

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:

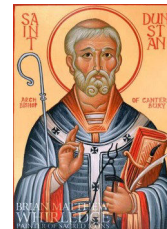
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

2nd Col.: **CAFOD**

6.00pm (Vigil): Elizabeth Murphy - Thanksgiving

Sunday 1st March: Second Sunday of Lent (A) *Mt 17: 1-9*

8.00am: Caroline Stratford - RIP

9.30am: Noreen Egan - RIP

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Holy Souls

12:30pm: *Baptism of Stellan & Magnus Withey & Ethan Okorongwu*

4.00pm: *Confirmation Preparation in the Hall*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 2nd Mar: Feria

Lk 6: 36-38

12 noon: Marc Westbrook - RIP

Tuesday 3rd Mar: Feria

Mt 23: 1-12

12 noon: Cosima Lumley on marriage day

7pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 4th Mar: Feria

Mt 20: 17-28

7.30am: Intentions of Fr Anthony

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: John Hennelly - RIP

Short Lenten Reflection with Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 5th Mar: Feria

Lk 16: 19-31

7.30am: May Logan - RIP

12 noon: Luisa Piccarreta, Serv of God - RIP

Scripture group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 6th Mar: Feria

Mt 21: 33-43, 45-46

12 noon: Paul McLoughlin - birthday wishes

4.20pm: *Altar Servers Practice and meeting in the Church*

6.00pm: *Stations of the Cross*

Saturday 7th Mar: Feria

Mt 5: 43-48

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall*

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation in the Presbytery*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Clare, Jonny and Harry - welfare

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

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

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Mar: Third Sunday of Lent (A) *Jn 4: 5-42*

8.00am: Vinod Anthony - thanksgiving

9.30am: Augustin Ogbanufe - RIP

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Georgiana Forrester & Edmund Hughes - engagement

4.00pm: *Confirmation Preparation in the Hall*

6.00pm: Holy Souls

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 1st March: Second Sunday of Lent (A) *Mt 17: 1-9*

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Mar: Third Sunday of Lent (A) *Jn 4: 5-42*

10.00am: People of the Parish

Church open for Stations of the Cross Fridays during Lent 3-4pm

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, 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, David Lewis, John Mathew, Jean Matthews, 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, Angela Nichols, Elizabeth Delaney, Diane Fenn, Paula Smith, David Evans and Gerry Buckles

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

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

St Thomas': 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, Edward Cody, Noreen Egan, Hilary McKernan, Marcus Pinto, Felix Pineda, Christopher Young, Charlie Mount, Sr Bridget Kennedy, Jean Crane, Florinda Allcorn, Isabel White, Margaret O'Flaherty and Kevin Nuttal

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

Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in March 2026:

Benjamin Wright, Mary Reynolds and Maria Goard

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **28 Feb/01 Mar 2026:** CAFOD Family Fast Day

Next Weekend: **07/08 Mar 2026:** No second collection this week



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 7th March** 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

Are you a good listener? When I was working in catechesis, we believed that it was extremely important to learn the skill of real listening. Most conversations are not real conversations. We wait patiently until the other person has finished and then put our point of view. We sometimes wait until we are able to put the other person right. To listen is to give ourselves totally to the other person. We can think of people who have really listened, Mary, the mother of Jesus, who 'pondered all these things in her heart.' St John Vianney, the Cure d'Ars who not only heard long hours of confessions but was listening to fractured hearts. It is a risk to listen because it means that listening takes our precious time, it means getting involved in another's life. To listen is to become vulnerable. As the late Walter Burghardt, a Jesuit priest, said in a sermon, "Listening, real listening, is an act of love, and so it is wonderfully human, splendidly Christian... I come to listening as I am, with my own ignorance, my own weakness, my own sinfulness, my own fears, and tears. I share not my words but myself."

In this Sunday's Gospel, the voice of God the Father from the cloud says, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." He commands us, "Listen to him." As we enter this second week of Lent, it is good to ask ourselves the question, "Am I really listening to Jesus? That is, am I prepared to obey him, to do what he tells me to do? Will I follow him?"

