

# NEWSLETTER

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

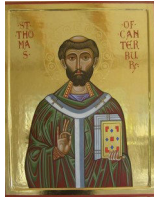
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1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH  
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Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

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')

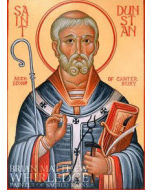
**Parish Office** open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

**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:** Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)



### ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): John and Sue Nolan - RIP

**Sunday 2nd Mar: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Times** Lk 6:39-45

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Steve Hyland - RIP

11.00am: John Delaney - RIP

4.00pm: *Confirmation Sessions in the Hall*

6.00pm: Fr David Barnes - RIP

**Monday 3rd Mar: Feria** Mk 10: 17-27

12 noon: Paul McLoughlin - birthday wishes

**Tuesday 4th Mar: Feria** Mk 10: 28-31

12 noon: Luisa Piccarreta, Serv of God - RIP

7.00pm: *RCIA - Hall*

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

**Wednesday 5th Mar: Ash Wednesday** Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

9.30am: Private Intentions

10.30- 11.30am Reconciliation & Adoration

12 noon: Pope Francis - health and wellbeing

8.00pm: Fr Paddy Cannon - RIP

**Thursday 6th Mar: Feria** Lk 9: 22-25

7.30am: Mary De Wolf - health and welfare

12 noon: John Hennelly - RIP

*Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass*

**Friday 7th Mar: Sts Perpetua and Felicity** Mt 9: 14-15

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR PEACE - *Celebrations at St*

*Peter's Methodist Church CT1 2BE - see noticeboard for details*

12 noon: Souls in Purgatory

**Saturday 8th Mar: Feria** Lk 5: 27-32

9.00 - 10am: *First Holy Communion Classes in the Hall*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: People of the Soviet Union who died during the wars

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Patrick Barron and Family - welfare

**Sunday 9th Mar: 1st Sunday of Lent (C)** Lk 4: 1-13

8.00am: Robert Wright - RIP

9.30am: Bishop Colin Davis (Mill Hill) - RIP

*Coffee after 9:30 mass - all donations to CAFOD*

11.00am: Welfare of Delaney and Brown Families

4.00pm: *Confirmation Sessions in the Hall*

6.00pm: Filipino Community and Families

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

**ASH WEDNESDAY - a Day of Fast and Abstinence is 5th March 2025**

Masses will be held at St Thomas's at 9.30am, 12 noon and 8.00pm

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 2nd Mar: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Times** Lk 6:39-45

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Sunday 9th Mar: 1st Sunday in Lent** Lk 4: 1-13

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 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:

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 Brossa, Ivy Gorman, Fr Paddy Canon, William Richards and Sister Elizabeth Mullen

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

Keith Taylor and Francoise Heaton

### ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **01/02 Mar2025:** No second collection

Next weekend: **08/09 Mar2025:** for the **SVP** - please give generously as usual

### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2025

*For families in crisis*

Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

## From Fr Anthony ...

How are you going to spend this six weeks of the Season of Lent? At the beginning of Lent I often hear some people declare, "I am not giving up anything this Lent instead I am going to do something for Lent."

Whether we give up something or do something we are all seeking in this season to live more intently a life of prayer, almsgiving and fasting. These are the means by which we become more open to Jesus and deepen our relationship with him. At the same time, these three elements are the means by which we become closer to our brothers and sisters so that we grow in love and reach out to them in their need. Lent is our spiritual journey to the great feast of Easter. At Easter we all have the opportunity to renew our baptismal promises. This Lent is particularly a special time of reflection for four adults who will be baptised at the Easter Vigil on Saturday 21st April. We call this time of Lent, for those who are to be baptised at Easter, the period of Purification and Enlightenment. Besides those being baptised at the Easter Vigil, five adults are to be received into the Full Communion with the Catholic Church and six adult Catholics are to complete their initiation by receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Pope Francis, in his letter for Lent this year, proposes a few reflections on what it means to journey together in hope and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us - as individuals and as a community.

He says a first call to conversion comes from the realisation that all of us are pilgrims in this life. Each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilised by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? He says second call is to journey together. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters.

