

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ

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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 62896**

Email: **hersden@rcaos.org.uk**



Parish Priest:

Assistant Priests:

Parish Administrator:

Canon Anthony Charlton

Fr Giovanni Prandini

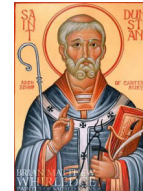
Fr Mark Wharton

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas)

email: **anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk**

email: **giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk**

email: **markwharton@rcaos.org.uk**



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)

ST THOMAS'

ALL MASSES ARE LIVESTREAMED

6.00pm (Vigil): Denis Corcoran - 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*)

4.00pm: *Confirmation Classes in Hall*

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

Monday 4th Dec: St John Damascene Mt 8: 5-11

7.30am: Sr Jacintha - RIP (*Jomon Family*)

12 noon: Barbara Brett - RIP (*Roberta Johnson*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 5th Dec: St John Almond Lk 10: 21-24

7.30am: Stephanie Farrow - welfare (*Sue Purbrick*)

12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS

7.00pm: RCIA

Wednesday 6th Dec: St Nicholas Mt 15: 29-37

7.30am: NO EARLY MORNING MASS

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Keith and Hannah - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 7th Dec: St Ambrose Mt 7: 21, 24-27

7.30am: Intentions of Srs Bridie & Betty (Coolock Convent)

12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS

7.30pm: NO Adoration

Friday 8th Dec: Immaculate Conception Lk 1: 26-38

12 noon: Olwen Dixon - RIP (Foundation Mass)

Adoration and Benediction after Mass until 1.30pm

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.30pm: Betty Scott - RIP

Saturday 9th Dec: Sts John Roberts, Polydore Plasden & Eustace White Mt 9: 35 - 10: 1,6-8

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Sean Clancy's intentions

1.30 - 3.30pm: *Church Cleaning*

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): Betty Scott - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Sunday 10th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent (B) Mk 1: 1-8

8.00am: Teresa Kelly - RIP

9.30am: Dr Anna Koeller - RIP (*Jo Gazzard*)

11.00am: 50th Birthday Thanksgiving for Augustine

4.00pm: *Confirmation Classes in Hall*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 3rd Dec: 1st Sunday of Advent (B) Mk 13: 33-37

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 10th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent (B) Mk 1: 1-8

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, 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, Caine Libin and Judith Rosser.

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, Bill Parker & 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: **02/03 December**. No second collection this weekend

Next weekend: **09/10 December**. CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal.

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.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 6 January, 2024** 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...

When I was young I bought a bike that took me on a great cycling holiday with friends around France. I became a keen cyclist and my enthusiasm extended to buying magazines about cycling. Yet reading about cycling was no substitute for the joy of getting on my bike and going for a ride. I think it is the same with prayer. I have many books on prayer on my shelves but reading about prayer is no substitute for prayer itself.

Pope Francis has proposed that, beginning this Advent, this year should be marked as a year dedicated to prayer. In preparation for the Jubilee 2025, whose theme is "Pilgrims of Hope", he invites dioceses to promote initiatives to remind people of the centrality of both individual prayer and community prayer. As we begin our new liturgical year I suggest that, here in our parish community of St Thomas, we make prayer the top priority in our life.

Sister Ruth Burrow, a Carmelite nun who died recently, wrote extensively on prayer and I find her words are an encouragement to me in maintaining a habit of prayer. She says that when we talk about prayer "we are talking and writing not merely about the deepest thing in human life but about its very essence -- more, about the mystery of God himself".

She says that we are created for intimacy with God and it is this intimacy with God that we endlessly yearn. Our search for friendship and intimacy is an important part of being human and our relationship with God is our very meaning as human beings. It is God who always makes the first move. God is love itself and is "the very fount of our existence, enfolding us, inviting us to receive him, drawing us to his heart. We don't have try and find ways of trying to attract his attention." In the final section of the catechism of the Catholic Church devoted to prayer we read : " God calls man first. Man may forget his Creator or hide far from his face; he may run after idols or accuse the deity of having abandoned him; yet the living and true God tirelessly calls each person to that mysterious encounter known as prayer. In prayer, the faithful God's initiative of love always comes first; our own first step is always a response." So there it is: God is waiting for you and me, He created us and more than anything else desires us to know His love. What encourages me is that He has given us the Holy Spirit to enable this to be a reality. St Paul says; "The Spirit too comes to help us in our weakness. For when we cannot choose words in order to pray properly, the Spirit himself express our plea in a way that could never be put into words." There is a very useful booklet that gives some suggestions of ways of prayer that you can access on the internet <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/events/previous-events/the-year-of-jubilee-2025/pilgrims-of-prayer/>

PARISH MATTERS

Second Collection: 09/10 December: CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis

Appeal: Donate through our second collection next weekend or online 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.

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

100 Club Winners of £20 for November are David Evans (No.17) and Elizabeth Murphy (No. 82)

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.

SVP looking for a Treasurer – We are looking for someone to take over as Treasurer from Nick Owen, who will be standing down at the end of March next year. If you think you may be able to help and for more information, please drop us a line at svpcant@gmail.com.

2 x 2-Seater Sofas available from Aurora - phone 07445 836642

In Partnership with Housing Justice, Caritas

Southwark is hosting an online information session on **13 December 2023, 7.30-8.30 PM** for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this other QR code to register for the event. Alternatively, you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link to you. caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk



CITY-WIDE REVIVAL MEETING in the St Thomas' Church Hall on Saturday, 9th December from 10am to 1pm - ALL WELCOME!

CALLING ALL CHILDREN: Make a Christmas Angel to display in the Church. Visit the Shop and collect a pack to make an angel. Return it to the shop before Friday 8th December so that we can display them in the church.

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.**

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.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY

Jonathan Oloyede calls us to 'Shine Your Light' by encouraging all churches across the country to share the news of Jesus (Mt 5:16 'Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.') New Life Church invite you to join them on Sat 9 Dec at 15.00 in the Buttermarket.

PART TIME WORK: We are Nancy Varghese and Ahanya Benny, Catholic students of Christ Church University, We are living here in Canterbury in St Stephen's road (CT27HU) and are looking for part time jobs (20 hours per week) as cleaners or carers, in and around Canterbury. Contact: Nancy Varghese: ph. 07741982791 or email nancysunny117@gmail.com. Ahanya Benny: ph.07747244735 or email ahanya01@gmail.com.

ST THOMAS' FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION: will be celebrated on Sunday, 9th June at the 9.30am and 11am Masses
ST THOMAS' CONFIRMATION will be celebrated on Saturday, 11th May at 6pm

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