

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')

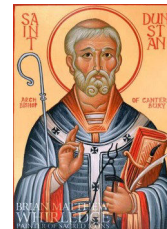
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

2nd Col.: Clergy Support Fund

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 15th Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 5: 17-37

8.00am: Smith Family

9.30am: Ofelia Salgado - RIP (1st Anniv.)

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Lee Jordan - RIP

6.00pm: Holy Souls

Monday 16th Feb: Feria

Mk 8: 11-13

12 noon: Caroline Stratford - RIP

Tuesday 17th Feb: Feria

Mk 8: 14-21

7.30am: Pedro - RIP

12 noon: NO MASS IN ST THOMAS'

7pm: RCIA in the Hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 18th Feb: ASH WEDNESDAY

Mt 6: 1-6, 16-18

9.30am: Christopher Young - RIP

7.10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Brian Morris - RIP

NO Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: NO Prayer and Pub

7.30pm: Franz Alexander Forrester - RIP

Thursday 19th Feb: Feria

Lk 9: 22-25

7.30am: Diane Silcock - birthday wishes

12 noon: Selonnie Mitha - RIP

Scripture group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 20th Feb: Feria

Mt 9: 14-15

12 noon: Requiem Mass for Isabel Whyte

6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

Saturday 21st Feb: St Robert Southwell

Lk 5: 27-32

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Ofelia Salgado Gomez - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Ray Scott - RIP

Sunday 22nd Feb: First Sunday of Lent (A)

Mt 4: 1-11

8.00am: Filipino Community

9.30am: Holy Souls

Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD

11.00am: Joe Townsend - RIP

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: People of the Parish

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY 2026

For children with incurable diseases.

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 15th Feb: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 5: 17-37

10.00am: People of the Parish

Wednesday, 18 February: **ASH WEDNESDAY** Service at 5pm

Sunday 22nd Feb: First Sunday of Lent (A)

Mt 4: 1-11

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, , 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, 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, Kevin Nuttal, Angela Nichols, Elizabeth Delaney, Diane Fenn, Paula Smith and David Evans

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

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

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

Joseph Devlin

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **14/15 Feb 2026:** Clergy Support Fund

Next Weekend: **21/22 Feb 2026:** No second collection



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

This Wednesday, many of us will hear the words, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return (Genesis 3:19)" or "Turn away from sin (repent) and believe in the Gospel." (Mark 1:15) as ashes are applied to our forehead. So the season of Lent begins.

I would like to suggest to you that this year you look upon Ash Wednesday as the starting point of a journey to the Cross. It is a journey that lasts six weeks and it is a journey we take together. As we take our first steps we know in what direction we are travelling. The map that plots our way are the weeks of Lent and especially the Sunday Gospel readings. Among our travelling companions will be those in our Journey in Faith group (RCIA) who are in the final stages of preparation for Baptism and for those baptised in other Churches who seek Reception into Full Communion with the Catholic Church and those adults who are to be Confirmed. For all of us we are walking the road to Easter but we are walking with the Cross of Jesus and via the Cross of Christ. Our late Pope Francis encouraged people to prayerfully look at Jesus on the Cross saying, "What do we see then, when we turn our gaze towards the Cross where Jesus was nailed? We contemplate the sign of the infinite love of God for each and every one of us and the roots of our salvation. From that Cross flows the mercy of the Father who embraces the whole world. Through the cross of Christ, evil is overcome, death is defeated, life is given to us, hope is restored."

One prayer that is part of many people's Lenten practise is the Stations of the Cross. This is a traditional devotion reflecting on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. *Via Crucis* and *Via Dolorosa*, the Way of the Cross, had its origins in the Holy Land, but it did not become popular around the world until the 17th Century. In a sense, the Way of the Cross is a mini-pilgrimage through the events that covered the final hours of Jesus' life on earth. If there is one thing that we could do as part of our Lenten journey is to regularly meditate on this last journey of Jesus.

Every Friday during Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross in St Thomas' Church at 6pm. There are many different booklets of meditations on the traditional 14 stopping places some of which are available in our shop. This is a devotion you can do at home or in church. The following link will take you a Virtual Stations of the Cross led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols; <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/stations-of-the-cross/>.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, 18th February 2026.

A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Masses in St Thomas' at 9.30am, 12 noon and 7.30pm.

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.

St Vincent de Paul says thank you The January collection raised £985.73. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During January we gave out £440 in supermarket vouchers. We gave someone a voucher for a much-needed new pair of boots. We bought a good quality second hand single bed and mattress for a child. Exceptionally, we paid for a delivery of heating oil for a family who had been living in very cold conditions for some time. We are so grateful for the kind support that you give to help us to help others.

The clergy in our Archdiocese have given us so much. They have been there for us in our happiest moments and comforted us when we have lost loved ones. Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show your appreciation for all they have one for parishes.

You make supporting our clergy in retirement possible, find out how to donate to the Clergy Support Fund at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF or scan QR code.

You can also donate via telephone office hours Mon-Fri 020 7960 2504 or by using the Clergy Support Fund envelopes. Please continue to keep our Priests in your prayers.



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/len26

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

Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend Retreats:

2 upcoming retreats on 27th Feb-1st Mar 2026 in Swindon and 15th-17th May 2026 in Maidstone. Find out more at www.wme.org.uk or see posters in Narthex

HCPT Group 587 HCPT Fun Fundraising Fashion Show: Saturday 14th March 2026 1:30pm in the Church Hall. Tickets £5 includes welcome drink, nibbles. Raffle: Fabulous prizes to be won. 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> you can also use the QR code on our poster and flyers.

PREVIOUS YEARS' PALMS: Please could all parishioners who have palms blessed in previous years, bring them in and leave them in the box in the Narthex before Monday, 16th February. They will be burned for ashes for this year.

Archdiocesan Pilgrimages for Young Adults

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are invited to join Archbishop John on **pilgrimage to Lourdes**, from 7 to 13 June 2026. The cost is £789, which includes flights and full-board accommodation on a shared basis. Booking: www.tinyurl.com/lourdes26

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the **World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea** in August 2027 at www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027

For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/scys1

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: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, 18th February 2026. A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE. Mass in St Dunstan's at 5pm.

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).