

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): 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*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col. Poor Parishes

Monday 18th Mar: Feria

Jn 8: 1-11

12 noon: Patrick, Con, Sean and Jim Lyons - RIP (*Bernadette*)

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Tuesday 19th Mar: St Joseph, Spouse of the BVM Mt1: 16-21,24

12 noon: Thanksgiving on the Feast of St Joseph

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

7.00pm: RCIA

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

Wednesday 20th Mar: Feria

Jn 8: 31-42

10:30 - 11:30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Denise Ward - RIP (*Angela Sheehy*)

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

Thursday 21st Mar: Feria

Jn 8: 51-59

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: Tita Riley (*Jean Pegg*)

Scripture Group meets after Mass in the Upper Room

6.00pm: Evening Prayer

6.30pm: *Bible Study in the Upper Room*

Friday 22nd Mar: Feria

Jn 10: 31-42

12 noon: Mark Duggan - welfare (*Cecilia Duggan*)

Adoration and Benediction

6.30pm: *Stations of the Cross*

7.00pm: *Parish Reconciliation Service*

Saturday 23rd Mar: Feria

Jn 11: 45-56

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

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Pawistina Perera - RIP (*Wijesekera Family*)

3.00pm *Free Music Performance*

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

4:30 - 5:30pm: Reconciliation

7.45pm: *Concert: Haydn's 'Seven Last Words of Christ'*

HOLY WEEK

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 24th Mar: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mk 14: 1-15; 47

8.00am: John Mehlin - RIP (*Miriam Mehlin*)

9.30am: Terry Spratley - RIP (*Monica Spratley and Family*)

11.00am: Thanksgiving (*Martins Avaan and Family*)

4.00pm: *NO Confirmation until 21st April 2024*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Vertigan Family - wellbeing

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 17th Mar: 5th Sunday of Lent (B)

Jn 12: 20-30

10.00am: Martina Morrissey - RIP

Sunday 24th Mar: Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

Mk 14: 1-15; 47

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, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, William Humphries, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambrosine, 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 Tazey, Christine Metcalfe and Ken Clark

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

Ronald Green and Veronica Troope



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, online or in the Narthex)

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...

This Sunday all the statues and crosses in our church are covered in purple. This veiling is hard to miss and it serves as a reminder to us to get ready. The veiled images build within us a longing for Easter Sunday. The veils seem out of place and even counterintuitive. It can seem strange that the Crucifix is covered up during these two weeks of Passiontide. Through this absence of images, our senses are heightened and we become more aware of what is missing. Similarly, the suppression of the Alleluia during Lent effectively demonstrates that we are in exile from our true Home, where the angels sing Alleluia without ceasing. We might veil the statues and Crucifix but not the Stations of the Cross. Jesus, in today's Gospel says, "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself". By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die. Jesus is talking about the cross on which he will be lifted up before the eyes of all the world. He does not force a response from us but he draws us to himself. Down the ages people have been drawn into the love of Christ through prayer before the cross. Francis of Assisi spoke of the cross as a book.

Can I suggest that you set yourself before an image of the Jesus on the cross and pray (I have been helped here by thoughts and words of Sylvester O'Flynn, a Capuchin friar.)

Lord Jesus I see you lifted before my eyes. You have totally given yourself to the Father's will. You have totally given yourself up for love of me. You open your arms on the cross in a worldwide invitation and embrace. I ponder now your total love. In your wounds I see the ugly consequences of sin. In your outstretched arms I see the embrace of your love. Draw me through your open side that I may ever reside on your heart of love. As your cross is the greatest manifestation of love, then the greatest contradiction of the cross is my selfishness. If I am to truly love as you love, Lord, then let me see the crucifixion of my selfishness before I may be raised up to let you love others through me. Lift me up, draw me out of my fallen, wounded condition. Raise me up in hope when darkness and fear surround me. Strengthen me to live with virtues that reflect the beauty of your love in the world. Help me to let go of all that I hold onto... to empty my hands so that they can receive from you. Draw me into your heart so that my heart may lose its selfishness and be absorbed in your union with the Father. May I know what it is to abandon myself, as you did, to the glory of the Father.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **16/17 March:** Poor Parishes - this collection allows enables to Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese Next weekend: **23/24 March: SVP** - please give generously as usual

EASTER CHURCH CLEANING: We are looking for volunteers with lots of elbow grease to help polish the brassware in preparation for Easter.

Please join us on Saturday, 23rd March from 12.30pm to 2.30pm

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.

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

Choir Practice for the Triduum Fri, 22 March at 7.30pm in the hall.

RECONCILIATION

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered at St Thomas' on:
Fri, 22nd March - Parish Reconciliation Service at 7.00pm
Sat, 23rd March from 10h30-11h30 and 16h30 - 17h30
Thurs, 28th March from 10h30 - 12noon
Fri, 29th March after the Solemn Liturgy at 3pm
Sat, 30th March from 10h30 - 12 noon

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

Building a Better Marriage Course

This is a day in which married couples can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into their communication and the call of the church to be married. This is a **free** opportunity open to all married couples from 'Just Married' to "70 years!" Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch. The course will be held on **Saturday April 13th 2024 from 9.30am to 4.30 pm** at the **Parish of Our Lady Immaculate, Whitstable CT5 2EY**.

Booking is essential and can be made by contacting the parish office on 01227 272758 or email whitstable@rcaos.org.uk

Holy Week Service Information: Information booklets for services during Holy Week and the Easter Triduum are available in the Narthex.

LISS (Life in the Spirit Seminars)

a 5-week course, encouraging the grace of Baptism in the Holy Spirit in St Thomas' Parish Hall, Tuesdays 23rd April to 28th May, including Pentecost day retreat Saturday 18th May at St George's Cathedral, Southwark.

