

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): THERE IS NO SATURDAY MASS AT 6PM

Sunday, 26th Dec: The 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

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

10am: Marie Sheridan - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

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

10am: Welfare of Sebastian and Family

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

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Patrick, Sean, Jim and Con Lyons - RIP

8.00pm: Vespers in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral

Thursday 30th Dec: 6th Day in the Octave of The Nativity of the Lord *Lk 2: 36-40*

7.30 am: THERE IS NO MASS THIS MORNING

12 noon: Gemma Castro - welfare (*Castro Family*)

Friday 31st Dec: 7th Day in 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 2022: Mary, Mother of God *Lk 2:16-21*

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Ignatius Dempsey - RIP (*Demsey Family*)

6.00 pm (Vigil): Peter, Philomena and family - wellbeing

Sunday, 2nd Jan: 2nd Sunday 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*)

6.00 pm: People of the Parish

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.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2022

For true human fraternity

We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human 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 2021 and January 2022:

Anne Sexton, Sylvia Guy, Layla Green and Paul Card

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

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

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



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. Masks are required in the Cathedral (unless exempt)

The Feast of the **EPIPHANY** 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**

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 or you can pay online or via the machine payment. Please use reference: PriestOffer.

Archdiocese of Southwark

Pastoral Letter for the Solemnity of the Holy Family 2021

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

I extend to each of you, and to your families and loved ones, my warm good wishes as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour this Christmas. I pray that, in a deepened way, your heart might be opened to the loving closeness of the Lord Jesus. Now, and always, He is Emmanuel: God with us and God for us; nearer to us than our innermost thoughts, and closer to us than our heartbeat. It was because God loved the world so much, because God loved you so much, that He sent His only Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. For so great a gift, we too sing in thanksgiving with the angels: *'Glory to God in the highest.'*

Whatever ups and downs the past year has brought, remember that you belong to Christ. In our isolation or distance, in our fear or disappointment, we have a home in Christ and in His Church. He knows our name. Our baptism is part of His life-story. The Lord never will ever forget us or abandon us. How we need to be reminded of this, especially in difficult times. We are united to Christ, and to each other, in the family of the Church. Ours is not a do-it yourself faith or a go-it-alone religion. Believing and belonging go together. We journey with each other as Christ's Body, called to live our faith from within the Church towards to the world.

The Feast of the Holy Family this year follows on immediately from Christmas Day. We remain focused on the new-born Christ child, held in the arms of His mother Mary and watched over by His foster father, St Joseph. United in Christ, Christian families too are places where believing and belonging go together, giving much needed witness to the unchanging virtues of faith, love, and hope, of patience, mercy and kindness.

What must it have been like for Joseph and his pregnant wife to have arrived in Bethlehem, exhausted by the journey from Nazareth? We know Mary was close to her delivery date. Joseph would have slowed the pace of travel to protect his wife and her unborn child. To avoid any possible hostility in Samaria, the Holy Family also probably took a detour. It would, therefore, have taken Joseph and Mary a week to ten days, maybe even longer, to reach their destination. They then struggled to find suitable accommodation and had to bed down beside the animals in the straw. Through all this they have something to teach us: they kept faith and they trusted in God's promises.

Fast forward twelve years. The Holy Family had been in Jerusalem for the Passover. As they travelled home, their beloved child, the Lord Jesus, went missing. At that time men sometimes travelled separately from women, and the children travelled with either parent. Mary thought the Lord Jesus was with Joseph and Joseph thought He was with Mary. How panicked they must have been, fearing that He was lost, even that He had been injured or killed. Rushing back to Jerusalem, they found the Lord Jesus three days later teaching in the temple, getting on with His *'Heavenly Father's business.'* It's significant that they found Him alive after three days. The Gospel points to the resurrection. Again, there is something to learn here. In all we face, how we need to keep faith and trust in God's promises. As the Christmas carol *'Hark! The herald angels sing'* reminds us, Christ is born so we *'no more may die,'* born to raise us from the earth, born to give us *'second birth.'*

Dear friends, we each need to nurture our faith. We each need to renew our trust in God's promises. We live with hope in Christ born for us and raised from death on the cross for us. This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it. Thank you to parents, grandparents, and great grandparents for passing on the faith in your families. Thank you to catechists, teachers, clergy and religious sisters for passing on the faith in the family of the Church. Please be encouraged to continue helping people to believe and belong in Christ, especially through the celebration of the Sacraments, through cherishing prayer and the Scriptures, and through loving service to those most in need.

I assure you of my prayers on this beautiful Feast of the Holy Family: prayers for each of you and, in particular, for anyone struggling with life, and especially family life or marriage; for anyone coping with illness or bereavement; and for anyone uncertain about what 2022 might hold. Let us unite ourselves to Our Lady and to St Joseph. With them we keep faith and trust in God's promise: a Saviour has been born for us who is Christ the Lord. He is Emmanuel: God with us and God for us.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season and the New Year

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

