

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
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 & 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)

8.00pm: **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night - People of the Parish**

Sunday 31st Mar: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Jn 20: 1-9 or Mk 16: 1-7

8.00am: Thanksgiving (*Martins Awaan and Family*)

9.30am: Filipino Community and their Families

11.00am: David Heap - RIP (*Christine Heap*)

12.30pm: *Baptism of Olivia Abuthariti*

6.00pm: Leslie Lewis - RIP (1st Anniversary)

All Coll.: Easter Offering for the Priests

Monday 1st April: Monday in the Octave of Easter Mt 28: 8-15
PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10.00am: Rudolfo Ignacio - RIP (*Ingacio Family*)

12.30: *Wedding of Maria Burke and Tom Rabin*

Tuesday 2nd Apr: Tuesday in the Octave of Easter Jn 20: 11-18

12 noon: UCM Members and their Families

Wednesday 3rd Apr: Wednesday in the Octave of Easter

Lk 24: 13-35

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Colin Stone - birthday wishes

Thursday 4th Apr: Thursday in the Octave of Easter

Lk 24: 35-48

7.30am: Lynn Ray - healing (*Nicole Orzech*)

12 noon: Marjorie Craig - welfare (*Sue Purbrick*)

Friday 5th Apr: Friday in the Octave of Easter Jn 21: 1-14

12 noon: Ruben Ramirez Guerrero - RIP (*Children & Grandchildren*)

Saturday 6th Apr: Saturday in the Octave of Easter

Mk 16: 9-15

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation Meeting*

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Antonio Barbosa - RIP (*Barbosa Family*)

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

6.00pm (Vigil): Betty Scott - RIP

Sunday 7th Apr: Second Sunday of Easter Jn 20: 19-31

8.00am: Elsa and Pino - RIP

9.30am: UCM Members and Families

11.00am: People of the Parish

12.30pm: *Baptism of Osca Roberto Francisco Rodrigues*

6.00pm: Maureen and Syd Pepper - RIP

PLEASE NOTE: There will be no Mass at 12 noon on Tuesday, 9th April 2024

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 31st Mar: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Jn 20: 1-9 or Mk 16: 1-7

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 7th Apr: Second Sunday of Easter

Jn 20: 19-31

10.00am: People of the Parish

Thank you to all who helped to get our small church ready for Easter.

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, Sheila Elliott and Louis de Marigny

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, Christine Metcalfe, Ken Clark, Fr David Standley and Keith Taylor

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

Peter Johnson, Wilmot Johnson and Anita Johnson.



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 APRIL 2024

For the role of women

We pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognized in every culture, and for the end of discrimination that they experience in different parts of the world.

From Fr Anthony...

Early on Sunday morning Mary of Magdala came to the tomb and found the stone had been rolled back. She peered in and as her eyes adjusted to the darkness, she saw it was empty. She was weeping. This Easter, we like Mary are peering into the darkened tomb. The darkness we are experiencing is the death and destruction in Gaza. Thousands have been killed and people are on the edge of starvation. Mary asks the angels in white, where is the Lord? We are asking in this time of great sadness, where are you, Lord? Where is our hope? Surely this Easter isn't the time to cry Alleluia and sing songs of praise. But just at that moment like Mary we turn and see Jesus. He is standing with us, and he says our name. We, like Mary say "Rab-boni- teacher."

Abbot Nikodemus Schnabel of Jerusalem's Dormition Abbey reminds us that Easter is an important test of faith for all Christians "because it is the key moment to know if we really trust in God and if we really believe what we celebrate. "After the catastrophe, are we waiting for Easter? Do we truly believe in redemption?" He added: "As a rational citizen of this world, I can only see war, suffering, hate, violence. But as a man of faith, I trust that my God can redeem, can save this world, can heal, and can create new life. Forgiveness. Mercy. That's what we celebrate in Holy Week and at Easter. I hope for all Christians that there will be a new beginning and new hope, new life."

