

# 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 462896**

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



Parish Priest:

Assistant Priests:

Parish Administrator:

**Canon Anthony Charlton**

**Fr Giovanni Prandini**

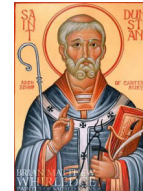
**Fr Mark Wharton**

**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): 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

**Monday 11th Dec: St Damasus I, Pope** Lk 5: 17-26

7.30am: Fr Michael Stack's intentions

12 noon: Hubert Schlarmann - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 12th Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe** Mt 18: 12-14

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: Deidre Mills - RIP

7.00pm: *RCIA*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Wednesday 13th Dec: St Lucy** Mt 11:28-30

7.30am: Welfare of Patricia Metcalfe

10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Michael Reynolds - RIP (*Mary Reynolds*)

*Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Thursday 14th Dec: St John of the Cross** Mt 11: 11-15

7.30am: Heinz Vogel - RIP (*Solitude Group*)

12 noon: Anthony Charles Ryan - RIP (*Pauline Ryan*)

7.00pm: *St Anselm's School Carol Service*

**Friday 15th Dec: Feria** Mt 11: 16-19

12 noon: Sadie Hennelly - RIP (*Geraldine Hennelly*)

*Adoration and Benediction after Mass until 1.30pm*

7.30pm: Paola Madini's intentions

**Saturday 16th Dec: Feria** Mt 17: 10-13

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Sr John Baptist - RIP

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): Joel Pinto birthday wishes (*Brett Pereira*)

7.30pm: *Accompanying our Lady in Advent*

**Sunday 17th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)** Jn 1: 6-8, 19-28

8.00am: Fr Richard Hearne - RIP (*Fran Connellan*)

9.30am: Pat and John Ware - RIP (*Annie Judge*)

11.00am: Deceased members of the Paterson Family (*G&E Yates*)

4.00pm: NO *Confirmation Classes in Hall until January 2024*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

*Second collection for the CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis*

**Sunday 17th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent (B)** Jn 1:6-8,19-28

10.00am: People of the Parish

*Second Collection for the St Vincent de Paul Society*

#### 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 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, Bill Parker, Sr John Baptist and Judith Roser.

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

Next weekend: **16/17 December. SVP** - please give generously as usual.



**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...

A voice cries, 'Prepare in the wilderness  
a way for the Lord.  
Make a straight highway for our God  
across the desert.  
Let every valley be filled in,  
every mountain and hill be laid low.  
Let every cliff become a plain,  
and the ridges a valley;  
then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed  
and all mankind shall see it;  
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.'

John the Baptist is the voice we are hearing this week. He is the voice that Isaiah says is crying out, "prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord." Where do we find the wilderness today? I don't mean those parts of our planet that are desert like, hot, lacking vegetation and very little life, uninhabited regions that are uncultivated and inhospitable. Where are the deserts or wastelands in my life? Am I wasting my time and energies on frivolous pursuits and things? Do I waste my days in busyness, distractions and entertainment? What waste clutters my mind? How much of the resources of the planet do I waste and cast aside? What else would you add to your list of "waste" – wasted time, energy and resources?

John calls for a transformation so that a way for the Lord will be created. This Advent we are called to clean up our act and straighten things up. Now is not the time to bargain or convince God to act on our behalf. God is well disposed towards us. He is more than ready to come into our hearts. What roadwork do we need to do this Advent? What valleys and empty places need filling in? What mountains, obstacles, to God in our lives, need levelling? What rough edges need smoothing? This time is a good opportunity to take a closer look at ourselves. To what extent are we complacent at the evils around us? Does our smugness set us apart from others? In these weeks running up to Christmas are we overly concerned about what we want especially during this intense time of shopping? How thankful are we for God's many acts of kindness? Am I willing to work with others to make changes in our world? These are not listed in the 10 Commandments, but it's Advent, take a look around. In your life what would you add to the list of valleys that need filling in; mountains that should be made low; and roads that need straightening? These might not make the list of "big sins," but they still call out for attention, as we prepare the way of the Lord.

## ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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

**Appeal:** Donate through our second collection or online at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](https://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.

**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.

**Retrouvaille** – Do you need help in your marriage? Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidentially for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**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](mailto:svpcant@gmail.com).

**In Partnership with Housing Justice, Caritas Southwark** is hosting an online information session on **13 Dec, 7.30-8.30 pm** for people interested in becoming a host for a refugee. Please scan this QR code to register; or you can email Caritas directly and we can forward the link: [caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:caritassouthwark@rcaos.org.uk)



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

### Accompanying our Lady in Advent.

Saturday 16th December in the church from 7.30pm-8.30pm. A time to enter more fully into Advent through prayer, music, readings and silence. All welcome.

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

**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](mailto:nancysunny117@gmail.com). Ahanya Benny: ph. 07747244735 or email [ahanya01@gmail.com](mailto:ahanya01@gmail.com).

**ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORY 2024** available for purchase in the Shop: £6 plain and £6.75 spiral bound

**PRIESTS' CHRISTMAS OFFERING** Our offerings on the Christmas weekend do not form part of our regular parish giving. They are wholly a thank you to our Priest's so please give generously in the envelopes provided this weekend and return when convenient to any collection or the office before Fri, 12 January 2024

## ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

**St Dunstan's Parish '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