

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST

BURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

THOMAS OF CANTER-

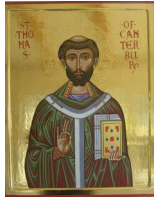
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>



Facebook: **St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton**

Assistant Priests: **Fr Giovanni Prandini**

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)

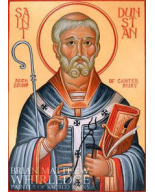
St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: Miss Lisa D'Agostini (01227 462539)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

1East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: hersden@rcaos.org.uk



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): *Celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation*
- James Scott - RIP

2nd Col.: Priest Training Fund

Sunday 11th May: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Jn 10: 27-30
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

8.00am: Deceased relatives of Fran Connellan

9.30am: Margaret Collett - RIP

Coffee after 9:30 mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: People of the Parish

12.30pm: *Baptism of Jasmine Twum-Barima*

6.00pm: Intentions of Kate Dillon

Monday 12th May: Feria

Jn 10: 1-10

12 noon: Maureen Woods - RIP

7.00PM: *Talk on "True Devotion to Mary" in the Hall*

Tuesday 13th May: Our Lady of Fatima

Jn 10: 22-30

12 noon: Intentions of Sean Clancy

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

Wednesday 14th May: St Matthias, Apostle

Jn 15: 9-17

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Judy Blair - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 15th May: St John Stone

Jn 13: 16-20

7.30am: Michael Forrester on his birthday

12 noon: Exam Success

Scripture Group meets in the Upper Room after Mass

Friday 16th May: St Simon Stock

Jn 14: 1-6

12 noon: William Edwards - RIP

Saturday 17th May: Feria

Jn 14: 7-14

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Rehearsal in Church*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Ann Strain - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): David Heap - RIP

Sunday 18th May: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Jn 13: 31-35

8.00am: Maureen and George Handley - RIP

9.30am: *First Holy Communion Mass*

- Marianne, John and Helli - welfare

Coffee after 9:30 mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: *First Holy Communion Mass*

- Irene Ratnam - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

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

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 11th May: 4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Jn 10: 27-30
GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 18th May: 5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) Jn 13: 31-35

10.00am: People of the Parish

PRAYER REMEMBRANCES

Please remember in your prayers:

St Thomas': 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 Chris Smith
St Dunstan's: Kay Gandon, Miguel Vazquez, Yveline Vereeche, Pete Covill, Eileen Brown, and Mo, Doug, Ryan Joyce and Tom Hill

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

St Thomas': 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, Mgr Canon John O'Toole, Sylvia Manuell and Betty Mills
St Dunstan's: Marion Nash, Lorna Hazelwood and Irene Foster

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

Mary Wright and Assunta (Tita) Riley

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **10/11 May 2025: Priest Training Fund**

Next Weekend: **17/18 May 2025: SVP**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2025

for working conditions

Let us pray that through work, each person might find fulfillment, families might be sustained in dignity, and that society might be humanised.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 14th June 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 ...

Our new Pope, Leo XIV, was elected after only three ballots. We thank God and ask the Lord to fill him with the fullness of the Spirit as he begins the task that has been asked of him of being the chief shepherd. Last Wednesday and Thursday, at Mass, as the Cardinals went into conclave, I used the prayers in the Roman Missal "For the Election of a Pope." This is what we prayed for; "a pastor who will please you by his holiness and to us show watchful care." The prayer after communion read; "gladden us with the gift of a shepherd who will instruct your people by his virtues and imbue the minds of the faithful with the truth of the Gospel." The words 'pastor' and 'shepherd' identify the qualities that are essential for one who is to be Pope. This 4th Sunday of Easter Sunday is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because, in the three-year cycle, we have readings from St John's Gospel recognising Jesus as the Good Shepherd. Because of this we asked on this Sunday to pray especially for young men whom God is calling to share in the ministerial priesthood of his Son Jesus.

