

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:

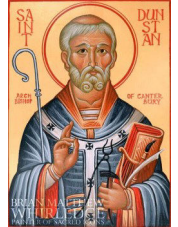
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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): 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

Monday 30th Mar: Monday of Holy Week Jn 12: 1-11

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Fr Frederico Gandolfi (OFM) 's intentions

Tuesday 31st Mar: Tuesday of Holy Week Jn 13: 21-33, 36-38

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Tim and Rose Pierce - RIP

7pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 1st April: Wednesday of Holy Week Mt 26: 14-25

7.30am: Sr Clare on her Golden Jubilee

12 noon: **NO MIDDAY MASS TODAY**
(The priests are attending the *Chrism Mass at the Cathedral*)

Thursday 2nd Apr: Maundy Thursday Jn 13: 1-15

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

6.30pm: *Altar Servers Practice*

8.00pm: **Mass of the Lord's Supper:** Fr Freddy Gandolfi - welfare
Followed by watching at the Altar of Repose with night prayers at 11.45pm

Friday 3rd Apr: Friday of the Passion of the Lord Jn 18:1 - 19:42

9.00am: *Morning Prayer*

9.30pm: *Altar Servers Practice*

10.00am: *Good Friday Children's Liturgy in the Hall*

11.15: *Walk of Witness*

3.00pm: *Passion of the Lord - Solemn Liturgy*

8.00pm: *Stations and Veneration of the Cross*

Saturday 4th Apr: Holy Saturday Mt 28: 1-10

9.00am: *Morning Prayer*

9.30pm: *Altar Servers Practice*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

2.00pm: *Polish Community - Blessing of the Food in the Church*

4.00pm: *Ukrainian Catholic Service in the Church*

8.00pm: **The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night** - People of the Parish

Sunday 5th Apr: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Jn 20: 1-9

8.00am: Gjergi Zefi and family - thanksgiving

9.30am: Florinda Allcorn - RIP

11.00am: Colin Stone on his birthday

12.30pm: *Baptism of Lacey-Mae Viscount*

6.00pm: Michael and Anne Curtin - RIP

All Weekend Col.: Priests' Easter Offering

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 29th Mar: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (A)
Mt 26: 14 - 27:66

10.00am: People of the Parish

Friday 3rd Apr: Friday of the Passion of the Lord Jn 18:1 - 19:42

3.00pm: *Passion of the Lord - Solemn Liturgy*

Sunday 5th Apr: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Jn 20: 1-9

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, 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, 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 April 2026:

Sylvia Manuell

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **28/29 March 2026:** No second collection this weekend

HOLY WEEK: Thursday, 02 April 2026: Aid to the Church in Need (ANC)

Friday, 03 April 2026: The Holy Places of Palestine

Next Weekend: **04/05 April 2026:** All collections at the Easter Masses are Offerings to the Priest - envelopes are available

From Fr Anthony

In our little oratory in the Presbytery there is a huge cross on which is painted the crucified Jesus. At the foot of this cross is the figure of St Francis of Assisi kneeling and kissing the feet of Jesus. Reflecting on this cross reminds me of the exhibition three years ago in the National Gallery which explored the life, legacy and artistic representations of the saint through over 40 works of art spanning seven centuries. I was struck by a painting by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo entitled "Saint Francis Embracing Christ on the Cross or Allegory of Saint Francis' Renunciation of the Material World to Follow Jesus. The composition symbolises the crucial moment in Francis of Assisi's life when he renounced all worldly goods to embrace the religious life, pushing away a globe (symbolising the world) with his right foot. Next to the cross two cherubs hold an open book showing words from St Luke, "In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples".

This coming Friday, Good Friday, at the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, we listen to the reading of St John's Passion. We pray solemn intercessions and then the minister processes through the church unveiling a cross and singing, "Behold the wood of the cross, on which hung the Saviour of the world". We respond by singing, "come let us adore" and we all kneel and adore in silence. As the Cross is placed on the sanctuary, we are invited to move to the cross in procession and show reverence by a simple genuflection or some other appropriate sign such as touching or kissing the cross. This can be a very powerful gesture.

Where we are embracing the cross, we are embracing this sign of love, of the infinite love of God for each of us and the source of our salvation. Through the Cross of Christ, the evil one is overcome, death is defeated, life is given to us and hope is restored. It is 800 years since the death of St Francis. Here is his prayer before the crucifix.

"Most High glorious God, enlighten the darkness of my heart.
Give me right faith, sure hope and perfect charity.
Fill me with understanding and knowledge that I may fulfil your command."

As we enter this Holy Week we thank you Lord that your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, when betrayed, did not hesitate to yield himself into the hands of his enemies and undergo the suffering on the Cross. Teach us that the Cross is the way to the resurrection. Teach us that Good Friday is the road to an Easter of light.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL 2026

For priests in crisis.

Let us pray for priests going through moments of crisis in their vocation, that they may find the accompaniment they need and that communities may support them with understanding and prayer.



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)

Monday, 6th April 2026 is a Public Holiday so Mass will be said at 10.00am

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

HCPT. Next HCPT event **Saturday 20th June Quiz Night.**

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage Saturday, 11 July, St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mfkent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Canterbury.

Young Christian student looking for a job: Hi dear parishioners, a young, sensible, master student attending Kent university and who is a part of the All Churches Together group, is looking for an evening or weekend job. If you know of any job opportunities, pls, get in touch with me, Nieves at 07932 645919, or directly with Aroons at 07350 655237.

Easter Celebration: 5th April - the social committee are seeking helpers during this event from 10:30 am to 12:30 to help with our activities if you are able to give off your time please contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com thanks.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s and 30s) -Discerning God's Call in your life -15th - 17th May, Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). **Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.** If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along?

There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to live alongside the religious community and to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. **For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org and to register: <https://bit.ly/Vocation2026>**

Churches Together in Canterbury News:

All-church service, St Georges street, 3 April (Good Friday), to share the good news with shoppers, most of whom will not go into our churches over the weekend. This is a chance for answered questions and prayer opportunities. Hot cross buns and tea are provided by the Salvation Army in Whitehorse Lane from 10.45am.

Walk of witness leaves at 11.15 to St Georges Street for service 11.30 to 12.25. If you can help giving out service sheets, manning the bible stall or in engaging with passers by, call Simon 07496 999580 or email simonredman3@gmail.com.

Worship Service Friday 10th April, 9pm to midnight at **St Andrews URC church.** Jonathan Oloyede and his leadership team (NDOPW, a national prayer movement at the strategic heart of prayer for our nation) shall be there.

Worship event in Thanington, 18 April, 10 am to 12.30pm. Thanington is one of the big new housing developments presently and this is a great opportunity to come together to pray for all the new communities as part of the revival in our City.

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