soldiers asked John the Baptist what they should do to change. To the tax collectors he said: "Exact no more than your rate". To the soldiers he said: "No intimidation, no extortion, be content with your pay". John was encouraging them to surrender themselves to God's will. As Sister Mary David says, "This liberation from slavery to self-will is a real source of supernatural joy. We find ourselves truly free to be the people God has called us to be, and in this lies perfect fulfilment, perfect joy."

Our lives may be full of difficulties and trials but we need not see these as an obstacle to joy. At all times we are called to love one another. Joy is much deeper than a feeling. It is something we do. "It is something to be chosen, a choice God calls us to. In calling us to himself, God calls us to joy, for he is our joy."

This then is the promise, the invitation: Say yes to God, to embrace the way of Christ and thus experience deep joy always.

BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Due to the COVID situation, it has been decided to ticket all Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Tickets are now available via our website. For those unable to access the website bookings system, please telephone the Parish Office - please leave a message including a contact telephone number. Bookings will close at midnight on Wednesday, 22nd December and no further tickets in any format will be available after this time. Thankyou

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:

Christmas Eve (Friday, 24 Dec): Mass at **4.00pm; 6.00pm** and **11.30pm** (with Carols)

Christmas Day (Saturday, 25 Dec): Mass at **8.00am; 9.30am** and **11.00am**

There is **NO 6.00pm** Mass on Saturday, 25th December 2021)

Thank you for your generous donations to:

he SVP would like to thank everyone for their on-going generosity in our monthly collections. At the end of November, we raised £722; this is being put to good use to help the increasing number of people unable to make ends meet, a common occurrence towards Christmas. In addition, we have been able to support a young African student from a very poor family as she settles into life in Canterbury.



Diary Note:

Please remember our Parish Penitential service at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 22 December 2021.

Age UK Canterbury Centre, Castle Street in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University STUDENTS invite parishioners, young & old, to a Christmas Tea Party on Saturday 18th December 2021 from 11am to 2pm. Call-in to the centre in Castle Street for complementary festive Food & Drink, with Music, Christmas Quiz and a Raffle. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Christmas Fair: Sunday, 12 December 10:30- 12:30 in Hall.
WE REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE COVID STATUS

The Union of Catholic Mother's are supporting **Canterbury Food bank** in their reverse advent calendar appeal in December. Parishioners are welcome to join us in supporting this worthy cause. A list of needed items is on posters in the church and our facebook page. Collection details to follow in the new year.

SIGNING SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL FORMS

Canon Anthony will make himself available on Tuesday, 14th December between 3.30 and 5.00 pm and again between 7.00 and 8.00pm to sign forms. Come to the Presbytery, 59 Burgate during these times to get the forms signed. Please wear face coverings.

Mary' Meals: From November to January, every gift to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6m. For more information, please visit www.marysmeals.org.uk

Sister of Morning Star: Parishioners who support the Sisters of Morning Star please note: you need to change your standing order. Please contact srsmorningstar@gmail.com for details

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

Appeal for Foundation Committee Members for St Anselm's Catholic School:

Being a governance committee member at St Anselm's Catholic School will enable you to become involved in the Catholic life and ethos of the school and to assist the Trust Board in challenging and supporting the school and its leaders. To find out more information and obtain application forms, please contact the Governance Team at governance@kcsp.org.uk