

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 Priests: **Fr John Howard** email: johnhoward@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Mark Wharton email: markwharton@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: Chaplain: **Awaiting Appointment**

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Nadiya Carpenter - RIP (*Whitehead Family*)

Sunday, 11th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent (A) Mt 11: 2-11
GAUDETE SUNDAY

8.00am: Strein Family welfare

9.30am: People of the Parish

11. am: Margaret, Michael & John O'Driscoll - RIP (*Josie Carr*)

6.00pm: Carol Osbourne - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Monday 12th Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mt 21: 23-27

7.30am John Roque Julian - RIP (*Liz Julian*)

12 noon: Alice Prisca Julian - RIP (*Liz Julian*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: *St Anselm's Secondary School Carol Service*

Tuesday 13th Dec: St Lucy Mt 21: 28-32

7.30am: Deceased relatives of Dunne & Roche Families

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

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: Advent Reflections on Zoom

Wednesday 14th Dec: St John of the Cross Lk 7: 19-23

7.30 am: Romain - welfare (*Renn Family*)

11h00am to 11h30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Antony Charles William Ryan - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

Thursday 15th Dec: Feria Lk 7: 24-30

7.30am: Jacob Thomas - RIP (*Jacob Family*)

12 noon: Joyce Julian - RIP (*Liz Julian*)

2.00pm: *Funeral Service of Eric John Purvis at Barham*

5.30pm: *Scouts' Christingle Service*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Advent Adoration in the church

Friday 16th Dec: Feria Jn 5: 33-36

12 noon: Funeral Mass of Manuel and Cecilia de Medeiros

7.30pm: Michael O'Sullivan - RIP

Saturday 17th Dec: Feria Mt 1: 1-17

10:30am-11:30am Reconciliation

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

2.00pm: *Baptism of Francis James Heney*

4.30pm: *Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room*

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Winifride, David & Patrick Browning - RIP

Sunday, 18th Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (A) Mt 1: 18-24

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Elsa and Pino - RIP (*Graziella*)

11.am: Catherine (Kath) and Bernard Packer - RIP

12.15pm: *Baptism of Luca Roberto Merrick*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Roger Caless - RIP (*Forrester 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, Sr Anne Bross, Barbara Markham, Angela Nichols, Tom Carr, Mary Jeffries, Gerry Cash, Noreen Egan, Josie Price, Germaine Reid, Anthony Andrews, Heather Dandison, Tony Whitehurst, Maria Krynicki, John Kieley, Richard Sexton and Michael Hood-Cree

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Joyce Harlow, Louis Dirckze, Sara Baxter, Jean Winning, Patricia Gray, Ingeborg Parry, Sean Stringer, Nora Neve, Stuart Allen, Sean Burke, Bridget Salmon, Bernard Packer, Sr Margaret McGrath and Patrick Sellars, William Hammerton; Tomasz Vroobel, HM Queen Elizabeth II, Diana Dorman, Bishop Howard Tripp, Sheila Billingsley, Peter Fowler, Sidney Palmer, Anthony McPhee, Sandra Monger, Fr Tom Herbst (OFM), Raymond Guy, Michelle Rising, Manual De Medeiros, Cecelia De Medeiros, Canon Colin Acton and Eric Pavis.

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in December: There are no anniversaries in December

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **10/11 December:** There is no second collection this weekend.
Next weekend: **17/18 December:** There is no second collection this weekend.



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 7 January 2023** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so call the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from office)

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE takes place on Monday, 19th December at 7.30pm in the church. There will be three priests available to hear Confessions.

St Anselm's School Carol Service takes place on Monday, 12th December at 7.00pm in the church.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE GROUP

Our last meeting before Christmas will be on December 8th. We plan to start up again on January 12th.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2022

For volunteer not-for-profit organisations

We pray that volunteer non-profit organisations committed to human development find people dedicated to the common good and ceaselessly seek out new paths to international cooperation.

From Fr Anthony...

This third Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday because the entrance antiphon quotes words from St Paul's letter to the people of Philippi; "*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Modestia vestra nota sit omnibus omnibus: Dominus enim prope est*". "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near." Paul wrote this letter under the circumstance of severe apostolic suffering yet is also one of the most joyous of all his letters. The priest can wear rose or pink vestments at Mass to express this joy. On this Sunday we pray that God will fill us with joy at the coming of Christ. What do we mean when we speak of joy and living a life of joy? In one of her letters, Sister Wendy Becket wrote: "If only people knew that looking at God and forgetting themselves opens out a world of joy." Another nun, Sister Mary Totah, who was a nun of the Benedictine contemplative community of St Cecilia's Abbey on the Isle of Wright, wrote a book called "The Joy of God" in which she says that, "Joy lies at the very heart of the Christian's vocation." She reminded us that we are called to "live in joy and to communicate joy, the joy of communion in the one body of Christ, the joy of believing, the joy in the midst of suffering, joy in spite of suffering. There is no virtue, no circumstance, that is not to be illuminated by joy". Our feelings of joy are not dependent on fortune, good or bad but are grounded in our belief that God is creator and redeemer of the world.

