

# NEWSLETTER

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

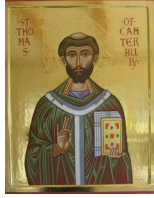
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY  
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1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH  
Telephone: **01227 462896**

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

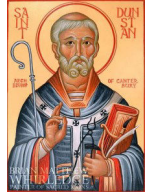
**Parish Office** open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

**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): People of the Parish

**Sunday 5th January: The 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 Imelda Surgeon*

6.00pm: Tony Pollinger - RIP

**Monday 6th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Mt 2: 1-12

12 noon: Thresyamma Joseph - RIP

**Tuesday 7th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Mk 6: 34-44

12 noon: James Murray

7.00pm: *RCIA - Hall*

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

**Wednesday 8th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Mk 6: 45-53

10.30- 11.30am Reconciliation & Adoration

12 noon: Papier Rosalie Bertin's intentions

**Thursday 9th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Lk 4: 14-22

12 noon: Father David Barnes - health and wellbeing

*Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass*

**Friday 10th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Lk 5: 12-16

12 noon: Peter Salvatori - RIP

**Saturday 11th Jan: Feria of Christmas Time** Jn 3: 22-30

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Hubert Schlarmann - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Ignatius Dempsey - RIP

**Sunday 12th Jan: Baptism of the Lord** Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

8.00am: Pietro Rencricca - RIP

9.30am: Nan Harrigan - RIP

11.00am: John Wilkins - RIP

12:30pm: *Baptism of Maisie Boxall*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

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

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 5th January: Epiphany of the Lord** Mt 2: 1-12

10.00am: People of the Parish

10th January 10.00am: Funeral of Ivy Gorman

**Sunday 12th Jan: Baptism of the Lord** Lk 3: 15-16, 21-22

10.00am: People of the Parish

### 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 and Sr Philomena Washington, Sr Elizabeth McNulty, Sr Martina Molloy, Sr Anne Bross, Ivy Gorman

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

David Tully, John Keily 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: **04/05 Jan 2025**: no second collection

Next weekend: **11/12 Jan 2025: St Vincent de Paul (SVP)**

## From Fr Anthony ...

St Luke tells us of the shepherds, who lived close, came to seek out Jesus in Bethlehem because of the message of an angel who appeared to them. This Sunday, we have St Matthew telling us of the wise men, the Magi, coming from the east, seeking the King of the Jews because they saw "his star when it rose." Matthew writes, 'And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose, went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.' These Magi were led to Jesus through their observation of creation, perhaps they were astronomers or astrologers. It was through their study, reading the signs in the sky and also making enquiries of the Jewish scriptures, they were led to Jesus. We have these two groups, local shepherds and strangers and foreigners from the east being drawn to the child born in Bethlehem. The Magi, when they found Jesus with Mary, they fell down and worshipped him. The word used for worship, *proskyneō*, literally means to bow down, prostrate before someone. In the Gospel of Matthew, he uses this term for the kind of expression of adoration and veneration that you give to God and God alone. The implication is that they recognise that Jesus is not just the king of the Jews, they are not just venerating him as king, they are worshipping him as a divine king" (Brant Petrie)

Today, God in various ways, is constantly drawing all people to discover his Son, Jesus.

The word Epiphany coming from the Greek word *epiphaneia*, which means "appearance" or "manifestation" or "showing". As we begin this year we need to be people open to the ways that Jesus reveals himself to us today. Jesus is wanting us to discover him and know him more deeply. When we kneel before the crib this weekend and see the figures of the Magi let us be like them and bow down and worship him - acknowledge him as our Lord. "The Magi gaze in deep wonder at what they see: heaven on earth, earth in heaven, man in God, God in man, one whom the whole universe cannot contain now enclosed in a tiny body. As they look, they believe and do not question, as their symbolic gifts bear witness: incense for God, gold for a king, myrrh for one who is to die." (Peter Chrysologus)

What are we going to give? What will we offer to Jesus?

*What can I give Him*

*Poor as I am?*

*If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb*

*If I were a wise man, I would do my part*

*Yet what I can, I give Him*

*Give my heart"*



## 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, 1st February 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. There are still places available. Forms available in the Narthex, on our website and from the Office. Please speak to Linda in the office for more info.

**PLANNING MEETING: 13 January 7.30 pm** in presbytery for celebration of 150 year Anniversary of the opening of St Thomas Parish Church.

The Church Social committee are holding a gift amnesty appeal for donations of any unwanted Christmas gift, this will be used to help raise funds for the church at future events. Items donated can left in the labelled box in the All Saints Chapel from the 11th of January. Please see our poster for more details

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2025

**Ash Wednesday** (Lent begins) 5th March

**Easter Sunday;** 20th April

Celebration of **Confirmation** with Bishop Paul Hendrick Saturday 10th May at 6pm

Celebration of **First Communion:** Sunday 18th May 9:30am and 11am.

**Southwark Holy Year Celebration** at Aylesford Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Celebration of the 150 Anniversary of the opening of our Church** with Archbishop of Southwark John Wilson

Pentecost Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June 11am Mass

**Translation Mass in Canterbury Cathedral** celebrated by Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain is His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía:

7th July

**Fr Anthony 50th Jubilee** Mass: Saturday 21st June 12 noon

**Lourdes Pilgrimage** 15th to 22nd August

**Parish Rome Pilgrimage`;** 15th to 19<sup>th</sup> September