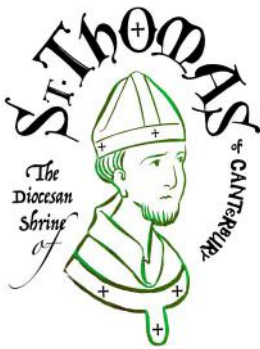


NEWSLETTER



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

2nd coll.: SVP

6.00 pm (Vigil): Marie Sheridan - RIP

Sunday, 28th Nov: 1st Sun of Advent (C) Lk 21:25-28,34-36

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: for Filipino Community & Families

11.00am: Tom Carr - welfare

4.00pm: *Polish Community Mass*

6.00 pm: Kazimierz Krynicki - RIP

Monday 29th Nov: Feria Mt 8: 5-11

7.30 am Marie Sheridan - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

12 noon: Welfare of Okonjo Family (*Sophia Okonjo*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th Nov: St Andrew, Apostle Mt 4: 18-22

12 noon: John Natrass - RIP

1.00 pm: Wedding of Francine and Daniel

6.00 pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 1st Dec: Feria Mt 15: 29-37

7.30 am: John Delaney - RIP

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: David Todd - welfare (*Jenny Todd*)

4.00 pm: Reception of the late Marie Sheridan into church

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: *RCIA*

Thursday 2nd Dec: Feria Mt 7: 21, 24-27

7.30 am: Rodolfo Ignacio - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)

12 noon: Funeral of the late Marie Sheridan

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: *Advent Reflection*

Friday 3rd Dec: St Francis Xavier Mt 9: 27-31

12 noon: Steve Hyland - RIP (*Velho Family*)

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Rev. Fr Michael Stack's intentions (*G & E Yates*)

Saturday 4th Dec: St John Damascene Mt 9:35 - 10:1,6-8

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Intentions of Parish Administrators of the Deanery

1.30pm: *Baptism of Grayson Bostock & Jude Francis-Hall*

6.00 pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday, 5th Dec: 2nd Sun of Advent (C) Lk 3: 1-6

8.00am: Ela Waclawska - welfare

9.30am: UCM members and families - welfare

11.00am: John O'Driscoll - RIP (*Josie Carr*)

6.00 pm: Intentions of Srs Bridie & Betty at Coolock Convent

*Congratulations to all our young people
being confirmed this weekend.
Please pray for them.*

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 and Marie Sheridan

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in December:

Anne Sexton

COLLECTIONS: Our retiring collections:

This weekend: 27/28 Nov: Collection for the SVP

Next weekend: 4/5 Dec: No second collection this weekend.

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

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.

Christmas Fair: Sunday, 12 December 10:30- 12:30 in Hall.

We would be grateful for donations for the following stalls:
Raffle: unopened bottles (Wines, Spirits), chocolates, smellies etc.
New items for our tombola and lucky dip.
Any contribution is appreciated. No donation is too small.
Donations can be made up to the 10th December.
Home made cakes (on the day please)
Lots more stalls and activities including Father Christmas.
If you can help on the day or would like to book a Stall to promote your business (limited availability) contact [07805490217](tel:07805490217) or socialstthomasrc@gmail.com. All proceeds go to church projects.

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.

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.

From Fr Anthony ...

As this Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent we are beginning a new liturgical Year. I have decided that as this is a new year I will make some new year resolutions. I won't wait till the beginning of a chronological new year. This can be dangerous, especially as everyone reading this will know what I have decided on and can therefore call me out if and when they see my failing to live up to my resolutions or failing to live according to my desire to change. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas and the coming of Christ at the end of time, I resolve to be more alert, to be more attentive to Christ around me and within me. I need to understand how to stand erect and hold my head high. I pray for the grace to live in the present moment and live each day to the full. Using any means to make myself more attentive to what Christ is showing me.

