

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ
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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')

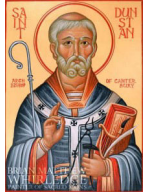
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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)

6.00pm (Vigil): Mary and Matthew Quested - RIP

Sunday 5th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 9-17

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: UCM Members and families

11.00am: GCSE Students - exam intentions

6.00pm: John Mehlin - RIP

Monday 6th May: St John Paine Mt 11: 25-30

10.00am: Blessy Sony on her reception into the Church

Tuesday 7th May: Feria Jn 14: 27-31

12 noon: Isabel Gray - birthday wishes

Wednesday 8th May: Feria Mt 13: 54-58

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Daphne Ellis - welfare (*Joan Blows*)

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 9th May: The Ascension of the Lord Jn 15: 9-11

HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

9.30am: Thanksgiving

12 noon: Joanna Bailey - RIP

Scripture group meeting in the upper room after Mass

8.00pm: Shyno Mathews intentions

Friday 10th May: Sts Philip and James, Apostles Jn 14: 6-14

12 noon: Annette Bowman - birthday wishes

Saturday 11th May: The English Martyrs Jn 15: 18-21

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation in the Presbytery*

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

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Parent Meeting in the Hall*

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Margaret Collett - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: NO RECONCILIATION THIS EVENING

6.00pm (Vigil): CONFIRMATION MASS

Sunday 12th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 9-17

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Adrian Amariei RIP

11.00am: Welfare of the Evans Family children and grandchildren

12.30pm: *Baptism of John Eguefo*

6.00pm: Sheila Bradley - RIP

2nd Col.: **Communications Sunday**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2024

For the formation of religious and seminarians

We pray that religious women and men, and seminarians, grow in their own vocations through their human, pastoral, spiritual and community formation, leading them to be credible witnesses to the Gospel.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 5th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 9-17

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 12th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter Jn 15: 9-17

10.00am: People of the Parish

Wednesday, 8th May: Ascension Thursday Vigil Mass: at

6.00pm

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, Brian Collins, Louis de Marigny and Mary Wright

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, Keith Taylor, Francoise Heaton, Sheila Elliott and Ron Cameron

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

Hubert Whyte, Mary Mariasy, Gabriel Mendes and Russell Thompson

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **04/05 May:** No second collection this weekend.

Next weekend: **11/12 May: World Communication Sunday.** This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CCN), the media office of the Bishops; Conference of England and Wales which seeks to promote the gospel and to develop the public profile of the Church and its teaching.

SVP says thank you – the April Collection raised £837.10. We are very grateful for this support. During April we gave out £720 in food vouchers and bought someone a new bed and mattress. Smaller gifts covered the cost of a bus fare to a hospital appointment and a charity shop voucher. The next SVP collection is on 18/19 May.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised...our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 11 May 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)

From Fr Giovanni...

If you go to Walsingham and you decide to visit the Anglican Shrine, you will see, in one of the chapels, two feet sticking out of the ceiling. This is the chapel of the Ascension. After Jesus was resurrected, he walked on this earth for 40 more days. On the fortieth day Jesus ascended into Heaven to take his seat at the right hand of the Father. The Solemnity of the Ascension, which we are celebrating this Thursday and which is a holy day of obligation, commemorates and relives this event.

The Church speaks of the Paschal Mysteries as the key moments of our faith and these are Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven. At the Ascension, the cycle of Jesus' earthly existence comes to an end. However, Jesus leaving this world doesn't mean that he abandoned his disciples. As our Lord himself said in the Gospel of John, it was necessary for him to go to the Father if we were to receive another counsellor who would remain with us forever. This other counsellor is the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete, the Person of the Trinity that gives supernatural life to the Church. The Ascension is the prelude and the precondition to Pentecost.

