

NEWSLETTER

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

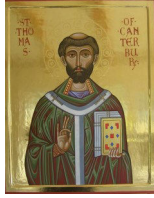
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
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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')

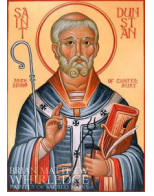
Parish Office open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

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



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): Ray Scott - RIP

Sunday 23rd Feb: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 6:27-38

8.00am: Roger Carless (FSS) - RIP

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

11.00am: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Christine Metcalfe - RIP

2nd Col.: Clergy
Support Fund

Monday 24th Feb: Feria

Mk 9: 14-29

12 noon: Alexi Forrester (FSS) - RIP

7.00pm: *Introductory talk on "Doorway to Hope" in Church*

Tuesday 25th Feb: St Ethelbert, King

Mk 9: 30-37

7.30am: Private Intentions

12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS

7.00pm: RCIA - Hall

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

Wednesday 26th Feb: Feria

Mk 9: 38-40

10.30- 11.30am Reconciliation & Adoration

12 noon: Cardinal Merry del Val, Serv. Of God - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 27th Feb: Feria

Mk 9: 41-50

7.30am: Robert Wright - RIP

12 noon: Philip Reeve - welfare

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass

Friday 28th Feb: Feria

Mk 10: 1-12

12 noon: Patrick Mackle - RIP

Saturday 1st March: St David

Mk 10: 13-16

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

Parents' meeting in the Church

9.00am: *Parent's Baptism Preparation Meeting*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: UCM and Families

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

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

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 23rd Feb: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 6:27-38

10.00am: People of the Parish

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

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 February 2025:

Andrew Dalton

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: : **22/23 Feb 2025:** For **Clergy Support Fund** - to support our clergy in their retirement or those with illnesses

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

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2025

For vocations to the priesthood and religious life

Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

From Fr Anthony ...

What a challenging gospel we have before us this week! Jesus is calling us to love our enemies. To give and not expect any return. Not to judge. To turn the other cheek. To share our cloak and our tunic. To give and not to count the cost.

To always show mercy and compassion. Is this being realistic or is Jesus asking too much of us? What is the love Jesus is talking about?

Today we associate the word 'love' with a feeling or an emotion. Jesus isn't talking about an emotion or feeling when he calls us to love. To love is to wish the good of the other. Let's look at how we can love in this way.

Loving our enemies entails good actions. We don't return evil for evil. We respond to evil by doing good to the person. If a person wishes evil on us or curses us we respond with a blessing. We express the desire for good upon the one who curses us.

We are called to pray for those who abuse us. We pray that Gospel will bless that person. These are some of the ways we can love the good of the other.

As Brant Pitri says in his commentary on this reading, 'Jesus isn't calling us to purely natural virtue. Jesus is calling us to much more than natural virtue or natural love. Jesus is teaching us the way of the cross. As he hung on the cross he prayed, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do". Jesus blesses his enemies, he prays for them'.

In the last part of the Gospel Jesus says, 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful. Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned.'

What does Jesus mean when he asks us not to judge? He doesn't mean you cannot judge the moral value of an action. But you cannot pass judgement on the person. We cannot make a judgement on the state of a person's soul or the destiny of the soul. The only person who can condemn is God. He is the final judge of human beings and humanity.

You might remember Pope Francis called for a Year of Mercy in 2016. In his letter introducing the year he gave a reflection on today's passage. He wrote, "The Lord asks us above all *not to judge* and *not to condemn*. If anyone wishes to avoid God's judgement he should not make himself the judge of his brother or sister. Human beings, whenever they judge, look no farther than the surface whereas the Father looks into the very depths of the soul. How much harm words do when they are motivated by feelings of jealousy and envy! To speak ill of others puts them in a bad light, undermines their reputation and leaves them prey to the whims of gossip."

Lord give me the grace to love as you love, to forgive as you forgive and fill me with your mercy and compassion.

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 March 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)

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



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?

Share your moments in our church. To celebrate our 150yrs we are asking parishioners to share their beloved pictures of life events in our church from baptism to weddings. **Copies** of your photos with a short note of the occasion.

Note: these will be displayed in the parish. These will be collected on the 23rd February in the church hall after 9:30 and 11am masses other dates to follow.

ASH WEDNESDAY - 5th March 2025

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

Clergy Support Fund Second Collection

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones.

Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have one for parishes. You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code.

You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri **020 7960 2504** or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes available today at the back of Church.

Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



Doorway to Hope: There is an introductory talk on his new book by Christopher Chapman in the church at 7.00pm on Monday, 24th February.

Beginning Experience Weekend

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com.