In the first reading, we hear that it is what Abram did. He obeyed the Lord by leaving his own country, his kindred, and his father's house to an unknown land. Or are we like the person who said, "Speak, Lord, and your servant will think it over."

Jesus is the revelation of God; he is the Word enfleshed. "In many and various ways God spoke of old to our fathers by the prophets but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world." (*Hebrews 1:1-2*). Jesus is God's revelation to us. The Vatican II document on the Liturgy states, "Jesus is present in His word, since it is He Himself who speaks when the holy scriptures are read in the Church. When we hear the New Testament read to us, it is Jesus Himself speaking to us. Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus, we need to have an open heart. Pope Leo in his recent catechesis said, "Sacred Scripture is 'the means by which we come to know the incarnate living Word of God who is Jesus Christ.'" "Indeed, praying with Scripture opens the door for an intimate relationship with God who, through these sacred writings, invites us into conversation with Him."

Lord, give me an open and listening heart so that your Word will set me on fire.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH 2026

For disarmament and peace.

Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING: All Altar Servers must please attend a meeting and practice on **Friday, 6th March at 4.30pm**. Altar Servers under the age of 16 years must please be accompanied by their parents/guardians.

Lent Retreat Day at Minster Abbey, 28th March: The theme of the day is 'Lent- A Journey in Love' and it will be led by experienced retreat guide, Eddie Gilmore. Contact him at: gileaq@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

LENTEN REFLECTION: During refreshments in the Hall after the Masses on Wednesday 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th March there will be four short Lenten Reflections.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Friday at 6pm in St Thomas' during Lent

SHOP ITEMS: Lenten leaflets are now available for sale in the Shop

PRAY THE ROMERO ROSARY : The rosary will be said every Friday during Lent from the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero in St George's Cathedral at 5pm Archbishop John Wilson will lead the rosary on 6th and 27th March.

HCPT PILGRIMAGE GROUP 587: Book now to join your 'Holiday with Our lady' in Lourdes 22nd -29th August '26 staying at Hosanna House. £1400 includes flight, French airport transfer, full board accommodation and fully comprehensive insurance. To find out more contact: Roxy 07852538576 or Annie 07866515797

SIX BIBLE STUDIES ON THE LENTEN SUNDAY GOSPELS:

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Lenten Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. Starts: **Tues 17th February, 2026 @7pm** then **24 Feb | 03 Mar | 10 Mar | 17 Mar | 24 Mar** (7-8:15pm). **Free of Charge | LIVE** on YouTube. Registration: comeandsee.org/lent26

The 2026 Sycamore Growing in Faith together (GIFT): The Sycamore Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course (8.30pm – 9.30pm) on March 10, 17, 24, 31, which has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team, the Agency for Evangelisation and Sycamore, a programme about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang. Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for: married couples to enrich their friendship and love and engaged couples who want to continue exploring their faith together.

Building a Better Marriage BABM - a one-day event in different deaneries. 9am - 4.30pm. It's a day where couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between) and seeks to help spouses to make their marriages better and improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. Booking is essential. Dates available from Carole.

For more information on all the above see poster in the Narthex or contact Carole on: mfikent@rcaos.org.uk

HCPT Group 587 HCPT Fun Fundraising Fashion Show: Saturday 14th March 2026 1:30pm in the Church Hall. Raffle: Fabulous prizes to be won. Tickets (£5 includes welcome drink, nibbles) will be on sale after each Mass. Tickets in advance from Roxy Albert - roxyalbert6@gmail.com - 07852538576 or Annie Judge - anniejudge@hotmail.com - 07866515797 or using the link: this event is <https://wegottickets.com/event/690115> or you can also use the QR code.



ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

STATIONS OF THE CROSS St Dunstan's church will be open each Friday from 3pm - 4pm during Lent for Stations of the Cross (people can walk each station on their own as no priest will be there).