

# 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 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, 19th Dec: 4th 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*)

4.00pm: *Polish Community Mass*

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

**Monday 20th Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 26-38

7.30 am Thanksgiving - Nicko Garcia & Aimee de Castro

12 noon: For the work of the UCM

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 21st Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 39-45

12 noon: Thomas Jacob - RIP (*Jacob Family*)

6.00 pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

6.00 pm: *Parish Carol Service*

**Wednesday 22nd Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 46-56

7.30 am: Maureen & Harry Waltham-Smith - RIP

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

*Two priests will be available*

12 noon: Christine, John and Anastasia - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Parish Penitential Service *Three priests available*

**Thursday 23rd Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 57-66

7.30 am: Mary Elizabeth Farrington - RIP (*Ian Farrington*)

12 noon: Sheila Lloyd - RIP (*Scott Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: *Advent Reflection*

**Friday 24th Dec: Feria (Christmas Eve)** Lk 1: 67-79

12 noon: Mary & William Clancy - RIP (*Sean Clancy*)

*After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm*

4.00pm: Pat & John Judge - RIP (*Annie & John Judge*)

6.00pm: Michael Reynolds - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

11.30pm: People of the Parish

**Saturday 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord** Jn 1: 1-18

8.00am: Thanksgiving (*Mary Wright*)

9.30am: Teresa Kelly & Maria Sadler - RIP (*Bernadette*)

11.00am: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

THERE IS NO MASS AT 6PM TODAY

**Sunday, 26th Dec: Holy Family (C)** Lk 2: 41-52

*(and St Stephen - first Martyr)*

8.00am: Mary, William and Tony Ashman - RIP (*Catherine*)

9.30am: For the Filipino Community and families

11.00am: Athena Berba - RIP (*Berba Family*)

6.00 pm: 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:

Anne Sexton

#### COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

**This weekend: 18/19 Dec:** No second collection this weekend.

**Next weekend: 24/26 Dec:** ALL collections: Christmas Offerings for the Priests of the Parish - envelopes available in church

#### BOOKINGS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES.

Tickets available via the website or telephoning the Office. Bookings close at midnight on Wednesday, 22nd December - further tickets in any format will be available after this time. Thank you.

#### 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)

**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](mailto: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 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2022.

**From Fr Anthony ...**

It's only 4 days till Christmas Eve. Yesterday, Saturday 18th December, was the last day of posting 2nd class if your Christmas cards are to reach their destination before Christmas. Are you ready to celebrate the Christmas Season? Are we, as parish, ready to celebrate Christmas? Many of you have booked your tickets for one of the six Masses and others of you are staying at home and joining us "live streaming".

It is important that we have an open heart to welcome Christ. The watch word in Advent is Maranatha. This Aramaic word is found in 1 Corinthians 16:22. It can either be translated: "the Lord has come" or "Come Our Lord". One way to prepare ourselves for to welcome our Lord into our heart is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). This coming Wednesday there will be a Reconciliation Service at 7:30pm. Besides Fr John and myself, there will be a visiting priest hearing confessions. Also on Wednesday between 10:30 and 11:30 both Fr John and myself will be available for the Sacrament of Penance.

Music is such an integral part of our liturgy. We can all enjoy and join in the singing but behind our masks still. The words to our music will be available on our website. We have found people to play the organ and provide music for all Masses except 8am on Christmas Day. We are also having a Carol service on Tuesday at 6pm.

In our Gospel for this weekend, Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. The two pregnant mothers meet. And Elizabeth says; "From the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy". John greeted Jesus with joy. Joy is an important part of this coming festival. Joy is more than a temporary feeling. It is a feeling of inner gladness, delight or rejoicing. Even though we are experiencing struggles at this time of world pandemic, God sees our hearts and knows our heartaches and fears but he call us to inner joy and even through our own unhappy circumstances, we can find joy in the midst of the storm with our faith in God. "At night comes tears, but dawn brings joy." Psalm 30

As followers of Christ, we rejoice, because in him, we have redemption.

"When I sing to you my lips shall shout for joy, and my soul which you have redeemed." Psalm 71 :23

The reason we can have joy is because we have eternal hope in Christ.

**CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR MASS/SERVICE TIMES.**

Wed, 22 Dec at 7.30pm: Parish Penitential Service

Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> Dec **CHRISTMAS EVE**  
12 noon Mass  
16h00 Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity  
18h00 Mass of the Vigil of the Nativity  
23h30 Carols and Readings *followed by* Mass at Midnight

Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> Dec **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
08h00 Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord  
09h30 Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord  
11h00 Mass of the Nativity of Our Lord

Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> Dec **THE HOLY FAMILY**  
(and **Feast of St Stephen – the first Martyr**)  
All Masses at normal times

Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> Dec **ST JOHN THE APOSTLE**  
10h00 Mass

Tuesday, 28<sup>th</sup> Dec **THE HOLY INNOCENTS**  
10h00 Mass

Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> Dec **ST THOMAS BECKET, Bishop & Martyr**  
12 noon Mass  
20h00 Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral Western Crypt

Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> Dec **NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
12 noon Mass  
23h15 First Mass of the Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God

Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 **NEW YEAR'S DAY**  
10h00 Mass of the Feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God  
18h00 Vigil Mass of Sunday

Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan **Second Sunday after the Nativity**  
Masses at normal times

Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> Jan **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**  
09h30 Mass  
12 noon Mass  
20h00 Mass

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. Drop off point will be the church hall in January (date TBC). Information can be found on the UCM Facebook page and posters in the church.

**Mary's 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](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

**Sister of Morning Star:** Parishioners who support the Sisters of Morning Star: You need to change your standing order. Please contact [srsmarymorningstar@gmail.com](mailto:srsmarymorningstar@gmail.com) for details

**Porchlight shoebox appeal** many thanks for all your generous donations! These will be delivered to Porchlight Canterbury during the week.

**CHRISTMAS MASS OFFERINGS:** All offerings made at the Christmas Masses (24 - 26 Dec) are gifted directly to the priests. If you make Offerings over the Christmas weekend, please be sure to identify them as **CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS**. This way, we can ensure that they are processed correctly. Envelopes for this purpose are available in the church.

**Farewell!!!** We wish Ben Saul every best wish on his new post of musical director at St Mary of Charity, Faversham. He has done such sterling service for over 12 years at St Thomas' and he will be greatly missed. Although he will not be with us for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day he has kindly agreed to direct the music for the sung Vespers in the Cathedral crypt on 29th December, which is the feast of the martyrdom of St Thomas of Canterbury.

**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 & creativity & in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**HCPT CHRISTMAS DRAW TICKETS** still available in Narthex, Saints Chapel or from Annie. Please return by 31<sup>st</sup> December