

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:

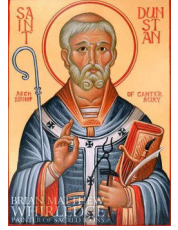
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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): Patrick Mackle - RIP

2nd Col.: Poor Parishes

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

Monday 23rd Mar: Feria *Jn 8: 1-11*

12 noon: Bernard Mills - RIP

Tuesday 24th Mar: Feria *Jn 8: 21-30*

12 noon: In loving memory of Terry Spratley

7pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 25th Mar: The Annunciation of the Lord *Lk 1: 26-38*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Sheila Charlton - RIP

Short Lenten Reflection with Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: *Parish Reconciliation Service*

Thursday 26th Mar: Feria *Jn 8: 51-59*

7.30am: Peggy Kirwan - RIP

12 noon: Fr Andrew Richardson - birthday wishes

Scripture group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 27th Mar: Feria *Jn 10: 31-42*

12 noon: Dierdre Mills - RIP

6.00pm: *Stations of the Cross*

Saturday 28th Mar: Feria *Jn 11: 45-47*

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

10am - 2.00pm: *Church cleaning for Easter*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Kripa Jomon - thanksgiving

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Ray Scott - RIP

Sunday 29th Mar: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)

Mt 26: 14 - 27:66

8.00am: Filipino Community

9.30am: Ofelia Salgado - RIP

11.00am: Holy Souls

6.00pm: People of the Parish

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.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: David Papa - RIP

Sunday 29th Mar: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)

Mt 26: 14 - 27:66

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

St Dunstan's: Kay Gandon, Miguel Vazquez, Yveline Vereche, 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, Patricia Martin, Miriam Methin, Owen Hodgeson and Joshua John Taylor

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, Maria Goad and Audrey Green

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **21/22March 2026:** Poor Parishes

Next Weekend: **21/22March 2026:** No second collection this weekend



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

This Wednesday, we are celebrating the Annunciation and the Anglican Bishop, Sarah Mullally, will be officially installed here in Canterbury at the Cathedral, which is just a short walk from our parish church. She is the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury since Saint Augustine first arrived in Kent from Rome in AD597 and she will be the first woman to hold the position. Some of the key figures attending will be Cardinal Kurt Koch (who is the President of the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity), Archbishop Flavio Pace (who is the Secretary) and Revd Martin Browne OSB also from the Dicastery. The Catholic Co-Chairs of ARCIC (The Anglican–Roman Catholic International Commission) and IARCCUM (International Anglican–Roman Catholic Commission for Unity and Mission), Archbishops Bernard Longley and Don Bolen (who are based in Regina, Canada) will be there too. Our new Archbishop of Westminster, Richard Moth, will be reading a lesson.

When Archbishop Sarah's appointment was announced, Cardinal Koch wrote to her that the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion have been having ecumenical talks for nearly 60 years, 'and during that time, we've really grown closer in understanding and affection. Even though there have been some disagreements, this work of trying to get closer together has been supported by the warmth of the relationships between the pastors of our two communities.' Those disagreements have included differences between Catholics and Anglicans about the ordination of women as priests and then as bishops, as well as differences between Catholics and Anglicans and among Anglicans themselves about blessing same-sex couples.

Archbishop Sarah will be wearing the ring that Pope Paul VI presented to the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey, on 24 March 1966.

As we celebrate the solemnity of the Annunciation, let us offer our prayers that the Lord will bless Archbishop Sarah with the gifts she needs for her very demanding ministry. May she be equipped to be a bridge of communion and unity for the faithful she will serve.

Let us also pray for Christian Unity: *God of heaven and earth, your Son Jesus Christ has revealed you as our Father and promised us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Grant to your Church to overcome the scandal of our divisions, so that we may bear witness to your life of communion, in the unity of our profession of faith and in the love of mutual service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: Envelopes for weekly gift aid contributors are now available in the Narthex. If you wanted gift aid envelopes but cannot find yours, please send an email to Linda in the office at canterbury@rcaos.org.uk giving your name, address and contact telephone number. Thank you

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

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

Easter Celebration 5th April there will be activities for the children, cakes and a raffle. Donations welcome on the day.

HCPT. A huge thank you to all those who came to the HCPT Fashion Show last Saturday. Your overwhelming support raised £1,534. A special thank you to my amazing team of helpers and we hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. Thank you again. Next HCPT event Saturday 20th June Quiz Night.

Divine Mercy Sunday 2026: Celebrations at **St Andrews Church**, Washington Drive, Cippenham, Slough SL1 5RE on 12 April 2026 at 2:30 pm. The service, led by Mgr Sean Healy, will include Enthronement of the Image of Merciful Jesus, Mass, Talk, Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome Please call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information

Spring Pilgrimage to Canterbury: April 18th 10.30 A.M. from St Mary's Church, Chilham via St Mary's Church, Chartham to Canterbury, finishing with evensong in the Cathedral. Contact: Eddie Gilmore: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

MENINGITIS OUTBREAK: If you know of anyone who attended Club Chemistry night club on the nights 5,6 or 7 March please advise them to go to get antibiotics from either the Gate clinic at Kent and Canterbury Hospital, or Westgate Hall. More details are available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/>

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 huge thank you to our amazingly generous parishioners for their pledges toward our junior youth club Bibles! Thanks to your kindness, we now have enough to purchase the 30 Bibles planned. Blessings, Nieves and the team

Thank you from CAFOD: Thank you for your generous support this Family Fast Day. Your kindness is helping families to grow food, even when facing drought and floods. You have shown what it means to love your neighbour this Lent. Find out how your support is making a difference at cafod.org.uk/thankyou
PS: It's not too late to donate – pick up a **CAFOD envelope** in church or visit cafod.org.uk/envelope or use the QR code



Please join us on a Mary's Meals walking pilgrimage: Details of all pilgrimages at: <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/charity-events/walk-for-hope>. You are welcome to join for a single day, for several days, or for a whole pilgrimage; on your own or as a group. To find out more or to sign up, go to <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/charity-events/walk-for-hope> or contact Roy Peachey from Mary's Meals at info@marysmeals.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).