

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>

Facebook:

St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Charlton

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Michael Ekuta

email: michaelletuka@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')

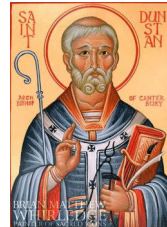
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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:

St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

2nd Col.: **SVP**

6.00pm (Vigil): Pietro Rencricca - RIP

Sunday 12th Oct: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Times (C) Lk17: 11-19

PRISONER SUNDAY - Start of Prison's Week

8.00am: Holy Souls

9.30am: Lynne Rippey - health and wellbeing

Coffee after 9.30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Catherine Briggs - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 13th Oct: St Edward the Confessor

Lk 11: 29-32

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Audrey McLeod - RIP

7.00 - 7.45: Meeting God in the Rosary - in church & live streamed

Tuesday 14th Oct: St Callistus I

Lk 11: 37-41

7.30am: Gloria Ricofuerto - RIP

12 noon: NO MIDDAY MASS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

7.00pm: RCIA in the church

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 15th Oct: St Teresa of Jesus

Lk 11: 42-46

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: David Evans - 90th Birthday

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: Prayer and Pub in the church

Thursday 16th Oct: St Hedwig

Lk 11: 47-54

7.30am: Aphonso Phan Van Hue - RIP

12 noon: James and Penny - private intentions

Scripture Group meets in the Upper Room after Mass

Friday 17th Oct: St Ignatius of Antioch

Lk 12: 1-7

7.45: Morning Prayer and Rosary (also live-streamed)

11.30: October Rosary

12 noon: Arch Michael Bowen - RIP

Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 18th Oct: St Luke the Evangelist

Lk 10: 1-9

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Thanksgiving for completion of Devotions

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Mary Reynolds - RIP

Sunday 19th Oct: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Times (C) Lk 18: 1-8

8.00am: Ogunyiriofor Victor Naths Okoroh - RIP

9.30am: Richard Corfield - RIP

Coffee after 9.30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: John Wilkins - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **World Mission**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2025

For collaboration between different religious traditions

Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 12th Oct: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Times (C) Lk17: 11-19

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 19th Oct: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Times (C) Lk17: 11-19

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, 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, Augustine Barna, Mary Lyons, David Lewis, John Mathew, Jean Matthews, Chris Smith, Tom Hill, Geraldine Ross, Anne Robinson, Antoinette Wilde, Mary Connolly, Jenny Todd, Anne, David Man-Cheung, Margaret Berry, Alan Everson and Carol Cotton

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

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, Betty Mills, Theresa Penman, Helen Evans, Constance Weight, Tom Carr, Simon Galt, Eugene Deque, Rafael Pascal De Leon, Aurora Dawson, Jean Lee, Judith Parsons and John Kerwan

St Dunstan's: Marion Nash, Lorna Hazelwood, Irene Foster and Sr Marian McCouaig

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

Christopher Walter and Pietro Rencricca

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **11/12 October 2025: SVP**

Next Weekend: **18/19 October 2025: World Missions**



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 1 November 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

The late Pope Francis when reflecting on this weekend's Gospel asked: 'Are we capable of saying "thank you"?' How many times do we say "thank you" in our family, our community, in our church? How many times do we say "thank you" to those who help us, to those close to us, to those who accompany us through life? Often, we take everything for granted! This also happens with God. It is easy to approach the Lord to ask for something, but to return and give thanks? He said, "that is why Jesus emphasises the failure of the nine ungrateful lepers; "Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?"

Last Thursday I was asked to give an after dinner speech at the annual gathering of the St John's Association. This consists of men who had trained and taught at the Diocesan seminary of St John near Guildford. It closed down three years ago after 130 years forming men for the ministerial priesthood. I was uncertain about how to pitch this especially after a lovely lunch, wine and good conversation. I realised it was important of me to give thanks for the priests who were involved in my formation between 1969 and 1975.

I spoke about our Rector who guided us throughout my time there. I incurred his wrath when we students ran a youth day. For part of the preparation for Mass we used the Ambulacrum to paint an enormous banner that was to hang behind the main altar. Unfortunately the paint strayed beyond the confines of the paper onto the highly polished parquet flooring! I mentioned the priest who taught us sociology and was passionate about justice and peace. I will always be grateful to him for introducing me to Charles de Foucauld and his spirituality which has been an important part of my life. I was in his sermon group and will always remember his advice that when preaching make sure you come to know the lives of the people before whom you are standing. I had a good spiritual director at the seminary. He taught us theology but was adverse to lecturing. He gave us a reading list and we met in seminar groups. There was the priest from Arundel and Brighton diocese. On Tuesday nights the staff would take it in turn to give us a talk. All I recall of one of his talks was that he took a book and threw it the length of the chapel but to the day I don't recall the point he was making. Then there was the priest from the Rosminian community who tried to teach us Philosophy. I will always remember him saying to us, "True freedom is the ability to choose what was right". These were just some of staff that I not only remember but remember fondly and with deep gratitude.

