

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: **Fr Mark Wharton** (markwharton@rcaos.org.uk)

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): Michael Hood-Cree - RIP
Sunday, 26th Feb: First Sunday of Lent (A) Mt 4: 1-11
8.00am: Barbara Brett - RIP (*Roberta Johnson*)
9.30am: Filipino Community and Families
11.00am: People of the Parish
3.00pm: Stations of the Cross
4.00pm: Polish Community Mass
4.00pm: *Confirmation Session in the Hall*
6.00pm: Cardinal Merry Del Val, Serv. of God - RIP

2nd Collection:
Clergy Support

Monday 27th Feb: Feria Mk 9: 14-29
7.30 am: Welfare of the Strein Family
12 noon: *William Fahy - RIP (George & Frances Cockayne)*
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 28th Feb: Feria Mk 9: 30-37
7.30am: Juan Miralles Aguirre - RIP
12 noon: Jose Thomas, Joseph, Sean, Santhosh & Tess
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer
7.00pm: Zoom Lenten Reflection on the Gospels

Wednesday, 01st March: St David Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18
7.30am: Angie
10.30am - 11.30am: Reconciliation
12 noon: David Vance - RIP (Claudine & Mandy)
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 2nd Mar: Feria Lk 9: 22-25
7.30am: Brendan Ugwuh - RIP (*Ijeoma Ayetigbo & Family*)
12 noon: Rosamma Sebastian - RIP
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer
7.30pm: *Lenten Reflection in the Church*

Friday 3rd Mar: Feria Mt 9: 14-15
CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY / WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
12 noon: Paul McLoughlin - birthday
Adoration to 1.30pm
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer
7.30pm: Valdes & Ona - RIP (*Monike & Matthew*)

Saturday 4th Mar: Feria Lk 5: 27-32
9.00 am: Baptism Preparation
9.00 - 10am: First Holy Communion in the Hall
10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation
12 noon: John Hennelly - RIP (*Geraldine Hennelly*)
4.30pm: *Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room*
4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm: (Vigil): Holy Souls
Sunday, 5th Mar: Second Sunday of Lent (A) Mt 4: 1-11
8.00am: Brendan Ugwuh - RIP (*Ijeoma Ayetigbo & Family*)
9.30am: Terence Crouch - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)
11.00am: People of the Parish
3.00pm: *Stations of the Cross*
4.00pm: *Confirmation Session in the Hall*
6.00pm: Kitty Quinn - RIP (*Connolly Family*)

2nd Coll.
CAFOD

PARISH MATTERS

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, 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, Heather Dandison, Tony Whitehurst, Maria Krynicki, John Kieley, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Anita Johnson, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett and Andrew Burton

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Sandra Monger, Fr Tom Herbst (OFM), Raymond Guy, MSue Nolan, Sr Stella Clifford, Mary Dittrich, Christopher Power, Anthony Andrews, Barbara Brett, Pamela Scott, Canon Michael Bunce and Michael Hood-Cree

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in March 2023:

June Carver, Nora King, Charles Barry, Olive Reardon, Terence Spratley, Mary Rear, and Ronald Godsall

FUNERAL SERVICES:

Requiem Mass for the late **Mary Dittrich** is on Monday, 6th March at 12 noon

Requiem Mass for the late **Canon Michael Bunce** is on Tuesday, 14th March at 11am. The body will be received into the church on Monday, 13th March at 4pm

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **25/26 February: Clergy Support Fund** - the clergy Support Fund of the Archdiocese of Southwark provides care for priests in their old age and retirement, and in times of ill health. A gift to this worthy fund will ensure a dignified retirement for our priests after they have dedicated a lifetime of service to Christ, His Church and His People. In 2022, the Clergy Support Fund provided care to 73 retired priest, at a cost of £1.33 million. With the number of priests over the age of 65 steadily increasing, so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese. Please be generous today with a gift to the Clergy Support Fund and continue to keep our priests in your prayers.

Donations can be made:

Online at <https://rcaos.org.uk/donate/csf>

Using the QR Code opposite:

Telephonically Mon - Fri 9am-5pm

on 02079 602504; or using the Envelopes on the pews or in the Narthex and dropped into the 2nd collection on 25/26 February



Next weekend: **04/05 March: CAFOD LENTAL APPEAL ENVELOPES** for the Family Fast Day on Friday, 3rd March can be dropped into the collection.

From Fr Anthony...

"It is in being tested that we come to know ourselves."

Like Jesus we are being led by the Spirit out into the desert of Lent, into the wilderness, so that we can come to know and appreciate our need for God. It is here that we can come to know ourselves better. We come face to face with our weaknesses, our fears, our struggles. By embarking on a journey of 40 days of the prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we orientate ourselves to God and his love for each of us and thus enable ourselves to reach out in love to others. This Lent is a wonderful opportunity to hear God, our loving Father, whispering to us his words of love and healing.