A helpful way to understand the relationship between Ascension and Pentecost is to consider the Eucharistic Prayer during Mass. In the course of the Eucharistic prayer the priest invokes the Holy Spirit asking him to come down to sanctify and to consecrate our offering of the bread and the wine. This invocation is known as *epiclesis*. The actual consecration happens later through the *words of institution*—take and eat ... this is my body ... drink ... this is my blood. Similarly, the Ascension can be regarded as the moment when Jesus goes to the Father to invoke the descent of the Holy Spirit on his disciples, while Pentecost is the moment when the Holy Spirit actually descended on the Twelve. This is what we celebrate on the Solemnity of the Ascension: Jesus' invocation of the Holy Spirit on our behalf, the greatest act of *epiclesis* in history.

Prayer for Eastern Christians

On this annual International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians, we pray in solidarity with our Christian brothers and sisters of the East, especially in the Holy Land and Ukraine.

We ask the Lord to sustain them,

many of whom are suffering persecution, displacement, and discrimination, for their faith in the Risen Christ.

We pray that stability and peace may flourish in their lands;

the place where the Gospel was first heard and proclaimed,

the origins of monastic life,

and in the unbroken lived tradition of our common Christian faith. Amen.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

CONFIRMATION: Please pray for our young people receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday, 11 May 2024 at 6pm.

Pilates Classes: We have some spaces for both the Mat (Wed) and Chair (Tues) classes at 10h30 in our parish hall. Contact Jennifer at jcu.bintley@icloud.com

OPEN AIR MASS 30TH JUNE 2024 AT 10AM

On 30th June we will have an Open Air Mass in the grounds of St Anselm's School. This is a wonderful opportunity for the parish to all come together to celebrate Mass. There will be usual Saturday evening vigil Mass at 6pm on 29th June but NO masses will be celebrated in the Church on Sunday. The only Sunday Mass will be the one we celebrate together in the grounds of St Anselm's School. This all needs careful planning. If you can help in any way we are having a planning meeting on Monday 13th May at 7:30pm in the Presbytery.

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 let us know as soon as possible, and no later than **May 31st 2024**, with the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Email us at mflkent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Maidstone St Francis.

PILGRAIM ACCOMMODATION: Franciscans first arrived on English soil on 10th September 1224 – this year marks the 800th anniversary of this moment. The UK Franciscan family are organising a pilgrimage from Dover to Canterbury to mark this event and are entitling it: **Casting the Net of Peter with the Card of St Francis 1224-2024**. The plan for 10 – 11th September is: they begin their pilgrimage with Eucharist on the beach in Dover. After breakfast they will set off for Canterbury, hoping to arrive late afternoon on Tuesday 10th September. They will use our Hall for their evening meal. Their request is for parishioners who would be willing to put pilgrims up in their homes overnight on Tuesday 10th September and maybe for 11th September. Please contact one of the priests or the parish Office if you can help.

St Jude Summer Celebration, Faversham. All welcome to join the summer celebration at the Shrine at 34 Tanners Street, Faversham, ME13 7JW, starting at 11h00 with Devotions and Anointing. See poster in the Narthex for more details.

New Opportunities Fair has been postponed to 26 May 2024 from 10h30 to 13h00. Come and meet the organisations supporting our community, if you would like to get involved, please contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com

Plant and Cake Sale 19th May in the church hall donations of Plants, seeds and cakes welcome on the day please see poster for more details.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a **First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day** at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Sat, 1st June 2024 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. All welcome. Pls call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more info.

HCPT (GROUP 587) SUMMER PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 25 May - 1st June 2024. £960 (accommodation only £645). For more information contact Annie Judge (07866515797 / anniejudge@hotmail.com) or chat with Father Anthony. There are also leaflets in the Narthex.

HALL CHAIRS AND TABLES. Please could all those using the hall return the tables and chairs to their correctly stacked positions along the wall towards the back of the hall in as clean a condition as possible.

CHRISTIANS TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY
Please see the poster in the Narthex for forthcoming events

Annual Mass for London Migrant Workers in honour of St Joseph the Worker is on Monday 6th May 2024 at St George's Cathedral, London SE1 6HR at 12.30pm.

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

Celebration of the **Vigil Mass of the Ascension of the Lord** for St Dunstan's Parish will take place on **Wednesday, 8th May at 6pm**