I look back at my early life as a boy in Clapham and recognise that my thinking about whether God was calling me to the priesthood was greatly influenced by my local parish priest Joe Sullivan. His humour and personality affirmed to me that to answer the call to priesthood did not mean that you were cut off from ordinary humanity. To be a priest you have to be truly human. I realise that his presence in my life was an encouragement and affirmation. He was an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel. His life showed me what it meant to be a shepherd who knows his sheep and will, through him, hear the voice of Christ.

Please pray that God will provide shepherds for us. "Pour out in your church a spirit of piety and fortitude, to raise up worthy ministers for your altar and make them ardent yet gentle herald of your Gospel".

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS



Pope Leo XIV

We pray for Leo, our new Pope. May the Lord preserve him, and give him life, and make him blessed upon the earth, and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful, look favourably on your servant Leo, whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd; grant, we pray, that by word and example he may be of service to those over whom he presides so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care, he may come to everlasting life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

BUILDING ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN ASUOKAW, GHANA WITH FR JAMES

A huge **thank you!** for your generosity towards the collections for Fr James' church building project over Lent. We have collected £2751.13 so far which has been sent to help fund building materials. We are continuing to raise funds towards this project. Fr James has sent the following message to Fr Anthony: "I am really humbled and grateful for this kind gesture of your parishioners."

The Lord's Prayer - a deeper dive' - Prayer Morning with Thy Kingdom Come

2025, Canterbury Diocese and Canterbury Cathedral. A morning of prayerful reflection on The Lord's Prayer at Canterbury Cathedral, Sat 31 May 2025, 9:00am - 1:30pm featuring Canon Dr Neville Emslie inviting us to discover The Lord's Prayer in poetry, Rev Dr Jonathan Arnold taking us on an exploration of The Lord's Prayer in music and Mary Chamberlin making a space for us to pray this ancient prayer in new ways by engaging our senses. Day ends with the Eucharist with Bishop Rose. Free entry, but booking essential for Cathedral access at <https://forms.office.com/e/PT12ScRvXQ>. Info: Lyndall Bywater lybwater@diocant.org.

Plant and Cake Sale 11th May in the church 10:30-12:30 donations of Plants, seeds and cakes welcome on the day please see poster for more details

School for Synodality - Reading the Final Document

A series of six weekly talks on Wednesdays 7.15 for 7.30 until 9pm. in the Parish Hall, St Thomas's Church, Canterbury from 21st May to 25th June. Join our group to watch these live talks from the School for Synodality. The talks, given by a number of experts, take us on a methodical path through the Final Document, including opportunities to pose questions to speakers and for discussion among ourselves. Queries to: Daphne Ellis: daphnehellis@aol.com or telephone 07377 168174. Free of charge (donations for refreshments)

Becoming a Catholic. Information evening in St Thomas' Church on Friday, 30th May 2025 at 7.00pm. If you are not Catholic and interested in learning more about the journey to become a Catholic then please join us. If you are Catholic and know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, please let them know about this gathering.

DIARY NOTE: SATURDAY, 7 JUNE 2025: There will be no Masses, Reconciliation or meetings in the Church today as we are travelling to Aylesford for the Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebrations.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL.. The next meeting is Monday, 19th May at 6pm in the Presbytery.

SVP says thank you The April Collection raised £1074.76 We are very grateful for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. In April we gave out £280 in supermarket vouchers. We bought a washing machine, a cooker and a mini cooker. Thanks to a grant from the SVP Cost-of-Living Support Fund, we were able to carpet a family's main living space. Gillingham SVP also very generously enabled us to provide storage for a family's belongings whilst their home is being treated for mould. This month, we are looking forward to speaking to the RCIA group about our work. The next SVP Collection is next weekend, 17/18 May.

"True Devotion to Mary"

Talk Series with Alexander Muir, based on St Louis de Montfort's classic work in St Thomas' Church, Canterbury and Livestreamed:

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

2ND COLLECTION 11/12 MAY: The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese.

After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 9 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF

Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)

Telephone weekdays 9 am - 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**

Cash / Cheque - please use the Priest Training Fund envelopes at the back of church.

