

# NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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

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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)

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**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): 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*)

**Monday 15th Jan: Feria**

*Mk 2: 18-22*

7.30am: Roger Carless - RIP (*F.O.S.S.*)

12 noon: Annie Bennett - RIP (*Brigit*)

**Tuesday 16th Jan: Feria**

*Mk 2: 23-28*

12 noon: Jeannette Da Silva - birthday wishes

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

**Wednesday 17th Jan: St Anthony, Abbot**

*Mk 3: 1-6*

7.30am: Welfare of Leo Hopley

10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Thanksgiving - Mila Oligo

*Tea & Coffee in the hall after Mass*

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Thursday 18th Jan: Feria**

*Mk 3:7-12*

**BEGINNING OF THE OCTAVE OF PRAYE FOR CHURCH UNITY**

7.30am: Edward Den Doven - RIP (*F.O.S.S.*)

12 noon: John Gray - RIP (*Myrna Gray*)

**Friday 19th Jan: St Wulstan, Bishop**

*Mk 3: 13-19*

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

7.30pm: Matthew & Monika's intentions

**Saturday 20th Jan: St Sebastian**

*Mk 3: 20-21*

9.00am: First Holy Communion - parents in the church  
- children in the hall

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Alexi Forrester - RIP (*F.O.S.S.*)

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

**Sunday 21st Jan: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Times (B)** Mk 1: 14-20

**THE SUNDAY OF THE WORK OF GOD**

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Joseph Kunasseril - RIP

11.00am: Kidotj Rpss - RIP (*Annie Judge*)

4.00pm: Confirmation Session in hall

6.00pm: Joe de Silva

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Sunday 21st Jan: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Times (B)** Mk 1: 14-20

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, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, William Humphries, Marjory Craig, Juliet and Marie David Ambroisine

#### Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

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, Judith Roser, Mary Cawthorn and David Tully

#### Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in January 2024:

*Anthony Andrews*

#### First Communion and First Reconciliation Programme

**This** begins on Saturday 20th January. Parents meet in the Church and children in the Hall. Parents are reminded that the children need to bring their copy of the book - *I Belong* to this and every session.

#### 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](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com)) or chat with Father Anthony. There are also leaflets in the Narthex.



**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 Anthony...

In preparation for 2025, the Holy Year entitled "Pilgrims of Hope", Pope Francis has encouraged us to make this year, 2024, a Year of Prayer for each one of us.

The readings in today's Mass help me to focus on various attitudes that we need to cultivate in our own prayer life. In the first reading from the book of Samuel, the boy Samuel, living in the temple, one night hears a voice calling him by name; "Samuel, Samuel." He first thinks it's the old priest calling him but eventually he was advised by Eli to answer, "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." When he says this the voice of God gives him as a prophet for all the people.

Too often I am speaking so much in my prayer, telling God what I want, that I forget to say to God: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening." I need to say to God: "Lord what are you saying to me about the worries I have, the anxieties that I feel, the decisions that I need to make. Tell me how you want me to pray. Give me the words." This is better than saying, "Listen Lord, your servant is speaking." We need to cultivate a listening heart in prayer.

In the Gospel today, John points to Jesus who is passing by and says to his two disciples, "Behold the Lamb of God." They follow Jesus, who turns around and says to them, "What do you want?" They respond by saying, "Where do you live?" Jesus doesn't give them an address or a postcode but extends an invitation; "Come and See". He invites them to come to his house. We will never know what they talked about but we do know that as a result of their spending time with Jesus one of them, Andrew, then went next day to seek out his brother Simon and said to him, "Come and meet Jesus. He is the Messiah."

"Lord Jesus, we hear your words of invitation addressed to us personally. Grant us the grace to know you in prayer. May we experience prayer as a time when we look at you as you are looking at us. "

We ask that the Lord will give us the grace to develop the capacity for listening to God's Word in the varying circumstances of our lives. May we cultivate the habit of quiet, attentive prayer. Like Samuel and the disciples, we need to seek the dwelling-place of the Lord. Of course, we may find this quiet in our home, perhaps even on the way to work. The Church offers a unique privilege for experiencing the Word, both to challenge and to heal us, in the Eucharist, the other sacraments and prayers of the Liturgy. Here in St Thomas of Canterbury Church is engraved in the wood panelling of the sanctuary the words "*Magister adest et vocat te*". The English translation is 'The Teacher is here and calls you,' spoken by Martha to her sister Mary (Jn 11:28). The other Latin sentence on the wood panelling is "*Loquere Domine quia audit servus*" - the words spoken by Samuel in today's first reading: "Speak Lord, your servant is listening. May we in the parish this year develop the same listening attitude that characterised Samuel and the friends of Jesus.

### ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

**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.

**HCPT Barn Dance.** The HCPT Barn Dance takes place on Saturday, 24th February 2024 in the St Thomas Church Hall. Please save the date and join us for some fundraising fun.

**A Knight at the Ballet** This presentation by David Bintley which had to be postponed, will now be held in the Hall on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> January at 7.15pm. Tickets at £10 from Linda in the Office

**The Sunday of the Word of God** was instituted by Pope Francis in 2019 and is observed on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time. It is "a Sunday given over entirely to the word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people. Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." (Aperuit Illis 2)

**Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo**, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE** From 18th to 25th January the Church observes eight days of prayer for Christian Unity. The chosen theme is '**You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself**' (Lk 10:27). Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections. They experienced their work together as a real path of ecumenical conversion

**Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis.** At the back of the church are timetables for events connected with the development of our Catholic Faith within the diocese. Please take one and join us.

**HE MISSES YOU Cards.** Please take a card and share with friends and family who may not be attending Mass at this time and whom we would like to welcome back.