

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

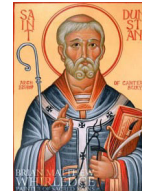
Fr Mark Wharton

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): Thresyamma Joseph - RIP

Sunday 7th Jan: Epiphany of the Lord *Mt 2: 1-12*

8.00am: Canon Michael Bunce - RIP

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

11.00am: Bishop Colin Davis - Mill Hill - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 8th Jan: The Baptism of the Lord *Mk 1: 7-11*

7.30am: Tony Pham - RIP

12 noon: Betty Scott - RIP

Tuesday 9th Jan: Feria *Mk 1: 21-28*

12 noon: Funeral of William Parker

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

Wednesday 10th Jan: Feria *Mk 1: 29-39*

7.30am: Pauline Crawford

10.30 - 11.30am: **NO** Reconciliation

12 noon: Teresa Kelly - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 11th Jan: Feria *Mk 1: 40-45*

7.30am: George Kirkpatrick - welfare (*The Aphasia Group*)

12 noon: Chris Dyckhoff, SJ - RIP

Friday 12th Jan: St Aelred of Rievaulx *Mk 2: 1-12*

12 noon: Christine, Anastasia & John Callaghan - RIP

7.30pm: Mary Stafford (*Page Family*)

Saturday 13th Jan: St Hilary *Mk 2: 13-17*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Margaret Smith - RIP (*Jeannette Da Silva*)

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

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Ignatius Dempsey - RIP

Sunday 14th Jan: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Jn 1: 35-42

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: In thanksgiving for members of SVP (*Monica Spratley*)

11.00am: Thanksgiving (People of the Parish (*Vibal Family*))

4.00pm: *Confirmation Session - parents in church;*
young people in hall

6.00pm: Una Maguire - RIP (*Connelly Family*)

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 7th Jan: Epiphany of the Lord Lk 2: 22-40

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 14th Jan: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Jn 1: 35-42

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, William Humphries and Marjory Craig.

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 Penner, 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



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

Fr Anthony, Fr Giovanni and Fr Mark

100 Club Winners of December's draw of £200 each are: Rosie Yea (61), Mark Bateson (46), Ilma Blackett (24) and Eileen Browning (13). Congratulations!

The Good Counsel Network ask all to pray and fast for an end to abortion and euthanasia on Friday, 12 January 2023, the eve of the founding of the Network.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 3 February, 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 Giovanni...

When I was a child, I always felt sorry for the Three Kings: they would make their appearance in the crib on the morning of the Epiphany just in time for the crib to be taken down on the day after—Epiphany is the last major feast of Christmastime and my mother has always been a great believer that the crib shouldn't stay up after that. The Three Kings are sort of mysterious characters in the Gospel. To begin with, they are not described as 'kings', but simply as 'wise men'. Secondly, they were not three, but an unspecified number. And, lastly, it is not clear where they were coming from or where they were returning to—the Gospel simply says 'from the East'.

Yet tradition, the popular tradition of the Church, has always felt the need to fill in the gaps. They were kings, obviously, because they could have an audience with King Herod and they were on their way to adore the King of Kings. They were three because they were bringing three gifts. In fact, we have also given them names: Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar; and we have decided they were from different ethnicities: one was white, another black and the third from the Middle East.

All this may sound childish, but it has great theological significance. First, they were kings and they were wise men. When Jesus was born, the Angel first appeared to shepherds and shepherds were the first who adored Jesus. Shepherds were poor and illiterate. The three kings, on the other hand, were rich—kings—and learned—wise men who would study and interpret the stars. Jesus came into the world not only for the salvation of the poor and the ones at the margins of society, but for the salvation of everyone, including the wealthier and the more learned. These in fact have a duty to use their gifts, material and intellectual, to know and to serve God. Second, they were three and they brought Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh. Gold is a gift fit for a king; they brought gold to honour Jesus as the King of Kings. Frankincense is associated to the worship of God; they brought it to adore him as God. And, incidentally, this is what we do when we have incense at Mass. Myrrh was the spice used for burials. This gift foreshadows the fact Jesus had to suffer and die before he could be acknowledged as God and Supreme King. Finally, the three wise men were from all the various parts of the world known at the time; this indicates that the message of Christ's salvation is opened to all no matter their ethnic background.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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

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

HCPT Christmas Draw. Many, many thanks to all parishioners, their families and friends who kindly supported the HCPT Christmas Draw tickets. Through the sale of tickets plus several donations and cash in boxes your amazing generosity raised £1450.

SVP says thank you – The December collection raised £1112.78. Thank you so much for your generosity. In the last two months of the year, we gave out £1,255 in food vouchers. These were supplemented by the Lord Mayor of Canterbury Christmas Gift Appeal which provided timely and greatly appreciated £30 vouchers which we gave to 14 families and one individual just before Christmas. We also bought a mattress, 2 children's duvets, paid for laminate flooring to be laid and bought essential clothing for two beneficiaries and thermal wear for another. We are very grateful for a grant from the 1485 Trust which helped us to purchase two washing machines, whilst the SVP Cost of Living Support Fund enabled us to buy a fridge-freezer and a cooker. Thanks to The Beerling Foundation we can now provide a family with a children's trundle bed. With your support we hope to help make 2024 a better year for some in Canterbury

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.

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.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages
For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a **Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024** or a **Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024**, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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

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.

A Knight at the Ballet This presentation by David Bintley which had to be postponed, will now be held in the Hall on Saturday, 20th January at 7.15pm.