Last week Pope Francis wrote a letter to the people of the Holy Land in which he said "In these bleak times, when it seems that the dark clouds of Good Friday hover over your land, and all too many parts of our world are scarred by the pointless folly of war – which is always and for everyone a bitter defeat – you are lamps shining in the night, seeds of goodness in a land rent asunder by conflict. More than every we affirm that our hope is in the risen Christ. It is because that Jesus is Saviour and has conquered death.

As we begin our celebration of Easter let us affirm that Jesus is our peace. We know that it is the Lord who sets the human heart free from hatred, violence and the spirit of revenge.

Father Giovanni and I wish you every blessing for Easter. Thank you to all who have helped in any way to enable us all to celebrate these past days with joy and solemnity.

May the Risen Christ fill you minds and hearts with wisdom, love, joy, and courage that you may know him in the breaking of bread and follow him in his risen life.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **30/31 March**: Priests Easter Offerings. The collections at all Easter Masses go directly to the priests and do not form part of the parish funds.
Next weekend: **06/07 April**: No second collection this weekend

Parish of St Thomas's, Canterbury – Volunteers – DBS Renewal Procedure following 3 year Expiry

Our parish are blessed by over 50 volunteers in a variety of roles, for example: Eucharistic Minister, Sacristan, Parish Shop attendant, SVP, Childrens' Liturgy Supervision, etc.

The one aspect of all these volunteers is that because of the nature of their roles, they are obliged to obtain a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate as to their suitability for that role.

Certificates are issued for a period of three years. If the volunteer wishes or is willing to continue the role, then she/he, is required to submit an application online for renewal of the certificate.

Our parish record details that over 50 volunteers hold DBS certificates which have recently expired or will do so in 2024. Therefore, if you wish to continue to undertake the role detailed in your existing DBS certificate, you must undertake an application to renew it. I am not aware of any stated period, prior to the renewal application, i.e. for example, not before 3 months before renewal. I will obtain this point shortly. Production of the existing certificate will be helpful when you apply for the renewal online.

Lastly, before making your online renewal application, please send, in good time, to Diane Hollidge via e-mail: safeguarding3@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Your personal e-mail address and your current volunteer role.

(Note: These are required by the safeguarding office at the Archdiocese in completion of your application.)

Peter Jones, Parish Safeguarding Representative

HCPT Quiz Night: Saturday, 20th April 2024 at 7pm in St Thomas's Church Hall. Bring your own food and drinks. Nibbles, tea and coffee available. £5 per person. Tables of 8 to be reserved in advance from Annie 07866 515797 or anniejudge@hotmail.com

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.

Job Vacancy

The Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis has developed a strong reputation for effective and creative support for parishes in terms of evangelisation, catechesis and formation. This is chiefly expressed in the Some Definite Service approach to parish growth. We are looking for a new **Evangelisation and Outreach Advisor** to join our well-respected and vibrant team. This is a **full-time post** and further information can be found on the Agency website: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/job-vacancy-evangelisation>. Deadline for applications midnight 15 April. Interviews 22 April 2024.

Evangelisation Expo - please see poster in the Narthex for details

Formation Fayre - please see poster in the Narthex for details

RCIA Masterclass - please see poster in the Narthex for details

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

Building a Better Marriage Course

This free day, open to all married couples from 'Just Married' to "70 years, allows married couples to **privately** explore their relationship more deeply. Refreshments will be provided but please bring packed lunch. **Saturday April 13th 2024 from 9.30am to 4.30 pm** at **Our Lady Immaculate, Whitstable CT5 2EY**. Booking is essential: on 01227 272758 or email whitstable@rcaos.org.uk

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. Register using QR code or contact Sheldon on bagley.sheldon@gmail.com. For online Zoom registration, use: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/liss>



The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday Retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Sat 6th April 2024 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration, Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.