

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 710236**

Email: hersden@rcaos.org.uk



Parish Priest:

Assistant Priests:

Parish Administrator:

Parish Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm)

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: Executive Principal: Mr M Walters; Academy Principal: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)

Canon Anthony Charlton

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Giovanni Prandini

email: giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk

Fr Mark Wharton

email: markwharton@rcaos.org.uk

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')



ST THOMAS'

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Anthony Manners - RIP (*Patricia Manners*)

Sunday 26th Nov: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Mt 25: 31-46

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Tom Pilkington - RIP

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Francis Paterson - RIP (*Geraldine Yates*)

Monday 27th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 1-4

7.30am: Fr Luke Karpil - RIP (*Jomon Family*)

12 noon: James Silcock - birthday wishes

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 28th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 5 -11

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: Marie McManus (*Christopher Glover*)

7.00pm: RCIA

Wednesday 29th Nov: Sts Cuthbert Mayne & Comps Lk 21: 2-19

7.30am: M Abraham - RIP (*Jomon Family*)

10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Hannah Loughran - RIP (*Loughran Family*)

Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 30th Nov: St Andrew

Mt 4: 18-22

7.30am: Intentions of Sr Mary Ludovinia (*G & E Yates*)

12 noon: N. J Abraham - RIP (*Jomon Family*)

7.30pm: Adoration

Friday 1st December: Sts Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin & Alexander Briant Lk 21: 29-33

12 noon: Funeral of the late Janet Rogers

Adoration and Benediction after Mass until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Srs of St Clare (Largo, USA) (*G & E Yates*)

Saturday 2nd Dec: Feria

Lk 21: 34 - 36

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Aleyamma Abraham - RIP (*Jomon Family*)

3.00 - 4.00pm: *Free Music Concert in the church*

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Denis Corcoron - RIP (*Mallion Family*)

Sunday 3rd Dec: 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Mk 13: 33-37

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Welfare of Lucy-Heloise (*Sue Purbrick*)

Baptism of Lydia Maltby

11.00am: Thanksgiving for prayers answered (*G Yates*)

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

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 26th Nov: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
Mt 25: 31-46

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 3rd Dec: 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Mk 13: 33-37

10.00am: People of the Parish

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, Pat Gibson, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, 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, Micheline Ambrosine, Jean Crane, Joyce Wharton, David Tully, Pat Andrews, Gerry Buckels, Patrick Lyons and Caine Libin.

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, Barbara Markham, Sancho Vibal, Fr Kevin St Aubyn, Eva Lee, Nicholas Murphy, Cecilia Adekunle, Deirdre Mills, Janet Rogers, Judith Ross, Lewis Rising, Heinz Vogel & Sr John Baptist.

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

Cecilia De Medeiros, Susan Nolan, Barbara Brett, James Burleigh, Sr Stella Clifford and Mary Dittrich

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **25/26 November. Catholic Youth Services**

Next weekend: **02/03 December.** No second collection this weekend.

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.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 2 December 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)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2023

For persons with disabilities

We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society, and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

From Fr Anthony...

Next Sunday we begin the new liturgical year when we celebrate the Season of Advent. This year's season lasts for only 22 days. In Canterbury, on Friday 13th November, the Christmas lights were switched on. The Christmas market is in full swing. The Christmas tree for St Peter's Square in Rome has arrived. This year it is a red fir (*Picea abies*) and comes from the Paganella area of the Dolomite mountains on the Italian border with Austria. It arrived accompanied by the certification that it was harvested according to a sustainable forestry project. It also came complete with handmade wooden Christmas decorations. I have my Christmas cards and I have brought my Christmas stamps. There is a tension when the weeks before Christmas are exploited for commercial purposes and where social celebrations of the feast are anticipated in schools and places of work.

There are various ways we prepare for Christmas, writing Christmas cards, buying presents and bringing down the Christmas decorations from the loft or where ever they have been carefully stored. But in these weeks, we also need to prepare our mind and heart to celebrate the Christmas season that runs from Evening Prayer 1 of Christmas until the Sunday after the Epiphany.

