

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

No 2nd Collection

6.00pm (Vigil): Betty Scott - RIP (*E M Murphy*)

Sunday 27th Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 16: 13-20

8.00am: Alan Michael - 80th birthday (*Everson Family*)

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: People of the Parish

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Doris Cassar - RIP (*Gemma*)

PLEASE NOTE: Monday, 28 August is a Bank Holiday.
Mass on this day will be at 9.00am

Monday 28th Aug: St Augustine of Hippo Mt 23: 13-22
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

9.00am: Francis King's intentions (*Mrs Noding*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 29th Aug: Passion of St John the Baptist Mk 6:17-29

12 noon: Marion Weber - RIP (*Kirwan Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 30th Aug: St Margret Clitherow, Anne Line and Margaret Ward Mt 23: 27-32

7.30am: For the welfare of Joyce Wharton

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: David Riley - RIP (*Foundation Mass*)

Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 31st Aug: St Aidan & Sts of Linisfarne Mt 24:42-51

7.30am: Holy Souls

12 noon: Gail Wharton - RIP

7.30pm: NO Prayer & Pub this evening

SEASON OF CREATION

Friday 1st September: St Edmund Arrowsmith Mt 25: 1-13

12 noon: Chloe Chan - RIP (*Chan Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Holy Souls

Saturday 2nd Sep: Feria Mt 25: 14-30

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation*

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Funeral for the late Marion Weber

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Dario Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

Sunday 3rd Sep: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 16: 21-27

8.00am: Intentions of & Blessing for Cassar Family (*Gemma*)

9.30am: People of the Parish

11.00am: Deceased members of the Cawley Family (*A Burton*)

Father John's farewell in the Hall

6.00pm: Maureen & Syd Pepper - RIP (*Denise Pepper*)

No 2nd collection

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, Angela Nichols, Tom Carr, Mary Jeffries, Noreen Egan, Germaine Reid, Heather Dandison, Maria Krynicki, John Kieley, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Heinz Vogel, Micheline Ambrosine, Jean Crane, Joyce Wharton, David Tully and Gerry Buckels.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Anthony Andrews, Barbara Brett, Pamela Scott, Canon Michael Bunce, Michael Mansbridge, Michael Hood-Cree, Ron Green, Veronica Troope, Peter Dunbar-Johnson OBE, Sr Rose Penter, Bruce Johnson, Anita Johnson, Mary Mariasy, Russell Thompson, Gabriel Mendes, William Edwards Jr, Sister Helen Reynolds, Betty Scott, Molly Kelly, Nan Weber, Gail Wharton, William Quinn and Barbara Markham

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

Kathleen Render and Diana Dorman

SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **26/27 August:** No second collection.

Next weekend: **02/03 September:** No second collection



Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 2 September 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 or online)

Southwark Justice and Peace Commission Autumn Assembly 23rd September 2023 at St Edmund Catholic Church, Beckenham. Mass 10am continuing 10.20am in the parish hall. Entitled **'The Right to Stay: Free to Choose'**. Entrance free. Lunch provided. Everyone welcome. Keynote speaker Bishop Paul McAleenan. To reserve a place email justiceandpeace@rcaos.org

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 is open for all.

100 CLUB: Congratulations to our August 2023 winners: Leisha McKechnie (19) and Michael Henniker (91)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2023

For people living on the margins

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

From Fr Anthony...

The 2nd and 3rd September will be Father John's last weekend with us before he takes up his new appointment as assistant priest in the parish of St Augustine, Tunbridge Wells. His first year as a priest wasn't easy as he arrived to us in the middle of the pandemic. At his ordination, because of the Covid restrictions, he was he was allowed only thirty guests.

I am sure that you will be expressing your own feelings of gratitude to him. I would like to thank him for the dedication and service he has shown as a priest and also his thoughtfulness and sensitivity. We will miss him.

The Church makes clear that the ordained priest shares in the one priesthood of Christ as shepherd, teacher, and sanctifier. Fr John has done all these things through his pastoral care of people, his involvement in the schools, in catechises and preaching and his careful celebration of the sacraments. But I want also to thank you, the people of our parish, for the many ways you have helped form Fr John in the first years of his priestly life. The relationship between priest and people is vital. Your loving support of him has been essential. We are all God's people working together to bring about the coming of His Kingdom. The mission entrusted to us by Jesus is something we share together. The priest is nobody without the people he serves. Working together means that the Spirit can work powerfully in the church. It is important that the priest identifies and encourages the development of the gifts of the spirit in the people he serves and it is vital that the laity affirm and encourage and guide the priests who serve them.

