

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

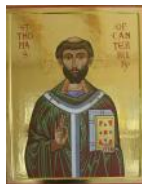
Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: [hersden@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

email: [giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk)

email: [markwharton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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): Sheila & Alan Lloyd - RIP (*Scott Family*)

**Sunday 24th Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (B)** Lk 1: 26-38

8.00am: Philip & Charles Ryan - RIP (*Pauline Ryan*)

9.30am: Becky Judge - RIP

11.00am: All Souls (*Vinod Family*)

#### Christmas Eve

6.00pm: Vigil Mass of Christmas - Michael Reynolds - RIP (*Mary*)

11h30: Carols and First Mass of Christmas - People of the Parish

**Monday 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord** Jn 1: 1-18

#### Christmas Day

8.00am: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

9.30am: Arthur Gurubatham - RIP (*Chris Kanny*)

11.00am: Teresa Kelly & Maria Sadler - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

**Tuesday 26th Dec: St Stephen** Mt 10: 17-22

10.00am: Hannah & Nicoli on their wedding (*Brett Pereira*)

**Wednesday 27th Dec: St John, Apostle & Evangelist** Jn 20:2-8

7.30am: Intentions of the McCooey Family (*Ayres Family*)

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: David Archer - RIP (*Forrester Family*)

*Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Thursday 28th Dec: Holy Innocents** Mt 2: 13-18

7.30am: Intentions of Louise Beesley and Family

12 noon: Caine Ribin - welfare and healing

**Friday 29th Dec: St Thomas of Canterbury** Lk 22: 24-30

10am: Sylvia Knappitch - RIP (*M Clohe*)

1pm: Marriage of Madeline Campion and Merwin Blanchard Moore

8.00pm: **Solemn Vespers in Canterbury Cathedral Crypt**

**Saturday 30th Dec: 6th Day within the Octave of Christmas** Lk 2: 36-40

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: John-Matthew & Annam Azechengatil - wedding anniv.

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Sue Nolan - RIP (*Dee and Sean*)

**Sunday 31st Dec: Feast of the Holy Family** Lk 2: 22-40

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Pope Benedict XVI - RIP

6.00pm: Thanksgiving (*Ndidi and Family*)

#### New Year's Eve

11.15pm: Vigil Mass for the Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God - People of the Parish

### ST DUNSTAN'S

**Sunday 24th Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (B)** Lk 1: 26-38

10.00am: People of the Parish

7.00pm: Carols and First Mass of Christmas - *Fr Peter Norris*

#### Monday 25 Dec: Christmas Day

10.00am: Mass of Christmas - *People of the Parish*

**Sunday 31st Dec: Feast of the Holy Family** Lk 2: 22-40

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, Matthew Youngand Michael Garside.

#### 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: **23/24 December**. No Second Collection this weekend.

Next weekend: **23/24 December**. No Second Collection this weekend.



**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...

Queen Victoria sent the first Christmas card and Sir Henry Cole commissioned the first commercial Christmas Card in 1843. It depicted two acts of charity, "feeding the hungry" and "clothing the naked" and a family party scene. Today among the many cards we receive there are various depictions of the Nativity scene. Some years ago an artist friend of mine designed his own Christmas card showing the Adoration of the Magi and the face of every character in the scene was a member of his parish.

This year I went to see the exhibition on St Francis held at the National Gallery. Among the exhibits was a painting by Josefa de Obidos (1630-1684). She created this when she was only 16 or 17. It shows St Francis and St Clare kneeling before Jesus in the manger. I loved the way she has lit the child Jesus. Near Clare there is a monstrance containing a host. This reminds us of her strong Eucharistic spirituality. She was a woman in love with Jesus and she knew Christ as a real person. This Christmas as we contemplate Jesus laying in the manger and when we look at our own crib at home let us reflect on the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and his presence in our lives and in those we meet.

Here is a prayer I found on the Diocese of Derry website that can be our Christmas prayer.

*Loving Lord, You came to us as a helpless child to share our vulnerabilities,  
our joys and sorrows, and to teach us your way of love.*

*As we look upon this Crib, space of tenderness, may it open  
our hearts and our homes to become Bethlehem spaces, open to  
receive the Light and Love of God and share it with others.*

*May this Crib which was a home for an anxious couple in  
search of shelter, and for a new-born child fragile and  
vulnerable, remind us to open our hearts and homes: to listen  
for the whisper of God; to listen for the voices of the anxious and the vulnerable in our  
families and communities this Christmas.*

*Gracious God, bless us with an extravagance of patience,  
insight, hope and love, as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour.  
Pour down your blessings on all our families and homes and on*

## ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

**Parish Shop** will be closed from Christmas (after 11am Mass) till Tuesday 2nd January. Thank you to Pat and all our excellent volunteers for all the efforts leading up till Christmas.

Archbishop John Wilson has recorded his annual Christmas message for the Archdiocese, calling for us all to embrace prayer and welcome Christ into our hearts. He reminds us that: "if we ask, we will be heard. If we seek, we will be found. If we knock, the Lord Jesus will open the door". So let 2024 be the year we all give prayer a go and welcome Christ into our hearts. To read or watch the message, head to [www.rcsouthwark.co.uk](http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk) or use the QR code.



Archbishop John Wilson's Christmas message can also be found on the Diocesan:

**Website:** <https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/archbishop-john-wilson-s-2023-christmas-message/>

**Facebook page:** [https://www.facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseOfSouthwark/videos/2090203991319121/)

[ArchdioceseOfSouthwark/videos/2090203991319121/](https://www.facebook.com/ArchdioceseOfSouthwark/videos/2090203991319121/)

**YouTube page:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYz9WG1Qf2A>

**Pilates Classes with Jennifer Bintley** will resume in January 2024: Mat Classes on Wednesday the 3rd Jan and Seated & Standing Classes on Tuesday Jan 9th. Newcomers welcome

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

**PARISH OFFICE:** Please note that the Parish Office will be closed from 22 December until 29th December. It will reopen on Tuesday, 2nd January 2024.



### FEAST OF THE MARTYRDOM OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Friday 29th December

**MASS: 10am**

**SUNG VESPERS: 8PM The Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral**

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

## ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

We welcome Fr Robert McCulloch who will be saying the Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at St Dunstan's.  
24 Dec 7.00pm: First Mass of Christmas with Carols  
Christmas Day: 10am Mass.