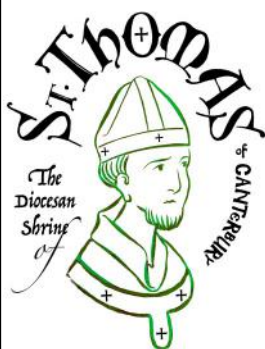



NEWSLETTER



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): 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*)

Monday 19th Dec: Feria Lk 1: 5-25

7.30am Franz Forrester - RIP (*Forrester Family*)

12 noon: Jose Francis Antao - RIP (*Liz Julian*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Parish Reconciliation Service

Tuesday 20th Dec: Feria Lk 1: 26-38

7.30am: Bridie Filmour - RIP

12 noon: Edward Den Doven - RIP (*Forrester Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 21st Dec: Feria Lk 1: 39-45

7.30 am: Sandra Monger - RIP (*Spratley Family*)

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Maria Peters - wellbeing (*Forrester Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 22nd Dec: Feria Lk 1: 46-56

7.30am: Spratley Family - welfare

12 noon: Christine, Stasia and John - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Friday 23rd Dec: Feria Lk 1: 57-66

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

7.30pm: Jose Francis Antao - RIP (*Liz Julian*)

Saturday 24th Dec: Feria Lk 1: 67-79

10:30am-11:30am Reconciliation

12 noon: Maurice Silcock - RIP

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

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

6.00pm (Vigil of Christmas): Michael Reynolds -RIP (*Mary*)

11.30pm: Carols

00.00am: Mass at Midnight: People of the Parish

Sunday, 25th Dec: Nativity of the Lord Jn 1: 1-18

8.00am: Arthur Gurubathan - RIP (*Chris Kanny*)

9.30am: Filipino Community and families

11.am: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

6.00pm: NO MASS THIS EVENING

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, Michael Hood-Cree and Frank Basquil

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, Eric Pavis, Canon Colm Acton and Sue Nolan.

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

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **17/18 December**: There is no second collection this weekend.
Next weekend: **24/25 December: PLEASE REMEMBER:** All donations made at Christmas Masses are given directly to the Priests as a Christmas Offering.



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.

DECEMBER 2022 100 CLUB WINNERS:

Congratulations to Arthur Noronha (86); Siobhan Mellor (43); Winston De Hoedt (67) and Joan Sutton (49) who win £200 each.

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...

I was baptised Joseph after my Dad; although at home I was always called Anthony to distinguish whom my mum was telling off. I have always considered Saint Joseph as my patron saint. He has a vital part to play in this Sunday' Gospel from Matthew, who narrates how Jesus came to be born. In Matthew's Annunciation story, Joseph is the primary player, not Mary. As head of the household, he receives the Annunciation. Through his betrothal to Mary, they were legally married but he had yet to bring her to his house and have intercourse with her. Discovering Mary was pregnant, his dilemma was should he shame her or quietly walk away. The angel came in a dream and told him to take her to his home as his wife because she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit. Joseph was key in providing Jesus with his legitimacy as an ancestor of David's line. He was both guardian and protector. Joseph became the legal father of Jesus. The scripture scholar, Raymond Brown says "the hero of Matthew's infancy story is Joseph, a very sensitive Jewish observer of the law, who is brought through God's revelation to accept Jesus, saving him from destruction. Henry Wansbrough, OSB, in his commentary on Joseph's relationship with Jesus, says: "What a relationship there must have been! What responsibility, too! When Jesus calls God his "Father", he is using the concept that must have been formed in his mind by his adoptive father, Joseph, the perfect ideal of the loving father. "

Two years ago, Pope Francis, in his Apostolic letter *Patris Corde* (with a father's heart), on the 150th Anniversary of the proclamation of St Joseph as patron of the Universal Church, shared some personal reflections of Joseph who he described as an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. He reflected on Joseph as a beloved father, tender and loving father, an obedient father, an accepting father, a creatively courageous father, and a working father. It is a short letter well worth reading. He ends the letter with this prayer:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS: 6pm, SATURDAY, 24th December:
All children please come dressed as Shepherds, Kings or Angels

MASS TIMES; Please note that **Monday, 26th December** and **Tuesday, 27th December** are both public holidays and therefore there will only be **ONE MASS at 10am** on each of these days.

FEAST OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY.
We will celebrate our Patronal Feast on Thursday, 29th December with Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral Crypt at 8.00pm

CHRISTMAS FAIR: Thank you to all the parishioners who supported our Christmas fair on Sunday, it was a lovely atmosphere. We made **£373.56** for the parish.
The following are prizes to be claimed from the Presbytery (please bring your ticket to help Linda identify your prize).
Guess the weight of the cake winner Laura and Owen Raffle winners to be collected: 492 Aldwyth; 479(Aldwyth); 106(pink); 700(white); 8 (white) Sandra; 44 (pink); 393(yellow); 367(blue) Brookhouse; 29(green); 423 (green); 89(pink) Campion; 456 (yellow) Francis; 743(white); 434 (green) Niahm

WANTED! HCPT GROUP 87 need a **nurse** and **helper** for the children's East-er Pilgrimage (9 - 15 April 2023). Financial assistance is available. Please see www.hcpt.org.uk to see what we do or as Annie Judge on 0866 515797.

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.

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.

The Universe Catholic Weekly

Is true to its mission of being "a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it" Keeping Catholics informed about their faith, and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

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We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

The link for this week's Universe Catholic Weekly: <https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/december-2022/UNIVERSE-09-DECEMBER-2022.pdf>

2022 - 2023 WINTER SHELTER. Catching Lives have confirmed that the Winter Shelter (which we support with a venue on Friday nights) will not be running this year. They still need volunteers to assist at the Centre (opposite Canterbury East Railway Station). If you can help please contact them on 01227 464904 or at www.catchinglives.org . If you can help with donations of food and other necessities, please do so through the Parish Office or directly to Catching Lives.

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 course is 10 sessions plus a Saturday retreat day

The preparation sessions are on Sundays from 4pm to 5.30pm starting on 15th January 2023. There will be a session for parents on January 8th at 4pm in the Church Hall. . 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.

Have your say on assisted suicide inquiry

Following the launch of a new Parliamentary inquiry into assisted dying, the Catholic Union of Great Britain is asking lay Catholics to provide their views in an online survey. The results from the survey will shape the Catholic Union's response to the call for evidence, which closes on 20 January 2023. Details, including the survey can be found here: www.catholicunion.org.uk/2022/12/catholic-union-to-make-voice-of-the-laity-heard-on-assisted-suicide-inquiry