To help me do this my first resolution is to every evening spend some time reflecting on my day. Here is how Mark Thibodeaux, SJ describes the stages of the Examen based on the words of St Ignatius of Loyola 'In the Examen, we review our recent past to find God and God's blessings in life. We also look back to find moments in the day when things didn't go so well—when we were hurt by something that happened to us, or when we sinned or made a mistake. We give praise and thanksgiving for the blessed moments. We ask forgiveness and healing for the difficult and painful moments. Having reflected on this past day, we then turn to the day yet to come and ask God to show us the potential challenges and opportunities of tomorrow. We try to anticipate which moments might go one way or the other for us: toward God's plan or away from it. We ask for insight into what graces we might need to live this next day well; patience, wisdom, fortitude, self-knowledge, peace, optimism. We ask God for that grace, and we trust that he wants us to succeed in our day even more than we do.'

My second resolution concerns the fact that during this new Year, known as Year C, the principle gospel used throughout the year is that of Luke. This gospel together with the Acts of the Apostles presents a breathtaking narrative of early Christianity, from Gabriel announcing the birth of John the Baptist to the Apostle Paul announcing the gospel of Jesus in Jerusalem. I am resolved to keep a copy of the gospel close to me and prayerfully read the gospel of Luke, and use it as a source of prayer.

My third resolution concerns the synodal process that we have been going through these past weeks. I am resolved to listen to what has been said and pay attention particularly to what parishioners have said about their hopes and concerns for the church as lived out in this parish of St Thomas, and work with you to see how we can truly be Christ present here and now in Canterbury.

Come Holy Spirit, give me wisdom and understanding to be attentive to your prompting now.

SYNODAL PROCESS: A hearty thank you to everyone who has engaged with the Synodal process so far. We have received 167 responses, and at the back of the church you will find the summary report that we intend to bring forward to the Diocese.

A key point that has come through particularly in these past two weeks is that there hasn't been enough time to reflect and share your thoughts and ideas. Thankfully the Bishops' Conference also recognised this, and has given us until January for the parish listening phase. We (Sophia and John-Paul) welcome any feedback, thoughts, or questions about this listening phase of the synod preparation process, about the summary document, and about the themes of communion, participation and mission. The delegates can be contacted on synodstthomas@gmail.com or by filling in the online form as <https://bit.ly/3AYipmm>

We particularly welcome and encourage thoughts and feedback from members of the BAME community, Eastern European community, young people, young families, and LGBTQA+ community, all of whom make up a large and vibrant part of our parish but have been under-represented so far during this process.

If you would prefer to send your thoughts directly to the Diocese, you can fill in their form here: <https://www.rcaos.org.uk/get-involved/synod/online-submissions/>

There will be an opportunity for in-person feedback after the 9.30am Mass on Sunday 28 November (what a way to start the new liturgical year!) Due to personal and work commitments, we (Sophia and John-Paul) will be unable to hold any in-person meetings in December but hope to hold a final in-person session before the January deadline.

In addition to your feedback being taken to the Diocese, the PPC (Parish Pastoral Council) will be discussing and implementing your suggestions in the coming months.

It has been a great privilege so far to hear your thoughts on faith, the Church and the Parish. May the Holy Spirit continue to guide our listening and discernment.

John Paul Riordan and Sophia White

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.

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

CATCHING LIVES WINTER SHELTER VOLUNTEERS: The Winter Shelter runs from 01 December 2021 to 28th February 2022. St Thomas' will host the shelter on Friday evenings. Catching lives are seeking volunteers to help in various capacities with the Winter Shelter. See poster in the Narthex for contact details.

The Union of Catholic Mother's are holding a meeting in the church hall after the 9:30am mass on the 5th December. All are welcome to attend.

Laudato Si: A webinar on 30th November, 5.00-6.15pm <https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Livesimply> will give a practical run-through of how to use the Platform and give further advice and ideas on how parishes, families, schools etc can journey towards integral ecology (in the Pope's words). Please also see the poster in the Narthex for ideas for a Merry, Sustainable Christmas.

Quiz night A huge thank you to all our amazing parishioners who supported our quiz night. We raised **£605.10p** which will be going towards church projects

The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme from 12.00 noon. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>

MASKS IN CHURCH. Please remember to bring your face mask and wear it in the church, especially at Mass. Thank you