Last year, Pope Francis, in talking to priests, said it was important that in times when we are faced with our weakness and limitations to have courage. "The Lord is greater than your weaknesses, than your sins, entrust yourself to the Lord," the Pope said. "A double life won't help you, nor will tossing everything out the window. Look ahead and let yourself be caressed by the anointing of the Holy Spirit." "Priests, (he said), should be honest and ask themselves, "Does my fulfilment depend on my abilities, my position, the compliments I receive, my promotions, the respect of my superiors or co-workers, the comforts with which I surround myself? Or on the anointing that spreads its fragrance everywhere in my life?"

Spiritual life becomes "liberating and joyful once we are no longer concerned to save appearances and make quick fixes," said the Pope.

He ended his homily with two "simple and important words" for the priests: "Thank you."

"Thank you for your ministry, which is often carried out with great effort and little recognition."

Loving Lord and Father, who through no merit of his own, chose Fr John for communion with the eternal priesthood of your Christ, and for the ministry of your Church, grant that he may be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of your mysteries.

Fr John's farewell get together is on Sunday, 3rd September after the 11am Mass in the Hall. Please join us for refreshments.

FIRST AIDERS AT MASS: Are you a first aider? Would you be prepared to volunteer to be on-call at the Mass you attend? If you could volunteer your time and talents in this way, please give your name, contact details and Mass you attend to Linda in the office

Diocesan Day for Catechists - 30 September 2023

On behalf of the Archbishop, we invite you to attend the annual Diocesan Day for Catechists. This day is for all the catechists of the diocese, including those involved in Liturgy of the Word for Children and the RCIA process.

Where: **Amigo Hall, St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, SE1 6HR**

When: **Saturday 30 September 2023**

Starting: **10:00am**; finishing **with Mass at 4:00pm**

Please go to our website and register - aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/cat23. Last year the event was fully booked.

Please do not turn up on the day without booking first to enable us to make all necessary arrangements.

Your parish office will receive an email confirming each booking, as the parish is encouraged to pay the £10 attendance fee but you need to register individually!

***This year we are asking you to register individually by 27 September**

Education Secretary urged to "scrap the cap"

Ahead of Education Sunday on 10 September, the Catholic Union is encouraging people to sign an open letter to the Education Secretary calling for the 50 percent cap on faith-based admissions to new free schools to be lifted. The cap is preventing the Catholic Church in England from taking part in the free schools programme. The letter is available to sign at www.catholicunion.org.uk or using the QR code.



Our Sacristy... Unfortunately, one of our stalwart Sacristans has had an accident and will not be able to support the Priests for some time. As a matter of urgency, we need support for the existing team particularly for early morning and evening services. If you feel you are able to help in the Church please contact our Head Sacristan Pat Moore on 07753 958729 or speak to Fr Anthony. Thank you and God bless

We welcome Ben Scott has joined our parish as Director of Music. Music is an essential element of our liturgy. It the Servant of the Liturgy. We are blessed to have music at the 9:30am Mass, 11am Mass and the 6pm Mass on Sunday. Also there is often music at 6pm on Saturday night. Ben in his role as Director has oversight of all these different musical offerings. I felt it was important to build up the choir for our 11am Mass that will help all who sing to pray twice over. (St Augustine). Ben has been a friend to the parish for over a decade, offering his services when required. Having served the Catholic parishes of his hometown Ottery St Mary, Devon as well as Deal, Hythe and Ramsgate.

A reminder for those that want to get involved that the sign-up sheet for the 11am choir is in the narthex until the end of August. In addition, from the evening of Friday 13th October over the weekend, Ben and his ensemble 'Credo' will be leading a workshop on liturgical singing with the support of the Archdiocese, culminating in all singing the 11am Sunday mass on the 15th October. The workshop will focus on hymnody, psalmody, chant and polyphony. All are welcome, please see the poster at the back of church and in the newsletter for more details. Please pray for Ben as he begins his work.' Canon Anthony.

SEASON OF CREATION: *Let peace and justice flow like a river.*

The season of Creation starts on 1 September 2023 and finishes on 4 October 2023 - the feast of St Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Ecology. Please see the notice board in the Narthex for information during this time.