

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>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: hersden@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): Shyno Mathew - Intentions

Sunday 18th Feb: 1st Sunday of Lent (B) Mk 1: 12 -15

8.00am: Sheila Turner - RIP (*David Lewis*)

9.30am: John Keiley - RIP (HCPT Group 587)

11.00am: Franz Alexander Forrester - RIP (*Forrester Family*)

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: Clergy Support

Monday 19th Feb: Feria

Mt 25: 31-46

12 noon: Souls of the Faithful Departed

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 20th Feb: Feria

Mt 6: 7-15

12 noon: Miriam Burton - birthday wishes

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

Wednesday 21st Feb: Feria

Lk 11: 29-32

10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Requiem Mass for Patricia Gibson

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday 22nd Feb: The Chair of St Peter, Apostle Mt 16: 13-19

7.30am: Mary Kathleen Griffiths - RIP (*Anne*)

12 noon: Sadie Hennelly - RIP (*Geraldine Hennelly*)

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Friday 23rd Feb: Feria

Mt 5: 20-26

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

12 noon: Cyril Handy - RIP (*Frances & George Cocklayne*)

Adoration and Benediction

6.30pm: *Stations of the Cross*

Saturday 24th Feb: Feria

Mt 5: 43-48

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Hugh & Mary Connelly - 50th wedding anniversary

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Ray Scott - RIP

7.30pm: *Via Crucis Concert*

7.00pm: *HCPT Barn Dance in the Hall*

Sunday 25th Feb: 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)

Mk 9: 2 -10

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Germaine Reid - RIP (*Reid Family*)

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Dovie Seneres - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)

2nd Col. CAFOD

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 18th Feb: 1st Sunday of Lent (B) Mk 1: 12 -15

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 25th Feb: 2nd Sunday of Lent (B) Mk 9: 2 -10

10.00am: People of the Parish

Friday's during Lent: Stations of the Cross at 3pm

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 Ambrosine, Pauline Ryan, Tita Riley, Daphne Ellis and Mary De Wolf

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Molly Kelly, William Edwards Jr, Nan Weber, William Quinn, Barbara Markham, Sancho Vibal, 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, Patricia Gibson and Vince Dalton

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: **17/18 February: Sick & Retired Priests (Clergy Support Fund)** - this collection enables the Archdiocese to care for clergy in their retirement, old age, and at their time of ill-health.

Next weekend: **24/25 February: CAFOD Lenten Appeal** please return your envelopes this weekend.



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...

On Saturday of this weekend, those who are to be baptised this Easter and those who are to be received into full communion of the Catholic Church and who live in the Archdiocese of Southwark (South London and Kent), gathered in St George's Cathedral. Archbishop John Wilson called them to the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion). This is known as the Rite of Election. The liturgical rite is no mere formality. It is a decisive step for them. God has called them, in love, to the fullness of life through the Church and they reaffirm their faith committing themselves to the final stages of their initiation. The next six weeks of Lent, for those who are preparing for Baptism, are known as the period of Purification and Enlightenment. Let us take these two words and try understand their meaning for us. Lent is often seen as a spiritual retreat. Pope Francis says in his Lenten letter, "Lent is a season of conversion, a time of freedom. Jesus himself, as we recall each year on the first Sunday of Lent, was driven into the desert by the Spirit in order to be tempted in freedom. For forty days, he will stand before us and with us: the Incarnate Son. Unlike Pharaoh, God does not want subjects, but sons and daughters. The desert is the place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery. In Lent, we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken."

This is a time for interior reflection. The purification of this Lenten season means we are encouraged to search our conscience which will lead us to repentance. As Jesus left the wilderness after being tested his message was, "The time has come and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As the ashes marked your forehead last Wednesday you might have heard the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." During this season we are encouraged to express repentance in works of penance which can take some form of self-denial. We open our hearts to change. Enlightenment is to be seen as the positive side of Purification. During these weeks of Lent we are brought to a deeper understanding of God himself, especially as revealed in Jesus, who is the culmination of the vast history of salvation in which God is seen as approaching the human race, offering us his love and seeking from us a response of faith in him and love for him. With those who are to be baptised and received into the Church we are all making a journey of faith. We journey together especially in the last weeks of the life of Jesus who suffered, died and rose again for us so that we can all share in the new life of the resurrection.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Clergy Support Fund Second Collection 17/18 February 2024

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones.

Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have done for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible. Find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code. You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri **020 7960 2504** or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available at the back of Church. Please keep our Priests in your prayers.



Eucharistic Ministers

If you are a Eucharistic Minister and can assist with taking Communion to our housebound and sick parishioners, please let Fr Anthony or Fr Giovanni know.

HCPT (GROUP 587) SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

25 May - 1st June 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.

St Thomas' Shop - An excellent Lenten Booklets and other Lent/Easter items are now in stock. Pop into the shop and browse!

GRIEF in LOSS and HOPE in CHRIST retreat

Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th March 2024, Aylesford Priory. Led by Ged Walsh O. Carm, Barbara Salamonzky & Liz Taylor. For anyone who has experienced a bereavement, whether recently or some time ago. Cost: £230 single £210 shared. To book please contact retreat@thefriars.org.uk or Tel: 01622 717272

Save the date 16th March 2024 9.45am – 4.00pm Building a Better Marriage

A free event at St John's RC Primary School, Rochester Road, Gravesend, DA12 2JW, 9.45am to 4pm. **Booking essential** - Teresa on gravesend@rcaos.org.uk or tel: 01474 352 415. Refreshments provided but please bring a packed lunch.

PASSING ON THE FAITH

Four online sessions for **parents** starting Wednesday 28th February, 8pm – 9:30pm. And for **grandparents**, four online sessions starting Thursday 18th April, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on mfise@rcaos.org.uk

RIGHT to LIFE

Please support an amendment to reduce our abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in our abortion law. Collect a postcard from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a **Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection** on Saturday 24 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA15 7HB; including teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

HCPT Barn Dance: 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 Rejigged Ceilidh Band and a raffle. Tickets reserved in advance: Annie 07866515797 or email: anniejudge@hotmail.com

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage July 13th 2024 at St George's Cathedral If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th+ wedding anniversary this year, please email us at mfikent@rcaos.org.uk as soon as possible, and no later than **May 31st 2024**.

BIBLE STUDY COURSE: Beginning this coming Thursday, 22 February at 6.30pm in the Upper Room of the Church. Led by Aaron Britton.

International World Day of Prayer is on Friday 1st March 2024 at 11am at Canterbury Baptist Church, St George's Place, Canterbury CT1 1UT. A light lunch will be served in the church hall after the service. This year, the service has been prepared by Christians of Palestine during the time of the Covid Pandemic, and the service has the theme from St Paul's letter to the Ephesians 4:1-6 'I beg you, bear with one another in love'.

VIA CRUCIS CONCERT - The Credo Ensemble are performing in the Church on Saturday, 24th February from 7.30 to 8.30pm fundraising event for the music fund.

Cakes of the world: thanks to all who supported our event. We raised £133.69 for our parish.

Save the date: Lent Lunch 17th March