

# 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): Ray Scott - RIP  
7.30pm: *Via Crucis Concert* 2nd Col. CAFOD  
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 (*Low-Hang Family*)  
12.15 *Baptism of Navy-James and Vienna Lou Ring*  
4.00pm: Polish Community Mass  
4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall*  
6.00pm: Dovie Seneres - RIP (*Ignacio Family*)

**Monday 26th Feb: Feria** Lk 6: 36-38  
7.30am: Tita Riley - welfare (*Richard & Elaine Carracio*)  
12 noon: Crd. Merry del Val, Serv. of God - RIP  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer

**Tuesday 27th Feb: Feria** Mt 23: 1-12  
12 noon: Peggy Willmore - RIP (*Sue Purbrick*)  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer  
7.00pm: RCIA

**Wednesday 28th Feb: Feria** Mt 20: 17-28  
10:30 -11:30am: Reconciliation  
12 noon: Germaine Reid - RIP (*Low-Hang Family*)  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer

**Thursday 29th Feb: Feria** Mt 16: 13-19  
7.30am: Juan Miralles - RIP 1st Anniv. (*Wilkin-Miralles Family*)  
12 noon: In Thanksgiving  
*Scripture Group meets after Mass in the Upper Room*  
6.00pm: Evening Prayer

**Friday 1st March: St David** Mt 21: 33-43, 46  
**INTERNATIONAL WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
12 noon: Mary McCarnick Walsh (*Sally*)  
*Adoration and Benediction*  
6.30pm: *Stations of the Cross*

**Saturday 2nd Mar: Feria** Lk 15: 1-3, 11-32  
9.00am: *Baptism Preparation*  
9.00am: *First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall*  
10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation  
12 noon: Werner Strien - RIP (*Strien Family*)  
3.00pm *Free Music Performance*  
4.30pm *Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room*  
4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish  
**Sunday 3rd Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent (B)** Jn 2: 13-25  
8.00am: Chris Ungos - RIP (*Inabore Family*)  
9.30am: UCM Members and Families  
11.00am: Paul McLoughlan - birthday  
12.15 *Baptism of Lebron Clark*  
4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall*  
6.00pm: Richard Clark - RIP (*Martina*)

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 25th Feb: 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)** Mk 9: 2 -10  
10.00am: People of the Parish

**Sunday 3rd Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent (B)** Jn 2: 13-25  
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 Ambroisine, Pauline Ryan, Tita Riley, Daphne Ellis, Mary De Wolf, Ron Cameron and Brian Collins

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

Next weekend: **02/03 March:** There is no second collection 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...

How good a listener are you? What makes for a good listener?

Listening doesn't always come naturally. We have to really be present to the other person and not only hear and understand what they are saying but also notice all the non-verbal communication mediated through their posture.

Today in the Gospel, when Peter, James and John were on the mountain with Jesus, they experienced him being changed or transfigured and talking with Moses and Elijah. Then a cloud came covering them in shadow and the voice from the cloud spoke, "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." An essential aspect of prayer is listening. The voice of the Father that spoke to the apostles is speaking to us today: "Listen to my Son, Jesus."

We are now in the second week of Lent. Prayer is one of the three activities that we are encouraged to do in Lent. As you know Pope Francis has asked that this year, 2024, be a year of prayer. On Ash Wednesday he said, quoting Saint Anselm of Aosta, "Escape from your everyday business for a short while, hide for a moment from your restless thoughts. Break off from your cares and troubles and be less concerned about your tasks and labours. Make a little time for God and rest a while in him. Enter into your mind's inner chamber. Shut out everything but God and whatever helps you to seek him; and when you have shut the door, look for him. Speak now to God and say with your whole heart, 'I seek your face; your face, O Lord, I desire' (*Proslogion*, 1). This requires that we create silence so that we can listen in prayer to the voice of the Lord. He is calling us to return to our heart. He is saying to us, "Come and rest awhile and make friends with your own inner reality."

This Lent he is calling us to get away from the tumult of activity, to recollect and gather our thoughts. All of us need to recognise the value of silence and to take steps to provide ourselves with more opportunities to be quiet and still. We could fast from social media, not have the radio on all the time, and instead of reaching for the newspaper or a magazine, sit quietly in silence for five or ten minutes. Silence is a source of empowerment; without it we are lost.

Here is a prayer written by Michael Casey OCSO:

*"Lord Jesus of Christ, Word spoken from the infinite silence of God, inflame our hearts with a desire to go deeper into the reality that you reveal. Give us the ability to sit in silence to await salvation from God, to be still and learn that God is God. For you are our Lord forever and ever. Amen"*

## ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

**Save the date: ST Thomas' parish Lent Lunch 17th March**

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

### GRIEF in LOSS and HOPE in CHRIST retreat

Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th March 2024, Aylesford Priory. Led by Ged Walsh O. Carm, Barbara Salamonczyk & 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

**PILGRIMAGES 2024:** information on A Day With Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at [www adaywithmary.org](http://www adaywithmary.org) or email [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com) and on the poster in the Narthex.

### 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.

**International World Day of Prayer** is on this coming 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'.

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

**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](mailto:mfikent@rcaos.org.uk) as soon as possible, and no later than **May 31st 2024**.

**BIBLE STUDY COURSE:** Continues, Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Upper Room of the Church. Led by Aaron Britton.

Good Friday: 29 March: **Wintershall The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square** There are performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. No tickets are required, the 90-minute performances are completely free of charge. Please arrive 40 minutes before your chosen performance. See [wintershall.org.uk](http://wintershall.org.uk) for further details.

Our Director of Music, Ben is asking for all those who don't regularly play an instrument and/or sing in our music ensembles to email him if they would like to participate in the music for this year's Triduum. It will be a whole parish effort. The address is [canterburymusic@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterburymusic@rcaos.org.uk) and he will send you the details so you can decide if it's for you.