

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

8.00am: Ela Waclawska - RIP (Maciej Waclawski)

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

Monday 6th Dec: St Nicholas Lk 5: 17-26

7.30 am Rose Mullins - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

12 noon: Sister of St Clare (Largo, USA) (*G & E Yates*)

4.00 pm: *Reception of the late Joan Coleman into church*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 7th Dec: St Ambrose Mt 18: 12-14

7.30am: Rowena Ramos and Family

12 noon: Brian Aspinal - RIP (*Tessa Metcalfe*)

2.30pm: *Funeral of the late Joan Coleman*

6.00 pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 8th Dec: Immaculate Conception of the BVM

Lk 1: 26-38

7.30 am: Foundation Mass: Olwen Dixon - RIP

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Intentions of Sean Clancy

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Patricia Metcalfe

Thursday 9th Dec: St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoczin Mt 11:11-15

7.30 am: Isidro Gramaje - RIP (*Mila Oligo*)

12 noon: Thanksgiving (*Hilary McKernan*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30 - 8.30pm: *Advent Reflection*

Friday 10th Dec: Our Lady of Loreto Mt 11:16-19

12 noon: Sister Ludovinia (Nazareth House) (*G & E Yates*)

After Mass, Adoration until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Teresa Kelly - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

Saturday 11th Dec: St Damasus I, Pope Mt 17: 10-138

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Hubert Schlarmann - RIP (*Sheila Schlarmann*)

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*)

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Barbara Brett, Mary Dittich, 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: 4/5 Dec: No second collection this weekend.

Next weekend: 11/12 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.

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 ...

Should we party this Christmas or not? This is a Coronavirus debate going on in the press in the light of various politicians encouraging big Christmas celebrations to go ahead, while observing the present guidance. Boris Johnson said on Thursday "We don't want people to feel that they need to start cancelling things". This he said, after growing concern about the new strain of Covid.

Our own Archbishop, John Wilson, has posted a video that you can see on our website encouraging people to come back to church. This is part of an initiative entitled "Come Home". It recognises that at Christmas there is an increase in Mass attendance where those, who are culturally attached and loosely affiliated, come to church as families or individually.

We will be providing Invitation Cards for distribution by parishioners to interest friends or those who have drifted from practice. Also available soon will be a booklet entitled "Ultimate Relationship" written by Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO). This booklet is an 'evangelistic tool that presents the Gospel clearly and simply providing an opportunity to respond to Christ's invitation to a personal relationship'. We will be receiving copies of this booklet soon and it is suggested that these are handed out during the Christmas Masses to all who attend.

The tension for me is that we still have to make sure that all who come feel safe while inviting people to come together to celebrate the coming of our Saviour. So please carry on wearing a mask at Mass and being respectful of how your fellow parishioners feel. Thank you.

On this second Sunday of Advent we heed John the Baptist's call to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ in our own lives. How do we welcome Christ into our home and our heart? What is preventing us from welcoming him? What are the obstacles (valleys and hills) that deter Christ or prevent Christ from being at home with us? Think about an encounter with the healing Christ in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. There will be a special penitential service on Wednesday 22nd December at 7:30pm.

In the meantime, consider these words of Sylvester O'Flynn

"I have paths to straighten wherever my heart has deviated from loving God: whenever I have acted as if God's all-seeing eye has turned away from me or whenever I allowed resentment or anger blind my remembrance of the way of charity.

The valleys to be filled in are the times when I have wandered from the sense of God's presence: or when enthusiasm for God's work is low.

The mountains to be laid low are the obstacles which I imagine to be insurmountable because I have forgotten to trust in God: or the hills to be levelled can be areas of pride where because I am good at something, I look down on others in judgement".

Let us prepare our way for Our Lord.

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

CATCHING LIVES WINTER SHELTER: Due to the increased COVID-19 restrictions, the shelter will not be using our hall this year and will have to make alternative sleeping arrangements for their clients.

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.



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!

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

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

100 CLUB WINNER Please could 100 club winner Samantha Jeeves contact Linda in the office. Thank you