

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:

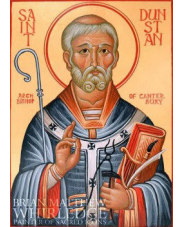
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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.: **SVP**

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

Monday 16th Mar: Feria Jn 4: 43-54

12 noon: Christopher Young - RIP

Tuesday 17th Mar: St Patrick Mt 13: 24-32

12 noon: Xavier Francis - RIP

7pm: RCIA in the Hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 18th Mar: St Cyril of Jerusalem Jn 5: 17-30

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Fr Barry Angus - RIP

Short Lenten Reflection with Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: Prayer and Pub

Thursday 19th Mar: St Joseph, Husband of Mary Lk 2: 41-51

7.30am: NO EARLY MORNING MASS

12 noon: Marcus Pinto - RIP

Scripture group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 20th Mar: Feria Jn 7: 1-2, 10, 25-30

7.30am: Patsy Martin - RIP

12 noon: In Thanksgiving (Feast of St Joseph)

6.00pm: Stations of the Cross

Saturday 21st Mar: Feria Jn 7: 40-52

9.00am: First Holy Communion Preparation in the Hall

9.00am: Confirmation Retreat to Minster Abbey

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Sylvia Quinones - RIP (1st Anniv.)

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meeting in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Patrick Mackle - RIP

Sunday 22nd Mar: Fifth Sunday of Lent (A) Jn 11: 1-45

8.00am: Holy Souls

9.30am: Norah Whiting - RIP

10.30am: Lenten Lunch in the Hall

11.00am: Betty Mills - RIP

12.30pm: Baptism of Chibi Ngabor

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: Poor Parishes

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 22nd Mar: Fifth Sunday of Lent (A) Jn 11: 1-45

10.00am: David Papa - RIP

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, Chris Smith, Paula Smith, David Evans, Gerry Buckles, Kathy Starnes and Patti Earl

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 Whyte, Margaret O'Flaherty, Kevin Nuttal, Dorothy Saul and Patsy Martin

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

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

Benjamin Wright, Mary Reynolds, Maria Goard and Audrey Green

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **14/15 March 2026:** St Vincent de Paul

Next Weekend: **21/22 March 2026:** Poor Parishes



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

Every morning I say these words as part of the morning office of the church:

“He will give light to those in darkness, those who dwell in the shadow of death and guide us into the way of peace.”

These words are from the Benedictus (or Song of Zechariah) and were spoken by Zechariah upon regaining his speech at the circumcision of his son, John the Baptist.

As I pray these words I ask myself “Who are those who live in darkness today?”

They are people searching for hope without finding it, those who are experiencing "blindness" to truth, or people living in fear and anxiety.

In this weekend's Gospel from John we hear how a blind man was anointed by Jesus with mud mixed with his saliva. Jesus gave light to him. The man was released from physical darkness. He and his parents were then interrogated by the Pharisees. The Pharisees didn't want to accept the truth that Jesus was a man from God because he did not keep the Sabbath. They were men who were living in darkness and remained in the dark. In contrast to them we have the man who gradually, as the story progressed, came to see who Jesus really was - from being the man who gave him his sight, to being a prophet, to finally seeing him as the Son of Man. Jesus asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus replied, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He then declares to Jesus, "Lord I believe" and worshipped him.

This Easter Vigil, the Godparents of our newly baptised adults, light a candle from the newly blessed Easter candle and, as they hand it to them, the priest says, "You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light."

This Sunday, at the Second Scrutiny, in preparation for their baptism at Easter, we pray for those who are to be baptised saying, "Father of mercy, you led the man born blind to the kingdom of light through the gift of faith in your Son. Free these elect from false values that blind and surround them. Set them firmly in your truth children of the light forever."

Let our prayer this week be, " Loving Lord, dispel any darkness in my life. Be the light that shine in my heart. Heal me and preserve me from the unbelief of this world and enlightened by the Holy Spirit may I never fail to profess the Good News of salvation and share it with others." Amen.

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 PRACTICE The Altar Servers practice for Holy Week Masses will take place on Friday, 27th March 2026 at 4.30pm in the church. Please could parents accompany all young people under 16yrs.

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 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

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), Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

LENTEN REFLECTION: During refreshments in the Hall after Mass 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

Junior Youth Club: Exploring Holy Week

Join us next Sunday, 29th March, at 4pm as we reflect on the Passion of our Lord through a special children's video. We'll take a moment to meditate, get creative with egg painting, and enjoy fun activities together!

A Note from the Team:

We're looking for sponsors to help us provide Bibles for our young participants to use during the sessions. If you'd like to support this initiative, please get in touch!" Nieves

PARISH PENITENTIAL SERVICE Our Parish Penitential Service, offering an opportunity for prayer, reflection and confession, will be held on Wednesday, 25th March at 7pm.

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

Lent Retreat Day at Minster Abbey, 28 March: Themed 'Lent- A Journey in Love,' this is led by experienced retreat guide, Eddie Gilmore, who invites you to come for a day of quiet reflection and connection in the beautiful surroundings of Minster Abbey. Contact Eddie at: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

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).