

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>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: herstden@rcaos.org.uk



Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton**

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini**

email: giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator: **Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')**

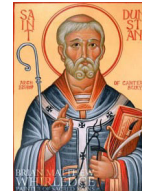
Parish Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm)

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): People of the Parish

Sunday 28th Jan: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Mk 1: 21-28

8.00am: Keith Purbrick - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

9.30am: Filipino Community & their families

Welcome to FHC Children

11.00am: Brett Pereira on his birthday

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: UCM Members & families

2nd Coll. LEPR

Monday 29th Jan: Feria

Mk 5: 1-20

7.30am: Welfare of Lynn Ray (*Nichole Orzeoh*)

12 noon: Catherine Joseph - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Tuesday 30th Jan: Feria

Mk 5: 21-43

12 noon: Mr Nield - RIP

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

Wednesday 31st Jan: St John Bosco

Mk 6: 1-6

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Susan White - RIP (*Josephine Lewis*)

6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

Thursday 1st February: Feria

Mk 6: 7-13

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: Mary Clare Roche - RIP

Friday 2nd Feb: Presentation of the Lord

Lk 2: 22-40

12 noon: Intentions of Miriam Fanciscous

Adoration and Benediction

7.30pm: Fr Patrick Moloney - RIP

Saturday 3rd Feb: St Laurence of Canterbury

Mk 6: 30-34

(*St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr*)

9.00am: *First Holy Communion children in the hall*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Tatiana Smith - RIP (*Janet Scott*)

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

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Tatiana Smith - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)

Sunday 4th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Mk 1: 29-39

8.00am: The Wright Family (*F. M Connellan*)

9.30am: UCM Members and families

11.00am: Elena Hatskevich, Julia Sudnik, Peter Sudneko &

Raimund Sudnik - RIP (*Inna Ether*)

12.30: *Baptism of Daniel Farmer*

4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 28th Jan: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Mk 1: 21-28

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 4th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B) Mk 1: 29-39

10.00am: People of the Parish

NOTICES

The Requiem Mass for the late Joseph Gunn will take place at St Dunstan's on Tuesday, 6th February at 11.30am. Committal at the Herne Bay Crematorium follows at 1.00pm

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, 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, Marie David Ambrosine and Pauline Ryan

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, David Tully, Joe Gunn, John Keily, Mary Jeffries and Germaine Reid

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

Michael Hood-Cree and Rev Canon Michael Bunce

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **27/28 January: 2nd Collection for LEPR**. An 100 year old organisation, offering a holistic approach to the treatment of Leprosy - involving multidrug therapy and physiotherapy, and providing mental health support, and social and economic advocacy. Leprosy can be cured if detected early but if left, can cause severe disabilities and blindness

Next weekend: **03/04 February: Racial Justice Sunday** - Collection to support the work of the Catholic Church to promote racial justice in our schools, parishes and in wider society



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)

From Fr Anthony...

In the Gospel this weekend we read that when Jesus arrived at Capernaum he went into the synagogue and began to teach. The synagogue was the centre of the Jewish community and a place of prayer and study. It was used for religious education and community gathering. There would be one in every town. If you visit Capernaum today you will be shown the remains of a second century synagogue that was built on the site of the one where Jesus taught that day. Interestingly, St Mark doesn't tell us what Jesus said to those gathered to hear him. We are only told that Jesus spoke with authority and his teaching made a deep impression on them unlike the scribes. A scribe was a literate person who specialised in studying the law of Moses and their job was to hand on and interpret the law of Moses to all. It seems clear that Jesus was the prophet that Moses spoke about that would succeed him. Jesus was speaking as God's voice. Jesus was the Word.

That day, as Jesus spoke, there was a man with an unclean spirit who shouted out. The powers of darkness were there to disrupt and frighten people because they knew the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Light will overpower them.

Our response in the Psalm at Mass today is; "O that today you would listen to his voice, harden not your heart." We need to have a listening heart so that Jesus is for us the Word of God and the Word of life.

As a priest who is called to be a preacher of the Word, I take to heart the words of Fr Guerrero DeBona who says that the priest needs to be, "practising daily a self-examination in the light of Scripture." The priest is called to share the authentic and living Word of God as experienced and lived in his own life.

My prayer is "Lord give me the grace to have an open heart and to serve you as a herald of the Gospel in freedom and love for the sake of others."

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

HOLY CROSS ABBEY Come and See Weekends', for those who are discerning a Cistercian vocation. The Abbey will be hosting two Come and See Weekends this year: Friday 24th to Monday 27th May; and Friday 16th to Monday 19th August. More information on the poster in the Narthex.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s): Date: 16-18 Feb 2024, Liverpool. Themed: **Discerning God's Call in your life** - organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend gives the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. Information: Sr Lynne FCJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

The Social committee are holding **Cakes of the World** on the 11 February, to celebrate the Via Francigena pilgrimage via France, Switzerland and Italy donate a cake from your favourite part of the world more details on posters in church.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS and MASS STIPENDS: A Mass stipend is "a donation given by the laity to a priest for celebrating a Mass for a particular intention." The donation of a stipend for the celebration of a Mass dates back to the eighth century and the donor decides upon the amount of stipend given as a gift to the priest. It does not form part of the income for the Parish. Here at St Thomas' we are blessed with daily Masses and five weekend Masses, which may be celebrated for various intentions. If you would like a Mass said for a specific intention, please contact Linda in the office. When a Mass intention is requested, please let Linda know the amount of the donation, when it will be paid (before or during the month of the Mass requested please) and how it will be paid (cash, cheque, contactless or online) as this will help her greatly with finance processing each month.

Father Mark Wharton - farewell: Archbishop John Wilson has appointed Father Mark Wharton as full time Catholic chaplain at The University of Kent. This is effective from 1st February. We assure him of our prayers as he assumes this pastoral responsibility. I would like to thank him for all his service and pastoral work as assistant priest since he arrived in November 2022. The diocese has rented a property near the university as a chaplaincy house. His last Mass with us will be on Sunday 11th February at 11am. Envelopes are available at the back of the church for Thank You donations.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 3rd 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.

Polish Community Masses 2024.

Monthly Sunday Masses for the Polish Community at St Thomas' church take place at **4pm** on:

28 January;
25 February;
24 March;
28 April;
26 May;
23 June;
28 July;
25 August;
22 September;
27 October;
24 November;
15 December

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2024

For the terminally ill

We pray that those with a terminal illness, and their families, receive the necessary physical and spiritual care and accompaniment.