

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
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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): 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 2nd Col.: Church Flowers

Monday 11th Mar: Feria Jn4: 43-54
12 noon: Ricci Steel - RIP (*Phyllis Steel*)
6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 12th Mar: Feria Jn 5: 1-16
12 noon: Francis Chrystal - RIP
6.00pm: Evening Prayer
7.00pm: RCIA
7.30pm: *Tuesday Prayer group meeting in the Upper Room*

Wednesday 13th Mar: Feria Jn 5: 17-30
10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation
12 noon: Mariya George & Mathew Philip - RIP (*Shyno Mathew*)
6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday 14th Mar: Feria Jn 5: 31-47
7.30am: Franz Alexander Forrester - RIP (*Elizabeth Forrester*)
12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS TODAY
Scripture Group meets after Mass in the Upper Room
6.00pm: Evening Prayer
6.30pm: *Bible Study in the Upper Room*

Friday 15th Mar: Feria Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30
12 noon: Dias Wijesekera - birthday wishes (*Family*)
Adoration and Benediction
6.30pm: *Stations of the Cross*
7.30pm: *Choir Practice for Triduum*

Saturday 16th Mar: Feria Jn 7: 40-52
9.00am: *First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall and Parents' meeting in the Church*
10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation
12 noon: Marie-David Ambroisine - welfare (*Ambroisine Family*)
3.00pm *Free Music Performance*
4.30pm: *Legion of Mary meeting in Upper Room*
4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation
7.30pm: *Stations of the Cross - improvised recital in the church with Paul Claudel's 'Le Chemin de la Crois' poem*

6.00pm (Vigil): John Keily - RIP (*Jenny Todd*)
Sunday 17th Mar: 5th Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 12: 20-30
8.00am: Teresa Kelly & Maria Sadler - RIP (*Bernadette Kelly*)
9.30am: Vibal Family
11.00am: Eileen Cronin - RIP (*Maria Thomas*)
4.00pm: *Confirmation in the Hall* 2nd Col. Poor Parishes

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 10th Mar: 4th Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 3: 14-21
LAETARE SUNDAY
10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 17th Mar: 5th Sunday of Lent (B) Jn 12: 20-30
10.00am: Martina Morrissey

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, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, William Humphries, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine, Pauline Ryan, Tita Riley, Mary De Wolf, Ron Cameron, Brian Collins and Sheila Elliott

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' 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)

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

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...

In my life as a priest I have the privilege and joy of getting to know many older members of the parish. Now in my 74 year, I am an older person myself. There are great benefits in getting old. You have a great breath of experience, you have grown in wisdom and understanding. The downside is that you have to deal with the loss of strength and agility and having to face decline. You can experience a feeling of isolation, the realisation to many people we are invisible. Over many speeches, Pope Francis urged people not to “hide the frailty of old age” out of a fear of a loss of dignity. Frailty, he argued, “is a teaching for all of us” and could bring about an “indispensable” reform in society because “the marginalisation of the elderly — both conceptual and practical — corrupts all seasons of life, not just that of old age.” Saint Pope John Paul II wrote in his letter to the elderly, “old age is not without its own benefits”. As Saint Jerome observes, with the quieting of the passions, it “increases wisdom and brings more mature counsels”. In a certain sense, it is the reason for that wisdom which generally comes from experience, since “time is a great teacher”. The prayer of the Psalmist is well known: “Teach us to number our days aright that we may gain wisdom of heart” (Ps 90:12).”

The reason I decided to write this today was that I received a prayer, written by a parishioner, who is caring for an elderly parent. They wrote “I wrote it for my mother who got great comfort from it. I am aware I am no theologian but thought you might like it in which case please borrow it for anything you deem suitable”. Here it is:

PRAYER FOR THE AGED

1. Good Lord, I am old
My Time is near
Through you, I can go on

2. Good Lord, I am weak
Teach me to be strong
Through You, I can go on

3. Good Lord, I am sad
Teach me your joy
Through You, I can go on

4. Good Lord, I am frightened
Teach me to be brave
Through You, I can go on

5. Good Lord, I have sinned
Teach me your mercy
Through You, I can go on

6. Good Lord, I want to die
Teach me serenity
Through You, I can go on

7. Good Lord, I doubt
Teach me to be faithful
Through You, I can go on

8. Good Lord, I want to go to you
Teach me patience
Through You, I can be ready

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Choir Practice for the Triduum on Friday 15th March at 7.30pm in the church and Friday 22 March at 7.30pm in the hall.

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **09/10 March**: Easter Flowers for the church
Next weekend: **16/17 March**: Poor Parishes - this collection allows enables to Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese

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

Easter Floral Workshop, 2 - 4pm Sat 30th March; The Salvation Army, Whitehorse Lane. Come and make your Own Easter Table Centre or Wreath. All materials supplied and an afternoon tea will be served. Cost: £20 per person, with proceeds going towards community work at The Salvation Army. Booking essential as there are only 20 places available. Email gavin.Friday@salvationarmy.org.uk

On Saturday 16th March there will be a concert of poetry and music based on the Stations of the Cross in the church at 7:30pm. Pay on the door. More details on the posters in the Narthex.

On Saturday 23rd March there is a concert at 7:45pm given by the Crisantemi String Quartet, tickets are £15, available on the door. This will feature Haydn's 'Seven Last Words of Christ' with readings.

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.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE:

Friday, 22nd March at 7.00pm (directly after Stations of the Cross)

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**.

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.

SVP says thank you – The February Collection raised £826.18. Thank you so much, your support is so helpful and greatly appreciated. During February we gave out £460 of food vouchers. We were able to purchase a Hoover, two washing machines, some carpets, a fridge-freezer and a cooker for families and individuals in need. Our next collection is on 23rd/24th March.

'Friends of the Holy Land would like to thank all parishioners for the crib collection of £975.58 for Christians in the Holy Land. Your donation will help us to support the most vulnerable at this very challenging time. Please continue to pray for the Holy Land and a peaceful resolution.'

Co-ordinator for the Medieval Pageant - 6th July 2024, 12 noon to 5pm. We are seeking a new co-ordinator for this special day in Canterbury's calendar. If you feel you could help provide a special day for families and children with activities in the church and the hall, linked to the broader activities in the city, please speak to Fr Anthony or Linda as soon as possible.