We can take our lead from the next four Sunday Gospels. The first Sunday highlights the Lord's coming at the end of time. The second and third Sundays highlight the need for conversion when we hear the message of John the Baptist. The fourth Sunday, which this year is Christmas Eve, focuses on the immediate events that express the joyful hope we hear about the immediate preparations for the birth of Christ. Advent is a time of waiting, conversion and of hope.

How can we prepare as a family and a parish community? Use the daily readings of the Mass as a source of your reflection and prayer. At the back of the Church there are booklets that give the readings for each day of Advent. For the children there are Advent calendars that suggest activities and thoughts for every day leading up to Christmas. We also have a good selection of inexpensive Advent calendars in the shop and a selection of booklets with help to pray every day.

At Mass, the Gloria is not sung during the Advent season and there are no flowers decorating the sanctuary except for the Advent wreath. The priest wears violet which suggests a state of unfulfilled readiness and should no longer be regarded as an expression of penitence. It serves to set off the joyful white of Christmas with greater effect. We will be having a service of Advent music and readings on 16th December and also there will be a service of penance on Monday 18th December.

Here is a prayer for Advent:

God, our hope, make us eager to await the advent of Christ your Son, so that when he comes knocking, he may find us vigilant in prayer and exultant in your praise. We make this prayer through Jesus Christ, the Lord.

PARISH MATTERS

100 CLUB Forms for 2024 membership are available in the Narthex or the Office. Please return completed forms with payment by Fri, 8 Dec 2023 to the office.

Christmas Fair on Sunday 10th December 10:30- 1pm in the church hall. We would be grateful for donations for the raffle and our tombola. No donation is too small. All monies raised go to our church projects

SVP says thank you - The November SVP Collection raised £1299.27. Thank you so much for your generosity. In October, with your help and with grants from the National SVP Cost of Living Fund and the 1485 Trust, we were able to secure funding for large and essential items for five families and a beneficiary living alone – we bought three cookers, a fridge-freezer, a mattress, and carpeting for two sets of stairs and two bedrooms. We also gave out £720 of food vouchers. The next SVP Collection will be 16/17 December.

HCPT Christmas GRAND DRAW tickets available in the Narthex and Saints Chapel. We'd be grateful if you could take a book, or more, in the envelope provided, to sell. Please return to the presbytery or Annie Judge by 25th Dec. You can also enter the draw online : www.raffleplayer.com/HCPT. (Please select group 587). Group 587 thank you for your support.

HCPT (GROUP 587) SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 24 May - 31st May 2024. £960 (accommodation only £645). For more information contact Annie Judge (07866515717 / anniejudge@hotmail.com) or chat with Father Anthony. There are also leaflets in the Narthex.

Informal Advent Music~: To raise money for the music fund, St Thomas's is hosting performances from local professional musicians for the next four Saturdays (2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd Dec) between 3 and 4pm. It's FREE and all are welcome, even if you only stay for five minutes! Donations encouraged.

CHURCH CLEANING. On Saturday 9th and 16th December from 1.30-3.30 pm. All equipment will be supplied. **Donations of cleaning rags gratefully received.**

SUPPLEMENTARY SCHOOL FORMS: Father will be available on Mon, 27th Nov, from 7pm to 8pm to sign supplementary forms for St Thomas' school.

World Youth Sunday 2023

This Sunday (26th November) is National Youth Sunday, and the retiring collection will be for the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which is re-launching several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please see our website tinyurl.com/scys1. Please also sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork to receive regular updates. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has produced further World Youth Sunday resources at worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023.



“CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal: Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 3rd March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 3rd March 2024. £899.00 pps. See poster for details or contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

St Dunstan's 'Get together' is on Thursday 14 Dec from 3pm -5pm in the Art Room at St Anne's Convent, Westbere. Raffle and refreshments ... donations gratefully accepted. Proceeds for the upkeep of St Dunstan's church, Hersden