The third call to conversion is for us to journey together in hope, for we have been given a promise.

May the hope that does not disappoint (cf. Rom 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. He says "Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God's help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded? May the Spirit. guide you as you journey from Ashes to Easter.

## 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, 5th April 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 (available from office, online or in the Narthex)

### Fr James' Ghanian Church Our Lent Project 2025

Fr James Buah-Nkwantabisa spent 2 months with us in 2024 as supply priest - he made a lot of friends and will be coming back in 2025. He has asked if we could contribute towards the building of this church & Canon Anthony has designated this our Lenten Project for 2025. Please see the Project Display Boards for more information. Can you do anything to raise funds during Lent for Fr James and our brothers & sisters in Asuokaw, Ghana?

Vintage Cakes of the world thank you everyone for all the delicious bakes and all who came and had a slice or two. We raised £124.80 for future parish projects.

**Lenten Lunch 13th March** in the church hall 10:30-1pm. Donations of homemade Soups, breads and fruit welcome on the day. Tea and coffee served. All welcome.

### Lenten Evening Retreat for Catholic Men

On Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March at St Michael's parish, Chatham there will be an evening retreat for Catholic men. Starting at 7.30pm, the evening will include Eucharistic adoration, two preached meditations, time for Confession, silent prayer, Rosary, a tea break and Benediction. The evening is led by Fr Peter Murphy, an experienced spiritual director and parish priest in Southwark Archdiocese. Chatham train station next door, car park available. For questions, email [MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com](mailto:MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com).

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: HCPT GROUP 587** - Fund raising Barn Dance on 22 March 2025 in St Thomas' Hall. Quiz Night on 28th June - more details to follow.

Come and hear from **Fr Paschal Uche** about helping to save and change lives during Lent this year by praying near the abortion centre in Brixton, as part of the 40 Days for Life Campaign. Also hear from a Mother who changed her mind about her abortion and successfully took the abortion reversal pill. This Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March 6.30pm, St Bede's Catholic Church Hall 58 Thornton Road, London SW12 0LF. For more details contact Gabriella on 07745-711064

### Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration Day at The Friars, Aylesford 7 June 2025.

Led by Archbishop John Wilson, we will gather as an Archdiocese at The Friars, Aylesford for a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun. There will be lots of activities, for children as well as for adults. This will be the centre-piece event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will also be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June 2025). **The event itself is free.** Our parish is putting on a mini-coach (32 spaces) for the day itself, so to join our parish coach, please contact **Linda in the Office**. The coach will cost **£20** per person. You can find out more about the event, including how to join the walking pilgrimage, and the wider Jubilee Year plans in the Archdiocese at [rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025](http://rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025).

**2025 Lenten Booklets** are now available in the shop

### FREE INTRODUCTORY TALK : CHANGING YOUR MINDSET

St Thomas' Hall on Wednesday, 12th March 2025 at 7pm to raise funds for Parish initiatives. More information via this QR Code or the posters



**UCM CAKE SALE AND RAFFLE** in aid of HCPT Children's Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes on 9th March at 10.30am in the Hall. Donations on the day very gratefully received.

**DAY PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM 26 JUNE 2025.** The Deanery is organising a day pilgrimage to Walsingham with coach pickup in various centres (including Canterbury). The programme for the day includes: 11 am Adoration; 12 noon Holy Mass followed by Procession and Rosary; Visit the Sipper Chapel and ending with Benediction in the Ancient Priory Grounds (which involves £5.00 entrance fee). Have tea in the village. The costs for the coaches would work out to approximately £50 per person (the same as the London pickup). Coaches would leave at about 6 am and return between 9 -10 pm. If you are interested, please complete the form in the Narthex before 4th March 2025.

Have you seen the amazing ONLINE **Sycamore** series about adults and developing their faith? The next course for married and engaged couples begins on **Tuesday March 4th and continues on 11th, 18th, 25th and April 1st 2025**. Both of you are welcome but if only one can attend, please join us! To **register** click on the link below from **Feb 28th 2025**: [Growing in Faith Together - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis \(rcaos.org.uk\)](http://Growing in Faith Together - Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk))