

# NEWSLETTER

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

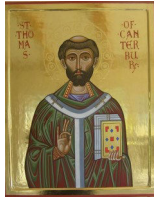
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ  
Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN  
1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH  
Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: [herstden@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:herstden@rcaos.org.uk)



Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton** email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini** email: [giovanniprandini@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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): 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

12.30pm: *Baptism of Arthur Jack Wheeler*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **SVP**

**Monday 16th Dec: Feria** Mt 21: 23-27

12 noon: Stefanie and Melanie & Families - welfare

**Tuesday 17th Dec: Feria** Mt 1: 1-17

7.30am: Paul Luder - RIP

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

**Wednesday 18th Dec: Feria** Mt 1: 18-24

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

7.30pm: *Parish Penitential Service at St Thomas'*

**Thursday 19th Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 5-25

7.30am: Anthony Joseph, Stivon, Anthony & Denzel - welfare

12 noon: Suchada Robinson

**Friday 20th Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 26-38

12 noon: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

**Saturday 21st Dec: Feria** Lk 1: 39-45

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Justin Thomas Fata - conversion

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Sheila and Alan Lloyd - RIP

9.30 for 10am start: *The Solitude Group meets at St Peter's Anglican Church*

**Sunday 22nd Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (C)** Lk 1: 39 -45

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Vassula Ryden - RIP

11.00am: Khalis Ahmad Ackloo - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Amelia Odunlade*

6.00pm: Christine, Anastasia and John - RIP

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Saturday 21st Dec:** Carol Service

**Sunday 22nd Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (C)** Lk 1: 39 -45

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 Ambrosine, 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, Françoise 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, Jean Boyce, Sr Mary Frances Joyce and Sr Rose Brennan, Elijamma Kurian, Jean Boyce

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

William Parker and Judith Roser

#### ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **14/15 Dec.:** for the SVP

Next weekend: **21/22 Dec.:** No second collection

#### 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, 4 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)

## From Fr Anthony ...

In our reading this weekend St Paul writes in his letter to the Philippians, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." The Greek word for anxious is "**μεριμνώ**" meaning to have an anxious concern, based on apprehension about possible danger or misfortune. Jesus uses the word often. For example, when he tells us not to be worried about what are we to eat and how are we to be clothed. He says, "And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life". (Matt 6:27). Again in St Matthew's Gospel Jesus says, "When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour." (Matt 10:19).

Note that Paul is not saying "try not to be anxious" - he is giving a command "do not be anxious".

Why not be anxious? We need not be anxious because the Lord is coming. We are awaiting the second coming of Jesus and our time of Advent is a time of preparation for this second coming. The way we deal this feeling of anxiety is "by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." (Phil 4:6-7). Note that we need to have a sense of thanksgiving to God even when we are amidst suffering. We should not hold back in making our needs known to God. We are called to trust in God.

Our great prayer of thanksgiving is the Eucharist. The word 'Eucharist' comes from the Greek word meaning thanksgiving. As we celebrate Mass we give all our feelings of anxiety and fear to God when we give our whole selves in union with Jesus, who gave himself for us, through his death and resurrection. "The lives of the faithful, their praise, sufferings, prayer, and work, are united with those of Christ and with his total offering, and so acquire a new value. Christ's sacrifice present on the altar makes it possible for all generations of Christians to be united with his offering." (CCC1368).

Let us ask for the grace to trust God in every circumstance even in adversity. A prayer of St. Teresa of Jesus wonderfully expresses this trust:

Let nothing trouble you / Let nothing frighten you  
 Everything passes / God never changes  
 Patience / Obtains all  
 Whoever has God / Wants for nothing  
 God alone is enough.

### ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

**PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE** -Our Parish Penitential Service takes place on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.30pm.

**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.

Christmas Fair thank you to all our parishioners who supported our fair on the 8th . we raised £470.81 for our parish.

Raffle winners #18 #219 #200 #258 #300 #306 and #777 congratulations all who won a prize in the raffle , these can be collected from the Presbytery during office hours.

2025 Parish Diaries are available in the Narthex of the church. Free but donations welcome.

**Christmas Eve, 6pm Mass:** Could children please come dressed as angels and shepherds .

**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.

"A friend of a parishioner, a lady refugee from Ukraine, on housing benefit, with a son and daughter (18 & 15 years old respectively) is looking for long term, two bed accommodation. This parishioner is willing to act as a guarantor. Further information can be obtained from the church office. from the parish office

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](mailto:claudinenutley@btinternet.com) before 1 Dec 2024

**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 pleas contact the parish office.

In his annual Christmas message, Archbishop John Wilson said in a divided world, filled with conflict, it can be tempting to lose hope. But in times of darkness, division and pain "we must turn to our one, great living hope - the Lord Jesus. In Him, and in His message of Good News, we see the possibility of a different and better world". This, Archbishop John said, "is what the truth of Christmas is all about. It's a story of hope triumphing over darkness. It is the story of our salvation. It's God's love story towards our world and each one of us". Looking ahead to next year, the Archbishop encourages us to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration, as prayer, he said, "is the most active expression of our love and hope. And there is no more hopeful and active prayer than when we place ourselves before the Blessed Sacrament, the Real Presence of Jesus. Our Lord Jesus told His disciples to remain with Him, and keep watch with Him. This is what He invited us – me and you – to do. To stay with Him in prayer". You can watch the full message here

<https://tinyurl.com/Christmassmessage2024> or via the QR code below.

