

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ
Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

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')

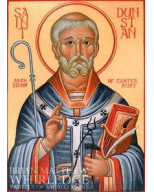
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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): Pauline Ryan - welfare

Sunday 1st December: 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

Lk 21: 25-28; 34-36

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: UCM and Families

11.00am: A Charles Ryan - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Athena McDonagh*

6.00pm: Maureen and Syd Pepper - RIP

Monday 2nd Dec: Feria

Mt 8: 5-11

12 noon: Peggy Whitney - RIP

Tuesday 3rd Dec: St Francis Xavier

Lk 10: 21-24

DAY OF PRAYER FOR MIGRANTS

12 noon: Anthony Valente - RIP

7.00pm: *Journey in Faith (RCIA) in the Hall*

7.30pm: *Charismatic Prayer Group in the Upper Room*

Wednesday 4th Dec: St John Damascene

Mt 15: 29-37

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Daniel Horton-Szar - conversion

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 5th Dec: St John Almond

Mt 7: 21, 24-27

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: Adrian Green - conversion

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass in the Upper Room

Friday 6th Dec: St Nicholas

Mt 9: 27-31

12 noon: George and Constantine Zgouras - RIP

Saturday 7th Dec: St Ambrose

Mt 9: 35-10:15, 6-8

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation*

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Vanessa Horton-Szar - conversion

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

Lk 3: 1-6

8.00am: Olwen Dixon - RIP (Foundation Mass)

9.30am: Frank Riordan - RIP

11.00am: Tom Carr - welfare

6.00pm: Helen Fleming - welfare

2nd Col.: for our
Church Christmas
Flowers

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 1st December: 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

Lk 21: 25-28; 34-36

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

Lk 3: 1-6

10.00am: People of the Parish

Wednesday 11th December: *Christmas Gathering at St Ann's Convent at 15h00*

Please remember in your prayers:

Marie Strong, Angeline Frizell, Janette Hughes, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, Mary Reynolds, Brian Wicker, Audrey Martin, Heather Dandison, Richard Sexton, Judith Parsons, Therese Punnett, Andrew Burton, Pauline Ventress, Jean Crane, Pat Andrews, Patrick Lyons, Caine Libin, Matthew Young, Arthur Noronha, Marjery Craig, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine, Pauline Ryan, Mary De Wolf, Brian Collins, Louis de Marigny, Audrey Green, Augustine Barna, Mary Lyons, David Lewis and Jean Matthews

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Keith Taylor, Francoise Heaton, Sheila Elliott, Ron Cameron, Mary Wright (Woodman), Tita Riley, William Humphries, Sister Katherine Owens, Teresa McGaughey, Mary Edgington, Angela Mallion, Sharon Dobson, Jorge Manuel Gomes, Brigid Davis, Joan Sutton, Nicola Batchelor, Canon Michael Cooley, Maria Krynicki, Luisa Ward, Canon Jeremiah Cronin, Jose Rogers, Josephine Tillcock, Fr Jake Dicto, Chris Walters, Pietro Rencricca, Robert Willis (former Dean of Canterbury Cathedral) and Valarie Hammond

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

William Parker and Judith Roser

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **30 Nov/01 Dec.:** There is no second collection this weekend.

Next weekend: **07/08 Dec.:** Special collection towards flowers for our church at Christmas.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024

For pilgrims of hope

We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 7 December 2024** at 9.00 am in the Presbytery. Places are limited so call or email the office to book. Please fill in a Registration Form in advance (from office, online or in the Narthex)

From Fr Anthony ...

NEW! What a lovely three letter word. We often use 'new' to suggest that something is different or much improved. If it is 'new' it may be better. On this Sunday, we are using a new English translation of the scriptures. The Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have mandated that the English Standard Version translation of the scriptures is to replace the translation known as the Jerusalem Bible translation, the one that we have been using for over 50 years. The Bishops say, "These changes are intended to make the Biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, Biblical scholarship and to provide a text for use in a liturgical setting that is more proclaim-able and, where appropriate, more inclusive." Like every other parish we have bought the four volume Lectionary that will be read from the Ambo at every Mass and we have also purchased a fine new book of the Gospels.

What else is new? This Sunday we begin a new liturgical year with the season of Advent and the season's colour changes to purple. This colour is also used in Lent to denote penitence but Advent is a season of joyful expectation so the colour purple used during Advent symbolises the anticipation of the coming of Christ, the King of Kings. Purple dye was the most expensive colour and was often only affordable to royalty.

Despite the frenetic activity of people buying presents and preparing for Christmas celebrations, we are given an opportunity to carve out some time silence and reflection in the next three weeks. Can I suggest that, in this next week, you take the Gospel of the day and read it in the morning and ponder the words and then read it again in the evening. What message do you hear for your life from this reflection?

Monday: Matthew 8:5-11 When Jesus heard this, he marvelled and said to those who followed him, 'Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith.'

Tuesday: Luke 10:21-24 In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, 'I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children.'

Wednesday: Matthew 15:29-37 'I have compassion on the crowd because they have been with me now three days and have nothing to eat.'

Thursday: Matthew 7:21, 24-27 'Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord", will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.'

Friday: Matthew 9:27-31 'Do you believe that I am able to do this?' They said to him, 'Yes, Lord.' Then he touched their eyes, saying, 'According to your faith be it done to you.' And their eyes were opened.'

Saturday: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 'Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is at hand." Heal the sick, raise the dead.'

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Free workshops with the Catechetical Institute

From today, every parishioner, as well as teachers and parents in our schools, has free and unlimited access to the workshops created by the world-renowned Catechetical Institute. From Scripture to parenting workshops, to catechetical training and mentoring, there is something for everyone. For information on how to register your free account visit: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/franciscan>

SHOP NEWS St Thomas Church Shop will have a stall at our Christmas Fair on 8th December. There are lovely Christmas gifts, cards and decorations available to buy.



A Day With Mary is taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Saturday 14 December (10.15am to 5.15pm). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

100 CLUB: The St Thomas' 100 Club is an easy way to support our parish in our efforts to raise funds. Forms available in the Narthex, on our website and from the Office. Please speak to Linda in the office for more info.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: HCPT GROUP 587 - Pilgrimage to Lourdes - "a Holiday with our Lady" dates 15-22 August 2025.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE -Our Parish Penitential Service takes place on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.30pm.

PARISHIONERS SEEKING ACCOMMODATION URGENT TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

New members of the Parish, Salomi and Vargeesh, and their toddler daughter are URGENTLY seeking temporary accommodation. Salomi is a nurse at Kent and Canterbury Hospital so if you can help please contact Vargeesh on 07741 014832.

Fr Mark Wharton is taking a pilgrimage to the **National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham** from 7 -9 March '25. Approximate cost of £300.00 includes ensuite accommodation, half board and coach travel from Canterbury Bus Station to the Shrine. To book email Claudine: claudinenutley@btinternet.com before 1 Dec 2024

The All Nations Catholic Charismatic Group invites all parishioners to join in their Christmas celebration and love feast on Saturday 14 December from 3pm-7 pm at St Mary's Church Hall, New Addington, Croydon. Come and celebrate with us the true reason for the season. For more information please visit info@anccg.co.uk

The last Scripture Group meeting before Christmas will be on December 5th. We return on Thursday January 9th, after midday mass, in the Upper Room.