

# NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
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Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton**

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

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini**

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

**Monday 5th Feb: St Agatha** Mk 6: 53-56  
7.30am: NO EARLY MASS  
12 noon: Funeral of the late David Tully  
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 6th Feb: Sts Paul Miki & Comp.** Mk 7: 1-13  
7.30am: Ian Woods - RIP  
12 noon: NO MASS TODAY  
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer  
7.00pm: RCIA

**Wednesday 7th Feb: Feria** Mk 7: 14-23  
7.30am: NO EARLY MASS  
10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation  
12 noon: Angela Newton - welfare  
6.00pm: Live streamed Evening Prayer

**Thursday 8th Feb: St Josephine Bakhita** Mk 7: 24-30  
7.30am: NO EARLY MASS  
12 noon: Betty Scott - RIP

**Friday 9th Feb: Feria** Mk 7: 31-37  
12 noon: Anthony Blackwell - RIP (*Sheila Schlarmann*)  
*Adoration and Benediction*  
7.30pm: Jonathan Cotton, OSB - RIP

**Saturday 10th Feb: St Scholastica** Mk 8: 1-10  
10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation  
12 noon: Teresa Kelly - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)  
4.30pm: *Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room*  
4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Tatiana Smith - RIP (*Janet Scott*)  
**Sunday 11th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B)** Mk 1: 40-45  
8.00am: J P Acquaintances (*F M Connellan*)  
9.30am: Norah Whiting - RIP (*John Whiting*)  
11.00am: People of the Parish  
4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall*  
6.00pm: Maureen & Sid Pepper - RIP

**NOTE: Wednesday, 14 February is ASH WEDNESDAY.**  
Masses at 9.30am, 12 noon and 8.00pm

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 4th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B)** Mk 1: 29-39  
10.00am: People of the Parish

**Sunday 11th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times (B)** Mk 1: 40-45  
10.00am: People of the Parish

#### NOTICES

**Tuesday, 6th February**

11.30am: *Funeral of the Late Joseph Gunn. Cremation at Herne Bay Crematorium at 1pm*

#### 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 Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine 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, Germaine Reid and Patricia Gibson

**Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in February 2024:**  
*Michael Hood-Cree and Rev Canon Michael Bunce*

#### ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This 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  
Next weekend: **10/11 February: SVP** - please give generously as usual.



**St Thomas' Baptism Preparation:** To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 2 March 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 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.

## From Fr Anthony...

Eight years ago, when the actor Leonardo DiCaprio met Pope Francis, they exchanged gifts. The actor and art lover gave the Pope a book about the Dutch painter Hieronymous Bloch and the Pope gave Leonardo red leather-bound copies of his Apostolic letters "Laudato Si" and "The Joy of the Gospel." I wonder whether DiCaprio read either of these Letters? I thought of this exchange of gifts when reading the scriptures for this weekend, especially the Joy of the Gospel.

The reading from Job does not exude much joy. Job's perception of life is bleak but honest. He sees life as pressed service and hired drudgery. He talks about nights of grief when we can't sleep, waiting for the dawn and then counting the hours before it is time to go to bed: "My life is but a breath and I will not see joy again."

We can contrast this with the Gospel where Jesus is in Capernaum and, having preached in the synagogue, goes to the home of Simon and Andrew. There he heals Simon's mother in law of fever. That evening, after sunset, everyone came to Jesus, the sick and those possessed by devils. The whole town came crowding round the door. Jesus cured many who were suffering and cast out demons. In all their sorrow and suffering, Jesus brought joy into the lives of the people of Capernaum. Jesus goes to a lonely place before dawn and prays. When the disciples come looking for him he tells them they must now leave Capernaum and go to the neighbouring towns too. He states clearly this is what came to do; 'Let us go elsewhere, to the neighbouring country towns, so that I can preach there too, because that is why I came.' This is the joy that Jesus brought as he travelled through Galilee. He is the good news and the joy that can transform our lives and bring us wholeness. I love the words of Pope Francis in his letter that he gave to Leonardo DiCaprio; *"An evangeliser (you and I) must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral! Let us recover and deepen our enthusiasm, that "delightful and comforting joy of evangelising, even when it is in tears that we must sow... And may the world of our time, which is searching, sometimes with anguish, sometimes with hope, be enabled to receive the good news not from evangelisers who are dejected, discouraged, impatient or anxious, but from ministers of the Gospel whose lives glow with fervour, who have first received the joy of Christ."*

## 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). 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](mailto:fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

The Social committee are holding **Cakes of the World** on the 11 February - More details on posters in church.

### Marriage Week 7 – 14 February 2024

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/marriage-week-2024/>

The SycamOre Growing In Faith Together (GIFT) course is a **free ONLINE** course, for **married and engaged couples**, over six Tuesday evenings, 8-9pm on **13 Feb; 20 Feb, 27 Feb, 5 Mar, 12 Mar, 19 Mar 2024**. To register: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/together>

**'Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ' Weekend** If you are mourning after the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. **Aylesford Priory, 22-24 March 2024** Please tel: 01622 717272 or email: [reception@thefriars.org.uk](mailto:reception@thefriars.org.uk)

### Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages.

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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### Beginning Experience Weekend

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. This next programme will be held on **12-14 April**; contact: Mary: 0208 647 4760, or Maura: 07795 498445, email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com)


**SVP says thankyou** – The January Collection raised over £725. Thank you so much for this support. During January we gave out £440 in food vouchers. We bought a washing machine and carpets for a lounge. One family was able to furnish a living room with funding to purchase good quality second hand furniture. Alongside financial support we are pleased to be able to offer a listening ear on the phone or as we meet regularly with a few individuals. The next SVP collection is 10/11 Feb.

**Father Mark Wharton - farewell:** Archbishop John Wilson has appointed Father Mark Wharton as full time Catholic chaplain at The University of Kent. 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.

**Father Mark Farewell lunch** All parishioners are invited to a farewell lunch for Father Mark in the Hall on Sunday 11 February after the 11am Mass.

### Invitation to a discussion about 'journeying together'

The word 'synod' comes from the Greek for 'journeying together'.

This is an invitation to an informal discussion about journeying together as a parish community. Everyone is welcome (please let us know if you have particular access needs). The discussion will be **Sunday 18/2/24 from 10.30 to 11.30** in **St Thomas' Church Hall**. More information at: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/synod> or the QR code:  [Sophia and John-Paul \(SynodStThomas@gmail.com\)](mailto:SophiaandJohnPaul(SynodStThomas@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

### 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.

**HCPT Barn Dance.** The HCPT Barn Dance takes place on Saturday, 24th Feb 2024 at 7pm in the St Thomas Church Hall. Please bring your own food and drinks. Tea and coffee provided. Admission: £10 (U14 £5). Dancing to Rejiggered Ceilidh Band and a raffle. Tickets reserved in advance: Annie 07866515797 or email: [anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com)

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)