

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**



Parish Priest:

Assistant Priests:

Parish Administrator:

Canon Anthony Charlton

Fr Giovanni Prandini

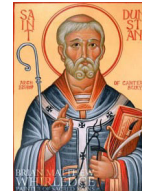
Fr Mark Wharton

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): 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

11h15: Vigil Mass for the Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God - People of the Parish

Monday 1st January 2024: Feast of Mary, Holy Mother of God New Year's Day Lk 2: 16-21

10.00am: Anthony Andrews - RIP - 1st Anniv.

Tuesday 2nd Jan: Sts Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

Jn 1: 19-28

12 noon: Intentions of Helen & Family (*Ayres Family*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Wednesday 3rd Jan: The Most Holy Name of Jesus Jn 1: 29-34

7.30am: NO EARLY MORNING MASS

(11.25am: Mass at the Convent of St Anne's will be said for Joe de Silva (*Anne Westcott*))

10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Patricia and David Durrant - welfare

Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 4th Jan: The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese

Jn 1: 35-42

7.30am: Mr and Mrs D Stafford (*Alice Page*)

12 noon: Bill Parker - RIP (*Fr Mark*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Friday 5th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time

Jn 1: 43-51

12 noon: Patricia and George Gray - RIP

7.30pm: Ann and Andrew Strain - RIP (*Jeannette Da Silva*)

Saturday 6th Jan: 6th Day within the Octave of Christmas

Mk 1: 7-11 or Lk 2:23-38

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation Session*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Richard Day and Leandro Pereira - RIP

1:00pm: T.S.Elliot's "Journey of a Magi with Gong interludes

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Thresyamma Joseph - RIP

Sunday 7th Jan: Epiphany of the Lord

Lk 2: 22-40

8.00am: Canon Michael Bunce - RIP

9.30am: Ava Lee - RIP (*Jean Pegg*)

11.00am: Bishop Colin Davis - Mill Hill - RIP

1.30pm: *Baptism of Ethan and Catherine*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 31st Dec: Feast of the Holy Family

Lk 2: 22-40

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 7th Jan: Epiphany of the Lord

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,, , Germaine Reid, Heather Dandison, Maria Krynicki, Richard Sexton, Frank Basquil, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Jean Crane, Joyce Wharton, David Tully, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha and William Humphries.

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 January 2024:

Anthony Andrews

This feast of the Holy Family Archbishop John has written a **pastoral letter** that is to be read at all Masses. Copies are available at the back of the church.

"The family, in the closer and wider senses, remains the most important building block of the Church and of society. When the family flourishes, the Church flourishes. When the family flourishes, society flourishes. Catholic faith is intrinsic to our understanding of marriage and family life, supported by our parishes and schools"



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 JANUARY 2024

For the Gift of Diversity in the Church

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit helps us recognize the gift of different charisms within the Christian community, and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the heart of the Catholic Church.

From Fr Anthony...

On this New Year's Eve, as I look back over the past year, I see it as a closed book. It is now all behind me, all the ups and down, all the moments of joy and times of sadness. I can't change what has happened. I now look forward to a New Year with all its possibilities and opportunities to start new things and for me to begin again and turn over a new leaf. It is also a time of apprehension, as I don't know what could happen or might befall me personally and I can't tell what will happen in those part of the world where there is violence, conflict and despair.

St Augustine suggests that there is a way of being. He talks about the power of the present moment: "It is in this fleeting sliver of time (the *hac hora*, the *right now* of time) that we can truly act, truly choose, and ultimately shape our own future". On New Year's Eve, as the weight of the past and the uncertainty of the future press upon us, Augustine's message holds significant meaning.

In our prayer let us now focus on the present as we acknowledge the lessons of the past and we step into the future with open eyes and open hearts. The Spirit is given to us, the Spirit is with us and gives us the wisdom carry out the work God has mapped out for us.

In this present moment, to sit with Mary the Mother of God, the woman who listened and treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. Let her help and guide you to listen, and ponder in your heart all that God wishes to show you, now, at this moment.

God of all time, help us enter the New Year quietly,
thoughtful of who we are to ourselves and to others,
mindful that our steps make an impact
and our words carry power.

May we walk gently.

May we speak only after we have listened well.

Creator of all life,

help us enter the New Year reverently,
aware that you have endowed
every creature and plant, every person and habitat
with beauty and purpose.

May we regard the world with tenderness.

May we honour rather than destroy.

Lover of all souls,

help us enter the New Year joyfully,
willing to laugh and dance and dream,
remembering our many gifts with thanks
and looking forward to blessings yet to come.

May we welcome your lavish love.

In this new year, may the grace and peace of Christ bless us now and in the days ahead.

- Vinita Hampton Wright;

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Important message from the Archdiocese of Southwark Marriage and Family Life Team.

As part of the preparation for the 2025 Jubilee year, the Southwark Marriage and Family Team will be running a **Building a Better Marriage Course throughout the Archdiocese from February 2024**. The one day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriage better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Couples who have attended previously have found it enjoyable, informative, and uplifting.

For more information contact the Marriage and Family Life team through the Archdiocese of Southwark: website.
<https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/mission/marriage-and-family-life>

January-February 2024 **My Day by Day** £1.00 (Daily Readings)

January-February 2024 **Bible Alive** £3.00 (Reflections on readings)

Catholic Herald January 2024 £5

Universe Catholic Weekly £3:50

All available in the Narthex

Fire Alarm System : The new fire alarm system for the parish hall will be installed during the week of 22nd January to 26 January inclusive. We request that no groups use the hall during this week as there will be scaffolding towers and other work detritus in and around the hall.

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



Thank you all for your kind gifts and cards which we have received from you this Christmas.

Fr Anthony, Fr Giovanni and Fr Mark

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

First Communion and First Reconciliation Programme

This begins on Saturday 20th January. Parents meet in the Church and children in the Hall

Confirmation Preparation: This resumes on Sunday 14th January at 4pm with parents of Confirmation candidates meeting in the Church and candidates in the Hall.