The reason we start this Lenten journey, is to prepare ourselves to celebrate who we really are. We do this in the 50 days of Easter time. We are loved by God, sons and daughters of the Father. We have been reborn in water and the Holy Spirit. We are part of his family through Baptism. Pope Francis, in his letter for Lent, says: "Lent leads to Easter: the "retreat" is not an end in itself, but a means of preparing us to experience the Lord's passion and cross with faith, hope and love, and thus to arrive at the resurrection."

Those who are to be baptised at the Easter Vigil (catechumens) are on their own special journey to new life. There are six adults preparing for baptism in our parish community. They went with many from around the diocese to the Cathedral of St George's, where Archbishop John called them to baptism. This Liturgy is called "The Rite of Election." During the Rite the catechumens were formally accepted for baptism and they signed their names in a book as a sign of their enduring commitment. The Archbishop encouraged them with these words; "God is always faithful to those he calls: now it is your duty, as it is ours, both to be faithful to him in return and to strive courageously to reach the fulness of truth, which your election opens up before you."

*Almighty and ever living God,
you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.
May this time be one of outward focus;
seeking you in those we often ignore.
Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you
and those who need what we have to give.*

May this Lent be a time of healing for us all and a time of deep reflection for those who are to be baptised at Easter.

SVP says thank you February's SVP collection raised £878.26. Again, last month, helping families and individuals to make ends meet has been a priority. We gave out £845 of food vouchers and £70 towards energy costs. Longer term needs have been met with a new cooker for one family having to start over, and a new washing machine for another. Helping with finance is balanced by visits to those with whom we regularly enjoy company and a chat. Similarly, the provision of a lift each week enables a beneficiary to attend life supporting therapy. We in turn are greatly supported in our work by your generosity and kindness. Thank you so much. The next SVP collection is 11/12 March.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY NEWS

Lent Lectures at St Peter's Anglican Church at 12 noon, followed by Lunch - £5 donation. Our theme this year is Encounter and we have the following speakers:

Tues 28 Feb. Mayor Anne Dekker
Tues 7 Mar. Rev Bernard Fidler (URC Minister)
Tues 14 Mar. Lisa Carlson Canterbury BID
Tues 21 Mar. Dean David Monteith
Tues 28 Mar. Archdeacon Will Adam

Commemoration of Lady Loretta, 11am Saturday 4th March at St Stephen's
11am – Two short Reflections followed by questions and discussion:
The Social, religious and political context of Lady Loretta's life (Revd Dr Kevin Maddy)
What can we learn from the anchoresses in the 21st Century? (Dr Peter D Toon)
12 Noon – Midday prayers and dedication of Memorial Plaque to Lady Loretta, led by Canterbury Gregorian Music Society

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: Friday 3rd March at 11am at St Stephen's Church. This year the World Day of Prayer service has been planned by the Christians of Taiwan. There will be a soup lunch afterwards, all are most welcome to attend. Please see poster in the Narthex for more information.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2023

For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT CHAPLAINCY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

REGULAR EVENTS

Sundays: 5.00pm Confessions and Mass at 5.30pm, followed by refreshments.
Tuesdays: 5.15pm, Adoration and Confessions and Mass at 6pm
7pm Cathsoc Meeting and Pizza.

SPECIAL EVENT

Salvation Basics: understanding how Jesus saves us .

A **mini-retreat** for students at Aylesford Priory where we will pray and talk together as we explore the great mysteries of our Faith.
Sat 18 March - Sun 19 March at Aylesford Priory led by Fr Mark Wharton.
Overnight accommodation and food are all free! If you would like to come, please email Fr Mark at markwharton@rcaos.org.uk

Worship meeting at St Thomas Catholic Church every **first** and **third Saturday** of the **month** from **4pm to 6pm** in the St Thomas' church hall - it's open for all.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: On the Anniversary of **St Oscar Romero's** martyrdom, Friday, 24th March, we will be having Mass at 6.30pm followed by a talk at 7.30pm.
More details on the poster in the Narthex.

Every Tuesday during Lent there will be an opportunity to prayerfully reflect on next Sunday's gospel led by Fr Anthony: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81636628648?pwd=Y0R0bm9seDBEWXk3aGJZMDg4VEpiUT09>

Thank you to all who supported our Social Committee **Cakes of the world.** The delicious array of cakes donated made £298.84p to support CAFOD Syria Turkey appeal and Help for Ukraine.



Our next event is a Lenten Lunch on the 12th of March.



Baptism Preparation:

To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 4 March 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)