Who are the people in your life that you need to thank? Don't, like me, wait, 50 years to say thank you.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

EXCITING NEWS: A CATHOLIC YOUTH CLUB IS COMING TO OUR PARISH!

For children and young teens from our parish who have completed First Communion up to Confirmation age. Starting on **Sunday, 26th October 2025; then every last Sunday of the month to the end of December in the Parish Hall from: 4:00pm to 5:45 pm**

We seek to: Foster a sense of belonging within the parish community; deepen faith and prayer life; Encourage self-expression; facilitate building friendships in a Catholic environment and support early Confirmation preparation. The range of activities: will include discussions, meditation, prayer, games, crafts, cooking, walks, ceramics, films, experiments and much more.

Join the Team! We warmly welcome volunteers. Our current members: Dory, Gertrude, Gigi, Jan, Rumbi, Nieves

SYNOD ON SYNODALITY MORNING: A CHANGING CHURCH – fit for the future With Rev Dr Jan Nowotnik of St Mary Moorfields, London on Saturday 25th October 2025, 10.00 - 1.00 in St Thomas's Church Hall, Canterbury Lane, Canterbury CT1 7HJ. **Free! - includes mid-morning refreshments**

Change, how much and what sort of changes do we need? Fear of change - how do we overcome this? In the context of the Synod Final Document, how 'worldwide' can become 'local'. How change can empower our church for the future. More information about the morning's agenda and registration on the link <https://achangingchurch.eventbrite.co.uk>

Queries to Daphne Ellis: email daphnehellis@aol.com phone 07377 168174

Eddie Gilmore presents his latest book, '**ANOTHER DAY IN PARADISE**- stories of transformation from the Camino and other places' (about pilgrimage) on Sat, 25 Oct in the church after 6pm Mass (± 6.45pm start). Signed copies will be on sale.

The Charismatic prayer group will be meeting every Tuesday at 7:30 pm in the Upper room.

St Vincent De Paul says thank you The September collection raised £897.53. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations received. During September we gave out £640 of supermarket vouchers and a voucher for household items at the Range. We bought a cooker and washing machine and bought and installed blinds. We are very grateful for grants from our District Council, Central Council and the Catholic Housing Aid Society - we were able to clear rent arrears so a family could apply to move to more suitable accommodation.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLCIATIONS

FOR 2026. Forms for children in Year 3 and above seeking to prepare for first holy communion in 2026 are available in the Narthex, on the website and from the office. FORMS and BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES must be submitted to the Parish office no later than 16 November 2025.

Archbishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, and Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, have released a statement to mark Baby Loss Awareness Week (9-15 October) More information at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/baby-loss-awareness-week-2025/>

St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Canterbury, are hosting two open mornings for prospective parents for children seeking entry to Reception in September 2026 on Tuesday 4th November from 9.30 to 10.30am and Tuesday 11th November from 9.30 to 10.30am

16th of October, from 7pm to 8.45pm, the **Commission for Promoting Racial & Cultural Inclusion** is hosting a Zoom webinar exploring how cultural and ethnic identities can be celebrated within our parishes. See poster in Narthex for details.

The Parish Pastoral Council will meet on Monday 27th October. If you have something that you wish to raise, please email me jrennstthomas@gmail.com or put a note through the presbytery letter box. *John Renn*

Rooted in Love - an opportunity for married and engaged couples

Want to grow closer as a couple while deepening your faith and meeting new people? All engaged and married couples are invited to a **monthly online meeting** where we share friendship, reflect on real-life topics, and pray together as we grow in love rooted in Christ. Gathering monthly on Zoom **Thursdays: 30 October at 8:30pm, 27 November at 8:30pm, 11 December at 8:30pm** Email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to sign up or receive more information

Seeking Married Couples

The Southwark Marriage and Family life (M&FL) Team are seeking married couples who are practicing Catholics to join their growing team to present courses for Marriage Preparation, Building a Better Marriage and other initiatives in 2026. **Salary:** £30,000 pro rata (£7,000) for the couple. Mileage paid in addition. All training given. For full job description and further details, please contact liamgallagher@rcaos.org.uk Closing date for applications: **October 31st 2025**