

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 Etuka

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:

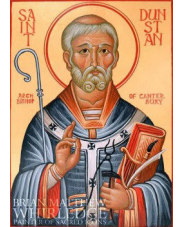
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 23rd Nov: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C) Lk 23: 35-43

8.00am: Thanksgiving - Antony Family

9.30am: Thanksgiving

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Nicola Batchelor - RIP

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: David Tully - RIP

2nd Col.: Catholic Youth Services

Monday 24th Nov: St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comp. Lk 21: 1-4

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Deceased Clergy

Tuesday 25th Nov: St Catherine of Alexandria Lk 21: 5-11

12 noon: NO MASS TODAY

7.00pm: RCIA in the hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 26th Nov: Feria Lk 21: 12-19

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Margaret Smith - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: Prayer and Pub in the church

Thursday 27th Nov: Feria Lk 21: 20-28

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: James Silcock on his birthday

Scripture Group after Mass in the Upper Room

Friday 28th Nov: Feria Lk 21: 29-33

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

12 noon: David Ribbans - RIP

Adoration and Benediction

Saturday 29th Nov: St Culthbert Mayne & Comp. Lk 21: 34-36

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Suchada Robinson - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Richard John Tank - RIP

Sunday 30th Nov: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mt 24: 37-44

8.00am: Peter Gray and Rick Owens - RIP

9.30am: Filipino Community and Families

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Elizabeth Smith - RIP

4.00pm: Parish Youth Meeting

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 23rd Nov: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C) Lk 23: 35-43

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 30th Nov: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Mt 24: 37-44

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, 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, Carol Cotton, Fermina Ortega, Alice Mathai, Elizabeth Murphy and Hilary McKernan

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, John Kirwan, Evelyn Brooks, Mary Lyons, Viola Bashir and Edward Cody

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

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

(Baby) Maria Ziemlewska

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **22/23 November 2025: Catholic Youth Services**

Next Weekend: **29/30 November 2025:**



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 6 December 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

I remember, as a newly ordained priest, celebrating Mass on a cold November evening for a group of Young Christian Workers (YCW) on the Feast of Christ the King in a community hall on the Haygate Estate near the Elephant and Castle. This feast has a profound connection to the YCW movement as it serves as key source of inspiration and a foundational doctrine that guides its mission. The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King was established by Pope Pius XI in 1925 as a direct response to the rise of secularism, nationalism and atheism in the aftermath of the First World War. The YCW was founded by Father (later Cardinal) Joseph Cardijn in Belgium to evangelise and support young workers facing harsh conditions in industrial environments. He believed that every sphere of life, including the workplace and social structures, must reflect Christian principles and recognise Christ's dominion. Thus YCW used the Feast of Christ the King as an annual event to publicly demonstrate their commitment to bringing the "whole world to Christ," specifically in the context of the working classes.

Although the Mass I celebrated was all those years ago I still recall in my homily coming to understand that if Christ is to be my King he needs to rule or to reign in my heart.

The late Pope Francis expressed it well, "It would mean very little, however, if we believed Jesus was King of the universe, but did not make him Lord of our lives: all this is empty if we do not personally accept Jesus and if we do not also accept his way of being King." The prayer that I try to say daily is taken from the words of St Charles de Foucauld. It expresses for me the desire for Christ to rule in my heart. This prayer comes from Brother Charles' mediation on Christ on the cross.

Father, I abandon myself into your hands; do with me what you will.

Whatever you may do, I thank you.

I am ready for all, I accept all.

Let only your will be done in me, and in all your creatures.

I wish no more than this, O Lord.

Into your hands I commend my soul; I offer it to you with all the love of my heart,

for I love you, Lord, and so need to give myself,

to surrender myself into your hands,

without reserve, and with boundless confidence,

for you are my Father.

Amen.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2025

For the prevention of suicide

Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION. We will be saying a novena in the Church starting on Saturday, 29th November and concluding on 7th December, the day before the feast on December 8th. The novena, consisting of the Rosary, will be said at 11.30am each weekday (Monday to Saturday). All welcome.

Christmas Fair: Sunday, 7th December 10.30 - 1.00 pm.

We would be grateful for donations for our raffle, tombola and cakes. Please see posters in the Narthex. If you can help on the day or would like to book a stall to promote your business (limited availability) contact socialsstthomas@gmail.com. All money raised goes to our church projects.

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2026. First meeting for parents and children in the Church on Saturday, 29th November 2025 at 9.00am. The book, 'I Belong' will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Parish Youth Club Meeting Join us on Sunday, 30th November at 4pm, as we explore the theme of Advent and create beautiful wreaths together. We have plenty of exciting activities planned, and we can't wait to share them with you! Thank you again to everyone who made our first meeting so special. We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering!

Spending time with God will change your life and change the world. However, it will take a lifetime. Silent Prayer, on Zoom, is every Thursday at 7.30pm. Email John Renn, at jrennstthomas@gmail.com for the link. Some people attend regularly, others very occasionally.

Quiz night 15th November thank you all for supporting our quiz. We raised £542 for our parish.

CONFIRMATION: Our 2026 Confirmation Programme starts on 11th January 2026 at 4pm in the Parish Hall. Our initial parents' meeting will be online on Monday 5th January at 7pm. Application forms are available online, in the Narthex and from the Office during office hours. Forms together with Baptismal Certificates must be returned to the Parish Office on or before Friday, 12 December 2025

100 CLUB Forms for 2026 membership are now available in the Narthex and from the Office. £25 annual membership Please note both current and new members must complete forms each year to comply with the Small Lottery Regulations. Return completed forms with payment by Fri, 28 November 2025 to the office.

Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published. Thank you to the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation. We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at rcaos.org.uk/calledtobearfruit and hardcopies will be sent to every parish. The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.

Hall Toilets We are considering the refurbishment of our hall toilets - please let us know what you think about them using this link for feedback:

<https://stthomasofcanterbury.com/survey/>

Thank you.

World Youth Sunday 2025

Sunday 23 November is World Youth Sunday. There will be a second collection to support the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which provides a wide range of opportunities and activities for youth and young adults across the Archdiocese. For more information, visit www.tinyurl.com/scys1 or join the Southwark Catholic Youth Network for regular updates at www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork or via the QR code. Additional resources for World Youth Sunday are available from CYMFed at www.wys.cymfed.org.uk

