

# NEWSLETTER

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

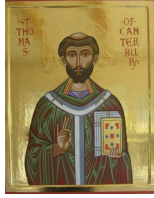
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Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

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')

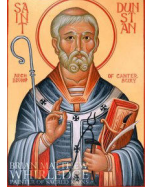
**Parish Office** open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

**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): Tony Gibbins - RIP

**Sunday 13th Apr: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (C)**  
Lk 22: 14-23, 56

8.00am: Jo Clark - birthday wishes

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families  
*Coffee after 9:30 mass - all donations to CAFOD*

11.00am: Welfare of the Delany and Brown Families

4.0pm: *No Confirmation until 27 April 2025*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

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

**Monday 14th Apr: Monday of Holy Week**

Jn 12: 1-11

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Melanie McCord's intentions

**Tuesday 15th Apr: Tuesday of Holy Week** Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Victoria Fetherston-Dilke on her birthday

7.00pm: *RCIA*

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

**Wednesday 16th Apr: Wednesday of Holy Week** Mt 26: 14-25

7.30am: Welfare of Olivia Carla Hanbrook

11.30am: Chrism Mass at St George's Cathedral, Southwark

12 noon: **THERE IS NO MIDDAY MASS AT ST THOMAS'**

**Thursday 17th Apr: MAUNDY THURSDAY**

Jn 13: 1-15

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

8.00pm: **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER** - John Fitzgerald - RIP  
*With watching at the Altar of Repose until midnight*

11.45pm: *Night prayers*

**Friday 18th Apr: FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD  
(GOOD FRIDAY)**

Jn 18: 1 - 19:42

9.00am: *Morning Prayer*

10.00am: *Good Friday Children's Liturgy in the Hall*

10.45am: *Walk of Witness*

3.00pm: **SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

8.00pm: *Stations of the Cross with Veneration of the Cross*

**Saturday 12th Apr: HOLY SATURDAY**

Jn 11: 45-56

9.00am: *Morning Prayer*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

2.00pm: *Polish Food Blessing in the Hall*

8.30pm: **SOLEMN EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT**  
- People of the Parish

**Sunday 13th Apr: EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD (C)**

Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

8.00am: Carla's Intentions

9.30am: Norah Whiting - RIP

*Coffee after 9:30 mass - donations to Fr Jame's church*

11.00am: David Heap - RIP

6.00pm: Sheila Elliott & deceased members of the McGilley Family

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 13th Apr: PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION (C)**  
Lk 22: 14-23, 56

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Friday, 18th April: FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

3.00pm: **THE PASSION OF OUR LORD**

**Sunday 13th Apr: EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION  
OF THE LORD (C)** Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

10.00am: People of the Parish

### PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

**Please remember in your prayers:**

Angeline Frizell, Janette Hughes, Jenni Aldridge, Josie Price, 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, Augustine Barna, Mary Lyons, David Lewis, John Mathew, Jean Matthews and Carol Halton

**Please pray for the repose of the souls of:**

Sr Anne Brossa, Ivy Gorman, Fr Paddy Canon, William Richards, Sister Elizabeth Mullen, Joseph Devlin, Ben Wright, Mary Reynolds, Sylvia Quinones, Maria Goard, Marie Strong, Audrey Green, Sr Maria Douherty, Canon Francis Mooney, Fr Sunith Nonis and Mgr Canon John O'Toole

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

Sheila Elliott

The **Funeral Service** of the Late **Mgr Canon John O'Toole** will take place on **Friday, 2nd May at 12.30pm** in St George's Cathedral, Southwark

### ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **12/13 Apr 2025:** SVP

Next week: Holy Thurs, **17 Apr:** Fr James church in Ghana (please see display)

Good Friday, **18 Apr:** for the Upkeep of the Holy Places of Palestine

Weekend **19/20 Apr 2025:** All collections at the Easter Services are for the Priest's Easter Offering. This collection goes directly to the Priests. Envelopes are available on the pews and at the back of the church

### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2025

**For the use of the new technologies**

Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

## From Fr Anthony ...

This week we embark on a solemn and momentous journey. We are walking with Christ. We are the crowd that sing hosanna, wave palms and cast garments as he rides on a colt. Later that week, as we prepare for the supper together, Jesus washes our feet and commands us to wash the feet of each other. We sit with him at table as he breaks the bread and gives it to us saying; "This is my body, which is for you." He then shares the cup with us saying; "This cup is the new covenant in my blood". Jesus takes us out into the night to the garden on the Mount of Olives. He asks us to pray that we may not enter into temptation and we hear his prayer, "Father, if you are willing, move this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will but yours be done." But he finds us sleeping for sorrow. We run when he is arrested and is betrayed by one of his friends. Later we creep back to the house of the High priest and warm our hands in the courtyard when we see and hear Peter deny him three times. Next day we stand in the courtyard of the Praetorium before Pilate. We are among the crowd that cry "Crucify Him." We follow the crowd accompanying Jesus as he drags his cross to Golgotha, the place of the skull. He is blooded, battered and bruised. We stand with his mother Mary and his beloved disciple, John, or do we stand with those who look on as they crucify him? We hear him cry, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." We hear the promise he made to one of the criminals crucified with him; "Today you will be with me in paradise." We look on as he cries in a loud voice, "Father into your hands I commit my spirit" and breathes his last breath. We help Joseph of Arimathea take the body of Jesus down from the cross and wrap it in a linen shroud and, with him, we lay it in a tomb cut in stone.

