

NEWSLETTER

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

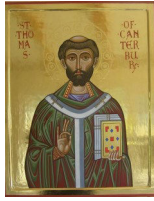
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

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)

6.00pm (Vigil): Christopher Walters - RIP

Sunday 24th Nov: Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (B)

Jn 18: 33-37

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Filipino Community and their families

11.00am: Alikutty Sebastian - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Oghenebrume and Eseoghene Taiga*

6.00pm: Ella & Ben in preparation for marriage in 2025

2nd Col.: Catholic
Youth Services

Monday 25th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 1-4

12 noon: George Handley - RIP

3.30 - 5.00pm: *Supplementary Form Signing*

7.00 - 8.00pm: *Supplementary Form Signing*

Tuesday 26th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 5-11

12 noon: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

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

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

Wednesday 27th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 12-19

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: James Silcock - on his birthday

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 28th Nov: Feria

Lk 21: 20-28

7.30am: Wim Van Vuuren - RIP

12 noon: Dr Anna Koeller - RIP

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass in the Upper Room

Friday 29th Nov: Sts Cuuthbert Mayne & Comp.

Lk 21: 29-33

12 noon: Hannah Loughran - RIP

Saturday 30th Nov: St Andrew

Mt 4: 18-22

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Mary Lyons - welfare

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

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

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 24th Nov: Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (B)

Jn 18: 33-37

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 24th Nov: Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe (B)

Jn 18: 33-37

10.00am: People of the Parish

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 November 2024:

Lewis Rising and Janet Rogers

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **23/24 Nov.: Catholic Youth Services.** This collection supports youth work in the diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.

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



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)

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2024

For anyone who has lost a child

We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

SUPPLEMENTARY FORM SIGNING for St Thomas of Canterbury Primary

School: Canon Anthony will be available in the Presbytery, 29 Burgate, on Monday, 25th November from 15h30 to 17h00 and then from 19h00 to 20h00 to sign supplementary forms for St Thomas' Primary School.

Red Wednesday

Last Wednesday was Red Wednesday: the day on which our church, among many other buildings, was lit in red to bear witness to the horrendous persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters abroad. Persecution, violent persecution of Christians, is as old as the Church. The Acts of the Apostles relate how St Stephen was stoned to death for preaching the resurrected Christ not a long time after Pentecost, the day on which the Apostles started to spread the Gospel.

The Church has traditionally recognised martyrdom as a special way of being united with Christ, not a way to which all of us are called, but still a powerful and special way. The early Fathers of the Church and the Apostolic Fathers talk about 'Baptism of Blood'. The expression 'Baptism of Blood' means that those people who shed their blood for Christ are united with him as if they have received sacramental baptism. In the sacrament baptism we participate sacramentally in the death and resurrection of Christ, and, as a result, we are drawn into the life of the Holy Trinity. By shedding their blood for Christ, martyrs participate physically in Christ's death and, as such, they also participate in his resurrection and, therefore, they too are drawn into the life of the Holy Trinity.

Building on this well-established tradition of the Church, the recent Synod on Synodality invites us to regard and venerate as martyrs even those Christians from other denominations who have shed their blood for Christ. Their witness to the Christian faith is a strong bond of unity with the Church of Christ, more powerful than any doctrinal error they may have held, knowingly or not, in their lifetime.

The Church is really united in suffering because in suffering we are united to the Mystery of the Cross. Every year on Red Wednesday we celebrate this unity as we bear witness to our Christian brothers and sisters around the world who are persecuted for the name of Christ.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION and FIRST RECONCILIATION: Registration forms for 2025 programme available in the Narthex or from the Parish Office. Children should be baptised and in Year 3 or above. First Holy Communion day is Sunday 18th May 2025 at the 9.30 and 11.00 Masses. **Closing date for applications is Sunday 24th November 2024.** The introductory meeting for parents and children is on Saturday 7th December at 9am - books may be bought at this meeting.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025: The programme starts on Sunday 12th January 2025 in the Church Hall from 4pm - 5.30pm. There will be a parents' online meeting on Tuesday, 7 January 2025 at 7.30pm - access details will be sent to parent emails. Application Forms are available in the church, on the website or from the office and **must be submitted on or before 24 November 2024.**

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.

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.

ROOM RENTAL OR HOUSE SHARE

Parishioner, Sheldon Bagley, is looking to be able to rent a room (or house-share) with, if possible, parking facilities for one car, from 01 Dec 2024 as his current rental property has been sold. If you can help, contact him on 07810 466929.

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.

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/>

SHOP NEWS St Thomas Church Shop now stocks, Advent Leaflets, I belong books and Prayer cards depicting Our Lady's Altar, St Thomas'.



World Youth Sunday 2024

Sunday (24 November) is World Youth Sunday. The second collection will support youth work in the Archdiocese and beyond, especially the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which provides a variety of activities for youth and young adults. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/scys1 or join the Southwark Catholic Youth network for regular updates at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or via the QR code. Additional World Youth Sunday resources have been produced by the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) at www.wys.cymfed.org.uk



It is with sadness that I write to inform you of the death of Bishop John Hine, who died peacefully on Saturday, 16 November, fortified by the sacraments of the Church. Over the years, Bishop John faithfully served the archdiocese in various pastoral and curial roles, gaining the respect and affection of those to whom he ministered. On 27 February 2001, he was ordained bishop, to serve as an Auxiliary Bishop for Southwark and appointed titular bishop of Beverley. His episcopal ministry focused particularly on the pastoral care of the Kent episcopal area, a responsibility he undertook with pastoral zeal and kindness.

Bishop Hine's warm pastoral character, deep spirituality, and wise leadership were appreciated greatly, and even in retirement, he continued to serve quietly but effectively, remaining a much-loved presence in our archdiocese.

Further details concerning Bishop John's funeral Mass will follow in due course; but in the meantime, I ask you to pray for the repose of Bishop John's soul.

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

On Saturday 7th November, The Vigil of The Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. "And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least... God saw their efforts to renounce their evil ways. And God relented about the disaster which He had threatened to bring on them, and He did not bring it." (Jonah 3:5,10) Please Invite others to join the day on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1461899157815100/>