

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: 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): 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

3.00pm: *Confirmation trip to Sturry Convent*

6.00pm: Filipino Community and Families

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

Monday 10th Mar: Feria *Mt 25: 31-46*

12 noon: Heron Terels - birthday wishes

7.30pm: *150th Group Meeting*

Tuesday 11th Mar: Feria *Mt 6: 7-15*

12 noon: Funeral of Joseph Devlin

7.00pm: *RCIA - Hall*

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

Wednesday 12th Mar: *Lk 11: 29-32*

10.30- 11.30am Reconciliation & Adoration

12 noon: Anne Curtin O'Grady - RIP

Coffee and Tea in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 13th Mar: Feria *Mt 7: 7-12*

7.30am: Mary Conlan - RIP

12 noon: Robert Paterson - RIP

Scripture Group after 12 noon Mass

Friday 14th Mar: Feria *Mt 5: 20-26*

CAFOD LENTEN FAST DAY

12 noon: Souls in Purgatory

6.00pm: *Stations of the Cross*

Saturday 15th Mar: Feria *Mt 5: 43-48*

9.00 - 10am: *Celebration of First Reconciliation*

9am: *Confirmation Retreat to Minster Abbey*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Christopher Yates - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Magdalena Szydlowska - RIP (1st Anniv.)

Sunday 16th Mar: 2nd Sunday of Lent (C) *Lk 9: 28-36*

8.00am: People of the parish

9.30am: Chris Dyckhoff, SJ - RIP

Coffee after 9:30 mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Anne and Maurice Silcock - RIP

6.00pm: Welfare of Kevin and Chrissie Nuttall

2nd Col.:
**CAFOD
Lenten Fast
Day**

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Fridays in Lent: The church is open for people to make Stations of the Cross.

Sunday 16th Mar: 2nd Sunday of Lent (C) *Lk 9: 28-36*

10.00am: Martina Morrissey

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:

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, Sister Elizabeth Mullen, Joseph Devlin and Ben Wright

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

Keith Taylor and Francoise Heaton

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **08/09 Mar 2025**: for the **SVP** - please give generously as usual
Next weekend: **15/16 Mar 2025**: for CAFOD Lenten Fast Day of Friday, 14 March.
Envelopes are available in the church on weekend 08/09 March.

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 ...

In the Gospel this weekend we read “Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness for forty days, being tempted by the devil.”

This reminded me of the time while in Egypt with an international group of priests who follow the spirituality of Charles de Foucauld that we had the opportunity to spend a few days in the Monastery of St. Macarius the Great, Wadi El-Natroun. It is located on the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria. St Macarius was a disciple of St Anthony and this monastery was founded in the middle of 4th century. On one of the days I was there I spent time alone in the desert area. As priests belonging to Jesus Caritas we are encourage once a month to do a “day in the desert” when we find a quiet place in which we can find a degree of solitude to pray, meditate, write, open ourselves to God’s word. While I was sitting in the shade, a desert fox passed close. In my wanderings I inadvertently walked onto the roof of a hermitage, much to the annoyance of the hermit monk.

As we begin this Lenten season, like Jesus, we are led by the Spirit into the desert. We now have an opportunity to spend time pondering where God is in our lives. We can create our own desert place by putting aside distractions that keep us inattentive. It is a time for us to be more attentive and be aware of our thirst for God. We begin our own 40 days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving which orientate ourselves to God and his love for each one of us. Thus, we are able to reach out in love to others.

Lord I thank you for this time of Lent. May it be for me a time to look deeper into myself and discover how I can more authentically live out my mission in Christ.

Like the desert, whose beauty is not always obvious, I am invited to spend time pondering where you, Lord, might be in the desert places of my life. Give me the grace to put myself beyond my comfort zone and enter the desert where I will see you more clearly if I am willing to look.

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)

Lenten Lunch 16th 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. All funds raised going to our Lenten project for Father James.

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.

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



COME AND SING: St Thomas’ Parish Community Choir will come together again for Holy Week 2025. Past and new singers all welcome. Your voice is needed.

Rehearse:
Saturday April 5th, 2.00 – 3.30 in the **hall**
Saturday April 12th 2.00 – 3.30 in **church**

Liturgies:
Maundy Thursday 17th April starts at 8.00 p.m. (choir in at 6.30)
Good Friday 18th April starts at 3.00, (choir in at 2.00)
Easter Vigil 19th April starts **8.30 p.m.** (choir in at 7.00) **NOTE LATER LITURGY START TIME.**
Contact Lizzie at rikhs Canterbury@aol.com

Lent Evening Retreat for Catholic Men

On Friday 14th 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, For questions, email MedwayCatholicMen@outlook.com.

CARITAS AND THE SANTA MARTA GROUP - ANTI-HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY SEMINAR

Canterbury Deanery: Wednesday 2 April 2025 6:30-8:30pm St Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, 59 Burgate, CT1 2HJ (entrance off Canterbury Lane)
Find out more about human trafficking and modern slavery, the work of the Santa Marta Group, and what you can do locally

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.

Would you like to participate in silent prayer, on Zoom, during Lent? Every Thursday, 7.30pm

If you are interested and would like the Zoom Link, please email John Renn: jrennstthomas@gmail.com

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) is conducting a survey to understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap and the current economic climate on Catholic families in England and Wales. Please share your experience by completing the survey, which can be accessed at csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey, where you’ll also find further information about the survey. The survey will close on 25th March

SVP says thank you. The February Collection raised £739.77. Thank you so much for your generous support and for other donations that we have received. In February we gave out £600 in supermarket vouchers and we bought a cooker and a mini freezer. We are very grateful to Gillingham SVP Conference who provided the funding for a washing machine. Thanks to the SVP Cost of Living Support Fund we were able to extensively carpet a home, and we are also very grateful to the 1485 Trust which enabled us to provide much needed vinyl flooring for a family.

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. Please see display in the Saints Chapel.