Pope Leo the Great said: "In him we all died and were buried and raised to life again. Because he shared our manhood, we are admitted to God's pardon and peace and given the right to glory in the power of our Saviour who wrestled with our insolent enemy in the weakness of our own flesh and so made over his victory to those in his flesh he had gained it."

Next Saturday we keep solemn vigil, bless new fire, bring light into darkness and hear the story of salvation. We bless the water that will be used to bring to birth four catechumens through baptism and we welcome others into the fullness of the Catholic Church through Confirmation and Holy Communion.

As we contemplate Christ's love for us, expressed in his crucifixion, may it give us hope that our world might be redeemed and transformed by that love and show us the way from cross to resurrection, from despair to hope, from death to new life, into beloved community, and a world created anew.

## 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, 3rd May 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)

### WALKING PILGRIMAGE

There is a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral (2 June) to the Friars, Aylesford (7 June) for which we already have had 80 expressions of interest. Should your parishioners be interested in joining this, please ask them to visit as soon as they are able: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/pilgrimage2025>

### "True Devotion to Mary"

Talk Series with Alexander Muir, based on St Louis de Montfort's classic work in St Thomas' Church, Canterbury and Livestreamd:  
Monday 12th May, 7pm: The Excellence of Devotion to Mary  
Monday 19th May, 7pm: Five Truths of True Devotion  
Monday 2nd June, 7pm: The Easy, Short, Perfect and Secure Way

**150th Anniversary:** We have a new web page on our website to give information about our 150th Anniversary. Please have a look at it: AT: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com/portfolio-items/150th-anniversary/>

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** Gift Aid weekly envelopes and envelopes for second collections for standing order gift aiders are available in the Narthex. If there are any concerns, please see Linda in the office during office hours.

### HCPT Wellness Retreat at Hosanna House, Lourdes, 8th - 12th May

Mass in Hosanna House Chapel and Lourdes. Grotto, Blessed sacrament and Torchlight Processions. Relaxation and Yoga. Optional Argeles-Gazost health spa visit, Walk in the Pyrenees. Delicious food. Euros 380 plus fare  
Contact Annie for more info: [anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto:anniejudge@hotmail.com) mob: 07866515797

### Assisted suicide Bill even worse than before - postcards available

Committee Stage of the assisted suicide Bill has ended. It is now weaker and less safe than it was before. 300+ amendments that sought to strengthen safeguards in the Bill and protect vulnerable groups were rejected by Bill supporters, including protection for people with disabilities and domestic abuse victims. We have learned today that day one of Report Stage (the debate) will be on Friday 16 May. However, due to Parliamentary recess, there are very few dates left that MPs will be in Parliament to collect their post, so it is important that postcards are sent to MPs as soon as possible.

**Please take action now - collect a red and white postcard, fill out your details and post it to your MP today!**

### Final Synod Document - Online Book Club, Wed Evenings from 21st May

Pope Francis adopted the Rome Synod Assembly's recommendations into the Church's Magisterium on 26th October 2024. Explore the Final Synod Document over six weeks with an inspiring cast of experts including Archbishop Jason Gordon, Trinidad and Tobago. Join us live on Wednesdays from 7:30-8:30pm, 21st May to 25th June, or watch anytime on YouTube. Perfect for small groups or individual reflection. Find out more and register at [www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/our-resources/final-document-book-club-2025](http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/our-resources/final-document-book-club-2025)

**Food bank Donation appeal and cake sale** on the 6th April. Thank you to all who supported our cake sale - we raised £111.40 for the foodbank. Donations of in date items for the food bank can still be left in the All-Saints Chapel on 13 & 20 Apr.

### Easter Celebration 20th April 10:30am -12:30pm

Donations of cakes welcome on the day and Easter eggs for our raffle. There will be crafts for the kids. All funds raised going to Father James projects. Save the date **Plant and Cake Sale** 11th May

**SVP says thank you:** The March Collection raised £1094.69. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. This will greatly help with the high number of requests for large items that we are currently processing. In March, we gave out £700 in food vouchers and part funded a fridge freezer.

**New Members:** As one of our longstanding and faithful members steps down from meetings, we invite any parishioner who is interested in our work to consider joining us. We meet on Mondays from 2-4pm each week. Please email us at [svpkant@gmail.com](mailto:svpkant@gmail.com) to arrange an informal chat and to learn more about our work and the application process.

**Polish Blessing of the Food:** Blessing of the Food is on Holy Saturday, 19th April 2025 at 2.00pm in the Church Hall. All are Welcome.

**Walk of Witness:** Do join Christians together on Good Friday in the centre of Canterbury. The event starts with the solemnity of the cross and finishes with the good news of John 3:16.

Location; St Georges Street pedestrian area, ( between the Metro bank and New Look, facing towards the clocktower).

10.45 Meet at the Salvation Army for tea and hot cross buns

11.20 Walk of witness leaves the SA

11.30 Service starts (after the service, the SA will continue to play and there will be an opportunity for prayer

**EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Please remember that all offerings made at the Easter Masses (Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday) are a special thank you to our priests. Envelopes are available at the pews and in the Narthex.