The first words of Pope Francis' letter (that he wrote in November 2013) was entitled Evangelium Gaudium. The first sentence of his letter is: "The joy of the Gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus". He reminds us that, in the Gospels, God is constantly inviting us to rejoice. "Rejoice!" is the angel's greeting to Mary. Mary's visit to Elizabeth makes John leap for joy in his mother's womb. In her song of praise, Mary proclaims: "My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour". When Jesus begins his ministry, John cries out: "For this reason, my joy has been fulfilled". Jesus himself "rejoiced in the Holy Spirit". His message brings us joy: "I have said these things to you, so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete". Our Christian joy drinks of the wellspring of his brimming heart. He promises his disciples: "You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn into joy". He then goes on to say: "But I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you". The disciples "rejoiced" at the sight of the risen Christ. Why should we not also enter into this great stream of joy?

Lord, help me to understand that joy is not something I feel but something I do. Give me the grace to choose joy. Joy is a choice you are calling me to. In calling me to yourself, you are calling us to joy, for you are my joy. This is why I can always 'rejoice in the Lord', even when I may have a thousand reasons for being sad or upset.

CONFIRMATION 2023

A reminder that the celebration of the Sacrament Confirmation by Bishop Paul Hendricks will be on Saturday 20 May at 3pm. The preparation sessions will be on Sunday afternoons at 4pm. There will be a session for parents on January 8th at 4pm in the Church Hall. The first candidate session will be on 15th January at 4pm and finishing at 5:30pm. The Preparation course will be of 10 sessions plus a retreat day. If you have not yet signed up please take a form from the back of the church and hand it in as soon as possible. Thank you.

Christmas in Our Hall Foyer

Sunday mornings will have a full display of our Christmas wares. Our shop has the goods too but the foyer will let us spread our wings. Please support your Repository this Advent & Christmas.

THIS SUNDAY 11 December: **Christmas Fair:** after both 9:30 & 11am Masses Father Christmas, Tombola, Raffle prize include hampers, music lesson, cinema tickets & £30 Morrison voucher and lots more.

Cakes donations welcome on the day and items for the 2nd hand stall. There will be stalls selling craft, candles, Art books and the church shop. Activities for the children also. Please do come and support us.

The Church Social committee are holding a **gift amnesty appeal** for donations of any unwanted Christmas gift, these will be used to help raise funds for the church at future events. Items donated can left in the labelled box in the All-Saints Chapel from the 8th to 15th January 2023. Please see our poster for more details.

Union of Catholic Mothers are supporting **Canterbury Food bank reverse advent calendar appeal** donations can be left in the All Saints Chapel from the 22nd to 29th January 2023. There will be a cake sale on the 29th (donations welcome on the day) all proceeds going to the food bank.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS BY ZOOM WITH FATHER ANTHONY:

You are invited to join Fr Anthony, online for a series of Advent reflections to be held from 7 to 8pm on Tuesday 13th December. The sign in details are:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2646167948?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2646167948?pwd=RXlPd3BtUnRMSnUvZzB3Ymx5VmR2dz09)
[pwd=RXlPd3BtUnRMSnUvZzB3Ymx5VmR2dz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2646167948?pwd=RXlPd3BtUnRMSnUvZzB3Ymx5VmR2dz09)
Meeting ID: 264 616 7948 and Passcode: 467905

ADVENT ADORATION, ROSARY AND REFLECTION: Join us in the Church on Thursday 15th December from 7.30 - 8.30pm

Silent Prayer Together

Saturday 17th December from Time: 10.00am to 11.00 in the Upper Room in the Church
A time of silent prayer followed by an optional time to chat over a hot drink.
John Renn

SVP says thank you for all your support during the year! November's collection for SVP raised £1025.01. Again, we are so grateful for this. Last month we were concerned with helping 37 beneficiaries and their families, many of whom are struggling to make ends meet. We made 37 visits and gave out £610 in food vouchers and £185 in energy top-ups. A larger item was a new bed for a toddler. We also bought second hand and tested, a heater and a fridge-freezer. Whilst not all our beneficiaries require financial or practical assistance, we seek to offer all our friendship. Thank you so much for helping us to throughout the year. The next SVP collection will be on 07/08 January 2023.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023.

Forms for the FHC Programme available in the Narthex or on the webpage. Sessions: 9.00am to 10.00am on Saturday mornings starting 25 February 2023. Completed forms, together with child's baptismal certificate must be returned to the Presbytery before 30 January 2023. The Sacrament of First Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 11th June 2023 at 9.30 & 11.00am Mass.