

# 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](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

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

Facebook:

**St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest:

**Canon Anthony Charlton**

email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest:

**Fr Michael Etuka**

email: [michaelletuka@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:markwharton@rcaos.org.uk))

**St Thomas' Catholic Primary School:** Head Teacher:

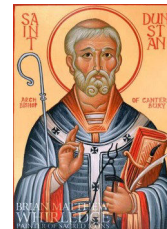
**St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School:** Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)



### ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

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

**Monday 9th Mar: Feria** *Lk 4: 24-30*

12 noon: Jean Mackle - welfare

**Tuesday 10th Mar: Feria** *Mt 18: 21-35*

12 noon: Chris Dyckhoff, SJ - RIP

7pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

6.00pm: *Talk: Inspiration and Affirmation in Hard Times - from Oscar to Pope Leo (Todd Walatka)*

**Wednesday 11th Mar: Feria** *Mt 5: 17-19*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Private Intentions (Mrs S)

*Short Lenten Reflection with Refreshments in the Hall after Mass*

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

**Thursday 12th Mar: Feria** *Lk 11: 14-23*

7.30am: Raymond Maraihasan - welfare

12 noon: Charlie Mount - RIP

*Scripture group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)*

**Friday 13th Mar: Feria** *Mk 12: 28-34*

12 noon: Tim and Mary Sutter - special intentions

6.00pm: *Stations of the Cross*

**Saturday 14th Mar: Feria** *Lk 18: 9-14*

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

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Deceased members of the Palliyon Family

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Aidan Burke - health and wellbeing

**Sunday 15th Mar: Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)** *Jn 9: 1-41*

**LAETARE SUNDAY (MOTHERING SUNDAY)**

8.00am: John Carter - RIP

9.30am: William Richards - RIP

*Coffee after 9:30 Mass - all donations to CAFOD*

11.00am: People of the Parish

6.00pm: Holy Souls

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: Martina Morrissey - RIP (Anniversary)

**Sunday 15th Mar: Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)** *Jn 9: 1-41*

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, Kevin Nuttal and Dorothy Saul

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

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

Next Weekend: **14/15 March 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, 11 April** 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 Gospel readings for this Sunday reveal to us Jesus as the “living water,” welling up to eternal life. While water is readily available in the West, few of us truly experience real thirst. Today we see people carrying designer water bottles everywhere.

In this reading Jesus and his disciples are journeying from Judea to Galilee. At midday, Jesus rested by the famous Jacob’s well while his disciples went to fetch food. He is thirsty. A Samaritan woman approaches with her jar to draw water. The evangelist John recounts their remarkable dialogue. Jesus asked her for a drink. This surprises her because, as she pointed out, Jews do not talk to Samaritans. He said to her that if she understood the gift of God and the one speaking to her, she would have asked and received living water. He assured her that those who drank from his water would never thirst again, as it would become a spring of water welling up to eternal life. The woman pleaded, “Sir, give me this water so I won’t be thirsty or have to return here to draw water.”

This encounter with Jesus transformed the Samaritan woman’s life. She confronted her own thirst as Jesus asked her about her married life. She admitted she has had five husbands and the man she is living with is not her husband. Leaving her empty jar by the well she rushed back to town, exclaiming to all, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?”

As I reflect on this encounter, I ponder my own thirst and how I try to quench it. I imagine what Jesus would say to me and how he is living water for me? In the weeks leading up to his death, Pope Francis reflected on this Gospel and said, “Jesus waits for us and reveals Himself precisely when we feel hopeless.” He recalled how the woman re-evaluates her complicated and painful past, discovering that the Messiah loves her. The Pope asked, “What proclamation could she have made if not her experience of being understood welcomed and forgiven?” He suggested this prompts us to consider new ways to evangelise, to share the good news with others.

Loving Jesus, you are the Living Water. Pour into my heart the Holy Spirit of your love and transform me. May I find new faith in you so that I may announce the great things that you have done for me.

## 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.

**Lent Retreat Day at Minster Abbey, 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gileag@gmail.com) [www.eddiegilmore.org](http://www.eddiegilmore.org)

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

**CHURCH CLEANING** Please join us on Saturday, 28 March; 10am to 2pm (with a break for Mass and a snack) to prepare the church for Easter. Equipment provided

**Lenten Lunch** - will be held in the Church Hall: Sunday 22 March 10:30 - 1:00pm. Donations of homemade soups, breads and fruit welcome on the day. Tea and coffee served. All are welcome so please join us.

**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 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March.

**HCPT PILGRIMAGE GROUP 587:** Book now to join your ‘Holiday with Our lady’ in Lourdes 22<sup>nd</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> 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

I warmly invite you to join this year’s SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21 to 28 August 2026. A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Lord Jesus, with the help of Our Lady’s prayers. I have also found it a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Details for travel and accommodation at <https://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-ca/> We also ask pilgrims to complete a form at <https://www.catholicassociation.co.uk/join2026> More information: Canon Edward Perera ([edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk)), Deacon John Fogarty ([johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk)) or Bishop Paul Hendricks ([paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk))

**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: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**LENTEN REFLECTION:** During refreshments in the Hall after Mass on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> March there will be four short Lenten Reflections.

**HCPT Group 587 HCPT Fun Fundraising Fashion Show:** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:roxyalbert6@gmail.com)- 07852538576 or Annie Judge- [anniejudge@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Vincent de Paul says thank you** The February collection raised £961.13. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During February we gave out £370 in supermarket vouchers. We provided a family with three good quality second hand beds and mattresses. We bought a new oil-filled radiator, a cooker and carpeted a home. Unusually, we paid for the cremation of someone’s dog. We are so grateful for your support.

## 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).