

NEWSLETTER

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

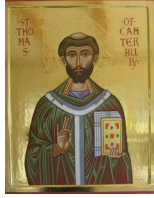
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
16 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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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')

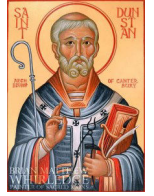
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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): People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Dec: 2nd Sunday of Advent 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

Christmas Fair in the Hall 10:30-12:30pm

2nd Col.: for our
Church Christmas
Flowers

Monday 9th Dec: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Lk 1: 26-39

12 noon: Oliva Hambrook and Millie McCord - exam success

Tuesday 10th Dec: Our Lady of Loreto Mt 18: 12-14

7.30am: Daphne Ellis - a speedy recovery

12 noon: NO NOON MASS TODAY

(Funeral of Bishop John Hine in London)

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

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

Wednesday 11th Dec: Feria Mt 11: 28-30

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Zena Hales - RIP

Tea and coffee in the hall after Mass

Thursday 12th Dec: Our Lady of Guadalupe Mt 11: 11-15

7.30am: Canon Jeremiah Cronin - RIP

12 noon: Dorene McCormack - RIP

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass in the Upper Room

Friday 13th Dec: St Lucy Mt 11: 16-19

12 noon: Michael Reynolds - RIP

Saturday 14th Dec: St John of the Cross Mt 17: 10-13

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Suchada Robinson - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Michael Donovan - RIP

Sunday 15th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent (C) Lk 3: 10-18

GAUDETE SUNDAY

8.00am: Jose Rogers - RIP

9.30am: Sadie Hennelly - RIP

11.00am: Harry McCord - welfare

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **St
Vincent de
Paul**

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 DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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*

Sunday 15th Dec: 3rd Sunday of Advent (C) Lk 3: 10-18

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, Janet Morris.

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), Valarie Hammond, Bishop John Hine, Sr Mary Frances Joyce and Sr Rose Brennan

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

William Parker and Judith Roser

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

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

Next weekend: **14/15 Dec.:** for the St Vincent de Paul work



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 4th January 2025** 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)

Linda will be on leave from 09 December to 15 December. The office will only be staffed between 10am and 12 noon on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

From Fr Anthony ...

If you subscribe to Netflix, you will be able to watch a newly produced film, “Mary”, directed by D.J. Caruso, that was released on Friday. Lucy Lethbridge writing in “The Tablet” says of this film “Noa Cohen (who plays Mary) has a sweet resilience about her but this thoroughly modern Mary with her Instagrammable eyebrows, is as much a woman of our own era as the models for Raphael’s Madonnas were of theirs.” Over the years films have been made that try to retell the story of the birth of Jesus. There was “The Nativity Story” in 2005 and BBC’s 4-part drama “The Nativity” written by Tony Jordan in 2010. In their own way they help us to imagine the story related in Luke’s Gospel. None of these films will give us a theological understanding of the importance of Mary in our life and the life of the church.

The two feasts we celebrate this week help us to see the importance of Mary. On Monday 9th we keep the feast of The Immaculate Conception transferred from the Sunday. The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic dogma that states that Mary, whose conception was brought about the normal way, was conceived without original sin or its stain. That’s what “immaculate” means: without stain. Hence Mary was able to give birth to Jesus. Thursday 12th is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, near Mexico City, is one of the most celebrated places of pilgrimage in North America. On December 9, 1531, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to an Indian convert, Juan Diego, and left with him a picture of herself impressed upon his cloak. These events are strategically placed by Divine Providence at the heart of Advent —not to distract us from the coming of Christ, but to better prepare us for it. They direct our attention to a beautiful and central truth about Mary which Venerable Fulton Sheen frequently pointed out — that Mary is *always* the Advent of Christ. In reflecting on Mary this week, we see that she is showing us her selflessness, her humility. At Lourdes when appearing to Bernadette Mary said, “I am the immaculate conception” She is saying more than she is without sin, she was declaring she is full of grace - she is one with her Spouse in grace. Mary’s fiat (so be it) opened herself completely to God, thus she was able to sing “my soul magnifies the Lord. Like Mary we are called to trust God completely and thus be transformed and experience an intimacy with God which will enable us to carry Jesus and show Jesus to the world.

ST THOMAS’ PARISH MATTERS

GAUDETE SUNDAY: All children of the parish are invited to wear pink clothes to Church on Sunday 15th December at the 9.30am Mass to join in the procession and celebrations of this special day.

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. If you wish to know more please contact the Parish Office

2025 Parish Diaries available in the Narthex of the church FREE but donations gratefully received.

A good way to prepare for the celebration of Christmas is to go to the Scaranet of Reconciliation (**Confession**). **We are having a PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE** - on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.30pm.

You are all invited to join the parishioners of St Dunstan’s Parish to a **Christmas Gathering** at St Ann’s Convent Stain’s Hill, CT2 0EW at 3pm Wednesday 11th December

SVP says thank you The November collection raised £1,222.50. Thank you so much for your generous support and for other donations that we have received. During November we gave out £680 in food vouchers and bought vinyl flooring for a family for their kitchen and hallway. A set of bunk beds and mattresses were largely funded by a grant from the SVP Cost of Living Support Fund for which we are very grateful. The next SVP collection will be 14/15 December.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at All Saints Church, 531 Kenton Road Kenton London HA3 0UL, on the corner of Claremont Avenue; 600 yards west of Kingsbury Circus/Kingsbury TfL Station, via Bus 183 on Saturday 14 December 2024 from 1 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Holy Rosary, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. For more info call Millie on 07957594646. No need to register for retreat

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 as soon as

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

150 years Anniversary

Next Year we are celebrating 150 years since our Church was opened with Cardinal Manning preaching the inaugural sermon. There had been a parish here since about 1750. Archbishop John Wilson has agreed to celebrate a special Mass on Pentecost Sunday 8th June at 11am. How are we going to mark this milestone in the life of our parish? We need to consider both spiritual and social events.