

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
1 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')

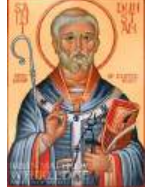
Parish Office open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

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): Cathy Honour - RIP

Sun 29th Dec: Solemnity of St Thomas of Canterbury

Lk 22: 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**

Monday 30 Dec: Feria

Lk 2: 36-40

12 noon: Marina Viegas - Birthday remembrance

Tuesday 31st Dec: Feria

Jn 1: 1-18

12 noon: Benedict XVI - RIP

11.15pm: People of the Parish

2025 Jubilee Year; Pilgrims of Hope

Wednesday 1st January: Mary, The Holy Mother of God

Lk 2: 16-21

10am: Teresa Friar - RIP

Thursday 2nd January: St Basil and St Gregory Nazianzen

Jn 1: 19-28

7.30am: Hubert Schlarmann - RIP

12 noon: Barborikova Family

Friday 3rd January: Feria of Christmas Time

The Holy Name of Jesus

Jn 1: 29-34

12 noon: Lorna Bailey - RIP

Saturday 4th January: Beatified martyrs of the Diocese

Jn 1: 35-42

10.30 - 11.30: Reconciliation

12 noon: Funeral of Jean Boyce

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 5th January: Epiphany of the Lord

Mt 2: 1-12

8.00am: Knotkova Family

9.30am: Charles and Victoria O'Grady - RIP

11.00am: Thanksgiving for Gomis Family

12:30pm: *Baptism of Maisie Boxall*

3.00pm: *The Journey of the Magi-Poem and gong interludes*

6.00pm: Tony Pollinger - RIP

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sun 29th Dec: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph *Lk 2:41-52*

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 5th January: Epiphany of the Lord

Mt 2: 1-12

10.00am: People of the Parish

Friday 10th January:

10:00am: *Funeral Mass for Ivy Gorman*

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

Funeral Mass

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 Ambrosine, 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, Sr Philomena Washington, Sr Elizabeth McNulty, Sr Martina Molloy, Jean Boyce and Fr John Lawrence

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

David Tully, John Kiely and Patricia Gibson

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY 2025

For the right to an education

Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **28/29 Dec.**: no second collection

Next weekend: **04/05 Jan 2025**: no second collection

From Fr Anthony ...

This Sunday, the 29th of December, we in Canterbury will be celebrating the Solemnity of Thomas Becket rather than the Feast of the Holy Family. This is because our parish is dedicated to St Thomas of Canterbury. The readings for this Sunday's Mass are from the Common Book of Martyrs and we will be singing Vespers in the crypt of Canterbury Cathedral at 8pm.

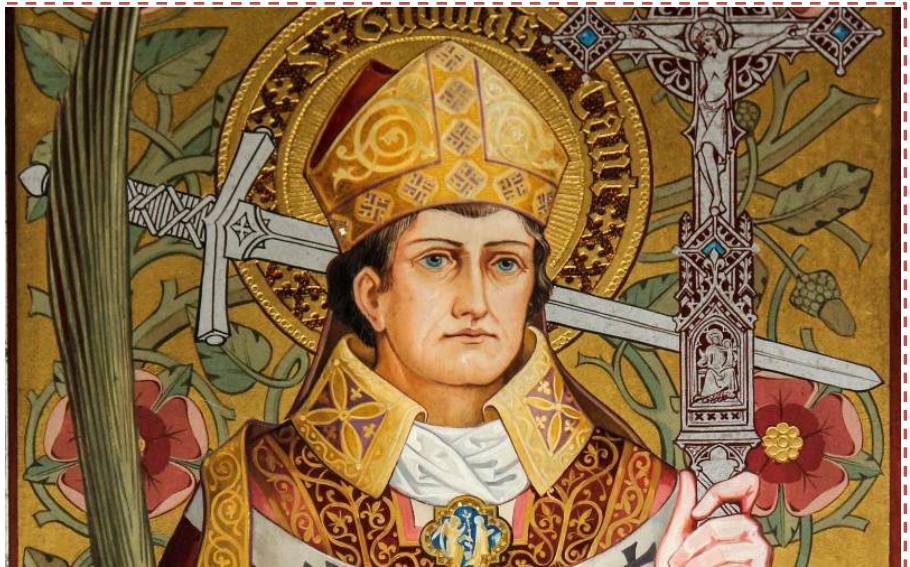
What is the significance of Thomas Becket? As Archbishop of Canterbury he championed the rights of the Church against encroachments by the monarchy. His conflict with King Henry II arose over the Constitutions of Clarendon (1164), a set of laws intended to reduce ecclesiastical privileges and bring clergy under royal authority. Becket's refusal to accept these reforms symbolised the struggle between Church and State in medieval Europe.

It was during the early evening of 29th December 1170 that he was set upon by four knights loyal to King Henry II who had interpreted King Henry's frustration with Becket as a call to action. They came upon the Archbishop in a side chapel of the Cathedral and demanded the absolution of bishops that Thomas had excommunicated - but he refused. It seems that the knights left the Cathedral for a short time then returned with a band of armed men and tried to drag the Archbishop outside but could not manage it. They eventually killed him where he stood. Becket is said to have died like a true saint. According to his cross bearer Edward Grim, who was an eyewitness to the crime and was himself wounded in the struggle, Becket commended his cause to God and accepted death 'for the name of Jesus and in defence of the Church'. His death was seen as a sacrifice for the independence of the Church and made him a symbol of resistance to tyranny.

His shrine in Canterbury Cathedral became one of the most important pilgrimage sites in medieval Europe and he remained one of the most popular English saints until Henry VIII, during the Protestant Reformation, desecrated his shrine, destroyed his bones, and ordered that all mention of his name be obliterated. Becket was immortalised in Geoffrey Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* and his story has inspired countless works of art, literature, and drama, including T.S. Eliot's play *Murder in the Cathedral*. St. Thomas is venerated as a patron saint of clergy, secular priests and those who face persecution for their faith. He is also patron of our Archdiocese of Southwark. The bottom left quarter of our Diocesan Crest shows three Cornish Choughs as seen on the crest of St Thomas of Canterbury. In heraldry, choughs are known as 'beckits'.

In our Martyr's Chapel we are fortunate to retain the relic of a piece of finger bone (presented in 1953) and which originated in the Cistercian monastery of Pontigny where St Thomas stayed during his years of exile. An additional relic was obtained in the late 19th century and consists of a further fragment of bone and a piece of Becket's vestment.

O God, our strength and our salvation, you called your servant Thomas Becket to be a shepherd of your people and a defender of your church; Keep your household from all evil and raise up faithful pastors and leaders who are wise in the ways of the Gospel; through Jesus Christ, the shepherd of our souls, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS



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)

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.

THANK YOU

Thank you for your great kindness shown to us with your cards and gifts as well as your generosity in your giving to the Christmas collection

We wish you every blessing and all our prayers for the New Year which is a Jubilee Year. May this coming year be a year of hope and trust for you all.

Canon Anthony and Father Giovanni

