

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

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

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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Email: herstden@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): Sheila and Alan Lloyd - RIP

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 Amelia Odunlade

6.00pm: Christine, Anastasia and John - RIP

Monday 23rd Dec: Feria

Lk 1: 57-66

12 noon: Ann Silcock - RIP

Tuesday 24th Dec: Feria

Lk 1: 67-79

12 noon: Neil Oxman - health and wellbeing

Vigil Mass of Christmas

Mt 1: 1-25 (or 1-18)

6.00pm: Judith Rosser - RIP

Mass at Midnight

11.30pm: Carols before Midnight Mass

Midnight: People of the Parish

Lk 2: 1-14

Wednesday 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord

Mass at Dawn

Lk 2: 15-20

8.00am: Teresa Kelly and Marie Sadler - RIP

Mass during the Day

Jn 1: 1-18

9.30am: David Heap - RIP

11.00am: Arthur Gurubatham - RIP

Thursday 26th Dec: Feast of St Stephen

Mt 10: 17-22

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10.00am: Intentions of all Altar Servers

Friday 27th Dec: St John the Apostle

Jn 20: 2-8

12 noon: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

Saturday 28th Dec: The Holy Innocents

Mt 2: 13-18

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Claire D'Souza - on her birthday

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Cathy Honour - RIP

Sun 29th Dec: Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury Lk22: 24-30

OUR PATRONAL FEAST

8.00am: Patrick, Con, Sean and Jim Lyons - RIP

9.30am: Filipino Community and their families

11.00am: Athena Verba - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

8.00pm: Sung Vespers of St Thomas in the Cathedral Crypt

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 22nd Dec: 4th Sunday of Advent (C)

Lk 1: 39 -45

10.00am: People of the Parish

Wednesday 25th Dec: The Nativity of the Lord

Lk 2: 15-20

10:00: People of the Parish

Sun 29th Dec: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Lk2:41-52

10.00am: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

Funeral Services

For **Jean Boyce** will take place in **St Thomas' Church** on Saturday, 4th January 2025 at 12 noon.

For **Ivy Gorman** will take place in **St Dunstan's Church** on Friday, 10th January 2025 at 10am.

PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

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, John Mathew 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), Valarie Hammond, Bishop John Hine, Sr Mary Frances Joyce, Sr Rose Brennan, Jean Boyce, Fr John Lawrence, Sr Philomena and Sister Elizabeth McNulty

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in January 2025:

David Tully, John Kiely and Patricia Gibson

From Fr Anthony ...

We are given an opportunity this fourth Sunday, three days before Christmas, to reflect on an encounter between cousins. Mary, a very young woman, has said yes to becoming the mother of the Lord.

She lives in the north and when the angel told her that Elizabeth, in her old age, was to bear a son she made a journey south to the hill country to visit Elizabeth. She stayed there until Elizabeth gave birth to her son, John.

Some suggest that Mary's inner need was to share with somebody who might understand the great mystery which had begun to grow in her virginal womb.

And as soon as Mary came into her presence, Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, gave a loud cry. She gives three blessings.

Elizabeth says Mary is 'most of all women'. She celebrates what God has done in choosing Mary. This is the first blessing.

The second blessing is "blessed is the fruit of your womb". Elizabeth celebrates how, what has been given to Mary, will be a divine fruitfulness for all of us. Elizabeth's third blessing is about Mary's free and total co-operation with God. "Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled". Elizabeth knew that the greatness of Mary lay in the depth of her faith and obedience. Later on, in Luke's Gospel, Jesus says, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it." Mary first heard the Word of God and kept it.

I was looking at a copy of a painting of the visitation by Piero Di Cosimo in Sister Wendy Beckett's book "The History of Painting". She says of this painting that the artist shows the Virgin Mary, still bewildered by the angelic annunciation of her sacred pregnancy, coming to greet her elderly cousin and approaching each other with a touching reverence.

Here is a reflection written by Denis McBride CSSR:

Let us pray for all pregnant mothers that they may be secure and safe in heart and mind and body; that they may be strengthened for the responsibilities ahead of them, and know the consolation of loving support.

We pray for all mothers that they may always delight in the presence of these children entrusted to their safe-keeping; that they may be a shelter for them and a source of love and wisdom.

For all children we pray: that they grow in the security of family life and experience their dignity as children of God. May they always stay connected to their parents in true affection and respect.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER 2024

For pilgrims of hope

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

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **21/22 Dec.:** no collection

24th and 25th December: ALL collections at these Masses are for the Priests' Christmas Offering. Envelopes are available on the pews and in the Narthex

Next weekend: **28/29 Dec.:** no collection



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)

ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC DIRECTORIES 2025 now available from the Church Shop - plain bound £6.50 and spiral bound £7.50

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

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.

Social committee would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you for all your amazing support throughout the year to all our events. 2025 will be an important year for our parish so look out for more information about events for the year. If you'd like to get involved or have ideas to share please get in touch at socialstthomasrc@gmail.com.

100 CLUB DECEMBER WINNERS: Congratulations to our December Winners who each receive £200: Mark Lyons (9); Hilary McKernan (50); Canon Anthony Charlton (76) and Mary McGillie (78).

Please note:

the **Parish Office** will be closed between Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
the **Church Shop** will be closed from 25th December 2024 to 2nd January 2025.

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.

There will be a planning meeting on **Monday, 13th January at 7pm** in the hall for all who would like to help and share ideas.

Fr Anthony

The Flame 2025 on 25th March 2025 at Ovo Aena Wembley.

Suitable for youth Year 9 to university age.

If you are interested in joining this event with our parish please contact

ucmcanterbury@gmail.com

This will also include coach there and back.

More information on the event can be found at <https://cymfed.org.uk/flame/>

READING WITH GONG INTERLUDE

Celebrating the Epiphany with TS Eliot's famous poem 'The Journey of the Magi' - this reading is with gong interludes.

Mark Bateson - reader; Helen Nattrass - gongs

SUNDAY, 5th January 2025 at 3 pm (Lasts about half an hour)

Entrance Free with a retiring collection for the upkeep of the church

SPANISH CLUB

Parish's children studying Spanish in years 10 and 11 are welcome to join this club to enjoy/improve their knowledge. Max capacity: 6 children. Mondays 16:45 to 18:00 (term time). £2 per session towards church and snacks.

Contact Nieves @07932645919

St Richard Reynolds Catholic College Vacancy

The college is currently looking for a teacher of RE. For more information, view our website <https://strichardreynolds.org.uk/whole-college/vacancies-2/> or contact recruitment@srrcc.org.uk or phone 02083 254630.