

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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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 & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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 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*)

Monday 4th Mar: Feria Lk 4: 24-30

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

1.30pm: *Funeral of the Late Andrew Dalton*

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 5th Mar: Feria Mt 18: 21-35

12 noon: Luisa Pocarreta, Serv. of God - RIP

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

7.30pm: *Tuesday Prayer group meeting in the Upper Room*

Wednesday 6th Mar: Feria Mt 5: 17-19

7.30am: Stuart Riess Birthday wishes (*Forrester Family*)

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Maple Rose Da Silva - thanksgiving for safe delivery

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday 7th Mar: Feria Lk 11: 14-23

7.30am: Marie & Colin McWaters - 40th wedding anniv. (*Angela*)

12 noon: John - RIP and David - welfare (*Jenny*)

Scripture Group meets after Mass in the Upper Room

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

6.30pm: *Bible Study in the Upper Room*

Friday 8th Mar: Feria Mk 12: 28-34

12 noon: Betty Scott - RIP

Adoration and Benediction

6.30pm: *Stations of the Cross & Exposition for peace in the Holy Land*

Saturday 9th Mar: Feria Lk 18: 9-14

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Tom Nichols - RIP (*Angela Nichols*)

3.00pm *Free Music Performance*

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Mari Bronwen Strinati - RIP (Frances & George)

Sunday 10th Mar: 4th Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 3: 14-21

LAETARE SUNDAY

8.00am: Teresa Kelly - RIP (*Bernadette Lyons*)

9.30am: William Edwards - RIP (*Edwards Family*)

11.00am: Paul Cotton - RIP (*Kevin & Carol*)

4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 3rd Mar: 3rd Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 2: 13-25

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 10th Mar: 4th Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 3: 14-21

LAETARE SUNDAY

10.00am: People of the Parish

PREPARATION FOR EASTER

The Book of Reflections, for your loved ones details, is on the table at the back of the church together with a plate for donations for Easter flowers.

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

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Luisa Ward, Janette Hughes, 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, 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, Vince Dalton, Sean Tanzey and Christine Metcalfe

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

There are no March 2024 anniversaries

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **02/03 March:** There is no second collection this weekend

Next weekend: **09/10 March:** Easter Flowers for the church



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 6 April 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 MARCH 2024

For the new martyrs

We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm..

From Fr Anthony...

Last week, an advocate of assisted dying said, "I don't want to suffer when I die". Her words came to mind when I was at the bedside of a parishioner celebrating the sacrament of the anointing of the sick. I prayed, "Since you have given him a share in your own passion help him to find hope in suffering, for you are Lord for ever and ever."

The sacrament of the anointing of the sick is a wonderful gift given to us by Jesus. St James in his letter wrote, "Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven."

Pope Francis says, that when the priest comes, "It is Jesus himself comes to relieve the sick person, to give him strength, to give him hope, and also to forgive his sins. And this is very beautiful." As with all sacraments, the anointing of the sick is a meeting or encounter with Jesus. He takes us by the hand and reminds us that we belong to him and that nothing - not even evil or death can separate us from him.

We, as a church, need to have the same preferential love for the sick and suffering that Jesus had. Those who were sick and suffering were brought to Jesus and he healed many of them. As a church we are called, in the name of Jesus, to give relief and grace through this sacrament. "The solidarity of praying and caring for the most vulnerable at this fragile time of their lives is a profoundly Christian act which imitates Our Lady's prayer at the cross and Christ's service to the weakest." (*Bishop John Sherrington*)

A good friend of mind is awaiting the results of biopsy. He knows the results might be serious but he said, "I am not anxious. I have had a good life." What a blessing to be able to face death in this way. As a parish community we are called to give our love and support to those who are sick and dying. We can do this in several ways. We hold them in our prayers, especially remembering them at the prayers of the faithful at Mass. It is important that those who are unable to join us on Sunday for Mass are able to regularly receive communion. This is why Eucharistic Ministers taking communion to the sick is important. I also would like to recommend a website www.artofdyingwell.org

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Friday, 8th March 2024: Make this day a special focus of prayer for peace in the Holy Land. Adoration after midday Mass and Adoration after the Stations of the Cross at 6.30pm

HCPT Quiz Night: Please save the date Saturday, 20th April 2024

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 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 - for **grandparents**, four online sessions starting Thursday 18th April, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on mfse@rcaos.org.uk

Solitude Group: The Solitude Group continues to meet on the third Sunday of the month - for more details, please see under Prayer Groups on the website or contact Linda in the office

BIBLE STUDY COURSE: Continues, Thursdays at 6.30pm in the Upper Room

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER IN THE LAKE DISTRICT? Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. Involving working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally on outreach visits in the area, the post is residential, with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience. Interested? More info at jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

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.

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH ACTIVITIES

The Southward Catholic Youth Service has re-launched several activities in 2024 for those aged 10 to 35. For more details about what is on offer and to receive regular updates, please sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or scan the QR.



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.

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 mfkent@rcaos.org.uk as soon as possible, and no later than May 31st 2024.

St Thomas' parish Lent Lunch 17th March 10:30-1pm All welcome to bring and share. Please see poster for more details.

Good Friday: 29 March: **Wintershall The Passion of Jesus in Trafalgar Square** Performances at 12 noon and 3:15 pm. No tickets required, 90-min performances are free - arrive 40 mins before start. See wintershall.org.uk for further details.

MENTAL HEALTH WELLBEING SEMINAR: 9 March, 10:30am - 12 noon in St Thomas' Church Hall - See posters for more 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 at canterburymusic@rcaos.org.uk.

Union of Catholic Mothers are supporting **Canterbury Food appeal** donations can be left in the All Saints Chapel from the 3rd to 10th March There will be a cake sale on the 3rd (donations of cake welcome on the day) at 10:30 in the church hall. All proceeds going to the food bank.

HCPT BARN DANCE: We have a great turnout, lots of fun and made £471.00 - thank you for your support.