

NEWSLETTER

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

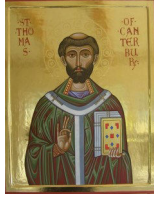
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
1 East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
Telephone: **01227 462896**

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')

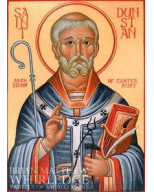
Parish Office open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

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



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): 00pm (Vigil): William Richards - RIP

Sunday 9th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 5: 1-11

8.00am: Sheila d'Souza - RIP

9.30am: Mehlin Family

11.00am: Elizabeth Browne - RIP

4.00pm: Confirmation Classes in the Hall

6.00pm: Father David Barnes - RIP

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

Monday 10th Feb: St Scholastica Mk 6: 53-56

12 noon: Michael Kelly -RIP

Tuesday 11th Feb: Our Lady of Lourdes Mk 7: 1-13

7.30am: Sean Clancy's intentions

12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS TODAY

7.00pm: RCIA - Hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meeting in the Upper Room

Wednesday 12th Feb: Feria Mk 7: 14-23

10.30- 11.30am Reconciliation & Adoration

12 noon: Aleyamma Mathoor - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 13th Feb: Feria Mk 7: 24-30

7.30am: Ray Cookson - welfare

12 noon: Josephine Slaughter - RIP

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass

Friday 14th Feb: Sts Cyril and Methodius Lk 10: 1-9

12 noon: Brigid's intentions

6pm: Valentine's Day Music in the Church

Saturday 15th Feb: Feria Mk 8: 1-10

9am - 10am: First Holy Communion Classes in the Hall

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Ina Madden - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Robert O'Grady - RIP

Sunday 16th Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 6:17,20-26

8.00am: Birthday Thanksgiving

9.30am: Glenda Flanagan's intentions

11.00am: Francis Brown - RIP

6.00pm: Maureen and Syd Pepper - RIP

2nd Col.:
**Racial
Justice**

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 9th Feb: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 5: 1-11

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 16th Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Times Lk 6:17,20-26

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: **08/09 Feb 2025:** For the work of the SVP

Next weekend: **15/16 Feb 2025:** For Racial Justice Sunday

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.



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)

From Fr Anthony ...

This coming weekend in the Gospel we read how Jesus commandeered a fishing boat belonging to Peter in order that he could speak more effectively to the people that were crowding around him on the shore. After he had finished speaking he said to Peter, 'Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.' And Peter answered, 'Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.' And when they had done this, they caught a large number of fish and their nets were breaking. Jesus' words were, "Put into the deep." The Latin is *Duc in Altum*. At the end of the Jubilee of 2000 Pope St John Paul II wrote an Apostolic Letter, *NOVO MILLENNIO INEUNTE* (At the beginning of the new millennium), to encourage the Catholic Church to renew its enthusiasm for its spiritual and pastoral responsibilities. In this letter he refers to this passage from Luke saying that Peter and his first companions trusted Christ's words and cast the nets. "When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish" (Luke 5:6). Twenty-five years later we are beginning a new Jubilee year. We are also celebrating the 150th year Jubilee of the building of our church. I believe that we should take to heart Pope St John Paul words, encouraging us that, in all we do, we need to centre everything in Christ himself; "who is to be known, loved and imitated, so that in him we may live the life of the Trinity, and with him transform history until its fulfilment in the heavenly Jerusalem." To trust in Christ is to be attentive to him in prayer which roots us in this truth. It constantly reminds us of the primacy of Christ and, in union with him, the primacy of the interior life and of holiness. "When this principle is not respected, is it any wonder that pastoral plans come to nothing and leave us with a disheartening sense of frustration? We then share the experience of the disciples in the Gospel story of the miraculous catch of fish: "We have toiled all night and caught nothing" (Luke 5:5)." This is the moment of faith, of prayer, of conversation with God, in order to open our hearts to the tide of grace and allow the word of Christ to pass through us in all its power: *Duc in altum!* On that occasion it was Peter who spoke the words of faith: "At your word I will let down the nets." In all that we, as a parish community, plan to do for the Jubilee year as pilgrims of hope and all that we plan for the 150th anniversary of the building of our church, we need to listen attentively to where Christ and the Spirit is guiding us. In what ways must we put out into the deep? For what should we cast our nets?

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

ST THOMAS PILGRIMAGE TO ROME 15-19 SEPTEMBER 2025:

We still have four double (twin) and five single rooms available for our pilgrimage trip with Canon Anthony to Rome. If you are interested, please contact Linda in the office.

SVP says thank you. The January collection raised £1149.21. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. In January we gave out £430 in supermarket vouchers. We contributed to a high-quality winter coat for someone who is especially vulnerable to the cold. We bought a fridge-freezer, a washing machine, a tumble dryer and provided £300 of financial support. Thank you for helping us to help others in Canterbury.

Vintage Bakes of the world 23rd February 10:30 in the church hall. Celebrate our parish 150years with your favourite sweet or savoury treats. Donations of cakes welcome on the day. All funds raised going to our parish.

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



A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 1 March 2025 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at <https://www.adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

On Monday 10th February please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed. Pray especially that Assisted Suicide won't be introduced. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting contact; The Good Counsel Network on 020 7723 1740. Please Invite others to join us on the day, by Inviting them via Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/events/618329970650531/>

HCPT GROUP 587 Book now to join your 'Holiday with Our Lady' in Lourdes 15th - 22nd August '25 staying at Hosanna House. £1150 includes flight, French airport transfer, full board accommodation with ensuite facilities, breathtaking views and tasty cuisine plus fully comprehensive insurance. (Own travel option £820) To find out more contact: Roxy 07852538576 or Annie 07866515797

VALENTINE'S DAY MUSIC IN ST THOMAS' CHURCH. There will be a music concert in our Church on Friday, 14th February 2025 at 6pm featuring Mezzo Soprano Elizabeth Sillo and pianist/trumpeter Kevin Kay-Bradley. Entrance is free but donations are welcome.

Help Shape the Future of Our Archdiocese

The Archbishop invites you to play a vital role in shaping the future of our Archdiocese. In today's pastoral letter, he encourages everyone to reflect on the themes in the **Called to Bear Fruit** booklet and participate in small group discussions over the coming weeks. Here's how you can get involved:

- *Form a group: Gather 4-12 people.*
- *Choose your schedule: Discuss all six themes across six sessions or combine them into fewer meetings—whatever works best for you.*
- *Share your insights: Submit your group's reflections via our online form or as a typed hard copy.*

The more people who take part, the richer our understanding of the needs of our archdiocese will be. Let's work together to shape our future! Thank you for your involvement.

Accommodation Appeal Whitstable SVP: This appeal is on behalf of the SVP in Whitstable to see if there is anyone with a spare room who could rent it out to a young Congolese man (23) who will soon become homeless. He is polite, respectful, good company and very interested in the creative arts and DIY. He would be able to pay as much as £400 as rent for the use of a spare room. If you can help, please contact Jan (Whitstable SVP) on 07938 106310.

Assisted Suicide: what you need to know, and what you can do

All parishioners are invited to a special talk on Thursday 13th February at 7.30pm at St Michael's parish hall, Chatham, Kent. The speaker is Dr. Cajetan Skowronski, a specialist geriatric and palliative care doctor in the NHS, and national media commentator. He will discuss the serious dangers of the assisted suicide bill, healthcare realities, and what we can do. Educational literature available. Refreshments served. Car park on site. Chatham train station 30 seconds away.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 06th April 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Share your moments in our church. To celebrate our 150yrs we are asking parishners 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. Please note these will be displayed in the parish. More details to follow soon.