

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

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

11.00am: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

NO EVENING MASS

Monday 26th Dec: St Stephen, the First Martyr *Mt 10: 17-22*

10.00am: Tony Ashman, William & Mary Ashman - RIP

(*Catherine Ashman*)

Tuesday 27th Dec: St John the Apostle *Jn 20: 2-8*

10.00am: Thomas & Mercy 50th Wedding Anniv (*Jolly Vinod*)

Wednesday 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

Mt 2: 13- 18

7.30 am: Mary & William Clancy - RIP

10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

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

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 29th Dec: Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury

Bishop and Martyr *Lk 22: 24-30*

7.30am: Derek Bowles - RIP (*Cherry Silcock-Stone*)

12 noon: Sandra Monger - RIP (*Garside Family*)

8.00pm: Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral Crypt

Friday 30th Dec: The Holy Family *Mt 2: 13-15, 19-23*

12 noon: Long-Castro Family - Welfare

7.30pm: Pat & John Ware - RIP (*Judge Family*)

Saturday 31st Dec: 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas

Jn 1: 1-18

10:30am-11:30am Reconciliation

12 noon: Sandra Monger - RIP (*Garside Family*)

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

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm: (Vigil) John and Winifred Saunders -RIP (*Jo Wilkins*)

11.15pm: New Year's Eve Mass

Franz-Hubert Schlarman (Sheila Schlarman)

2023

Sunday, 1st January: Mary the Mother of God *Lk 2: 16-21*

8.00am: Mary & William Clancy - RIP (*Sean Clancy*)

9.30am: Marilyn Intentions

11.00am: People of the Parish

6.00pm: Anthony Francis Manners - RIP (*Manners 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, Michael Hood-Cree, Frank Basquil and Anita Johnson

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

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, Sue Nolan and Sr Stella Clifford.

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in

January: Robert O'Shea, Michael Wise and Philomena Wickenden

Note: The Funeral of Sue Nolan will be held at 12 noon on Wednesday 4th January 2023

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **24/25 December: PLEASE REMEMBER:** All donations made at Christmas Masses are given directly to the Priests as a Christmas Offering.

Next weekend: **31 December/1 January:** No second collection



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)

SOUTHWARK DIRECTORIES. These are now available in the Shop. The costs are £4.50 (plain bound) and £5.00 (spiral bound)

GONG MEDITATION: A short gong meditation session (±30 minutes) entitled 'Gong for the Three Kings' will be held on Saturday 7th January 2023 at 12.45. We will take a retiring collection for the upkeep of the church.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2023

For educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

From Fr Anthony...

A frequent question that people ask each other at this time of the year is; "What are you doing for Christmas? Often the answer involves visiting family and friends, spending time together and having a meal. For us at St Thomas' it is being together at Mass and hearing again the proclamation of the Good News of the birth of Jesus who is the Christ and the one who is the light that banishes the darkness of our world. Our Christmas food is the Word that is proclaimed and takes root in our hearts and the bread broken and eaten which is Christ himself.

We celebrate the Mass of Nativity of the Lord in a spirit of thanksgiving and hope.

In thanksgiving we remember the blessings that we have received during the past year. In thanking God for love of our family and the love and care of our friends we pray for all those who experience great loneliness because they mourn the death of a dear loved one. We pray for those who are estranged from members of their family and pray for reconciliation and healing. We pray for those who have fled their homeland seeking refuge and safety. We ask that we grow welcoming heart to those who land on our shore.

One of my favourite passages in the Old Testament is; "When peaceful silence enveloped all and the night had run the half of her swift course, down from the heavens, from the royal throne leapt your all-powerful Word, like a stern warrior into the heart of the doomed land. (Wisdom 18:14-15). As we weary at the relentless news of violence and death in Ukraine we pray with confidence that the all-powerful Word will shatter the darkness of hatred and death that surrounds us. It seems a contradiction that a helpless new born child is the Prince of Peace. The angels announced to the shepherd that a saviour who is Christ the Lord will be born in the city of David. May the weakness of this child continue to conquer the powerful of this world with his love and healing and bring true and lasting peace.

Fr John, Fr Mark and myself are blessed to be asked to serve you as your priests. Your love and care for us is overwhelming. We would like to thank you for all the gifts and cards that you given. A special thanks goes to all of you who helped to clean the church, those who have organised the flowers and have done the sacristy work. A big thank you goes to those of you who have led the music and acted as readers, ministers of the eucharist and all our servers.

*Adeste fideles laeti triumphantes
Venite adoremus Dominum*



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 identify your prize).

Guess the weight of the cake winner Laura and Owen
Raffle winners to be collected: 106(pink); 700(white); 44(pink); 367(blue) Brookhouse; 29(green); 441(blue); 86(pink) Campion; 479 (yellow) Aldwyth; 743(white); 23(blue)

WANTED! HCPT GROUP 87 need a **nurse and helper** for the children's Easter 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 07866 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.

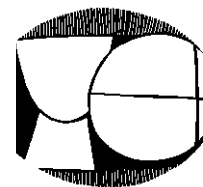
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023.

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.

POLISH COMMUNITY MASSES 2023

Polish Community Masses will be held at 4pm on the following Sundays in 2023:

22 January
26 February
26 March
23 April
28 May
25 June
23 July
27 August
24 September
22 October
26 November
17 December



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