

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: michaelेतuka@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:

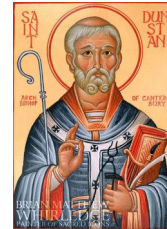
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: 01227 462896

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

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 Viscourt*

6.00pm: Michael and Anne Curtin - RIP

Monday 6th Apr: Mon in the Octave of Easter *Mt 28: 8-15*

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10.00am: Ann Hill - 75th Birthday

Tuesday 7th Apr: Tues in the Octave of Easter *Jn 20: 11-18*

12 noon: Margaret O'Flaherty - RIP

Wednesday 8th April: Wed in the Octave of Easter *Lk 24: 13-35*

10.30 - 11.30am: **No RECONCILIATION TODAY**

12 noon: Requiem Mass of Miriam Mehlin

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

4.00pm: Funeral of Winston de Hoedt at Barham

Thursday 9th Apr: Thurs in the Octave of Easter *Lk 24:35-48*

7.30am: Simon Galt - RIP

12 noon: **NO MIDDAY MASS TODAY**

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 10th Apr: Fri in the Octave of Easter *Jn 21: 1-14*

12 noon: Bishop Charles Henderson - RIP

Adoration until 1.30pm

Saturday 11th Apr: Sat in the Octave of Easter *Mk 16: 9-15*

9.00am: *Parents' Baptism Preparation in the Presbytery*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Private Intentions

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Mary Reynolds - RIP

Sunday 12th Apr: Second Sunday of Easter *Jn 20: 19-31*

8.00am: Shirleybelle Corrigan - RIP

9.30am: Ron Cameron - RIP

11.00am: Tony Hickey - birthday

12.30pm: *Baptism of Axel Ofori Afriyie*

6.00pm: John Morrison - RIP

2nd Col.: **SVP**

May your Easter be filled with the joy of the risen Lord and the hope of eternal life.

Canon Anthony Charlton

Father Michael Etuka



ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

Jn 20: 1-9

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 12th Apr: Second Sunday of Easter *Jn 20: 19-31*

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, Winston de Hoedt 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: : **04/05 April 2026:** All collections at the Easter Masses are Offerings to the Priest - envelopes are available

Next Weekend: **11/12 April 2026:** St Vincent De Paul Society

From Fr Anthony

When I was in priestly formation, we had to work in small groups preparing and then preaching a homily to the rest of the group, which would then be critiqued.

On one occasion, we were given half an hour to prepare a five-minute homily on the Resurrection.

I remember pacing up and down in the garden, working out how to speak about the essential meaning of Jesus risen from the dead. Today, if you asked AI, it would give you a well-constructed homily in five minutes. I tried it, and it did. Pope Leo recently said in a question-and-answer session with clergy from the Diocese of Rome that priests should resist "the temptation to prepare homilies with artificial intelligence." Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die. The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose this capacity. "To give a true homily is to share faith," and artificial intelligence "will never be able to share faith," the pope added.

On this, the greatest feast of the church's year, let us share with each other our faith in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

As Saint Augustine once wrote, "We are an Easter People, and Alleluia is our Song."

But how can we sing Alleluia when there is so much death and destruction surrounding us? For example, the other day, a parishioner shared with me a post from Father Freddie, a Franciscan, working in South Sudan. He wrote, "I ask you to pray for our parish here in Juba. They have killed 86 parishioners. We are devastated. The attack occurred near a recently discovered gold mine. Several generals seem to be trying to gain control of the area, so yesterday, part of the army killed women, children, and took parishioners who were seeking their fortune."

We must stubbornly persist in asserting the hope of Easter even amidst the signs of despair in our world. May Christ "Easter" in us (Gerard Manley Hopkins) in our divided and conflicted world. Let me quote the words of Archbishop Peter A. Comensoli of the Archdiocese of Melbourne from his Easter message: "Easter offers not escape but a way forward: to live with compassion, seek truth, build peace, and stand for hope. To the steadfast in faith: may this Easter renew your joy and courage. To those who feel distant: the light of Christ is already seeking you. To people of goodwill: Easter proclaims that life is stronger than death, love stronger than fear, and hope stronger than despair."

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)

Overseas Development and Debt Justice: A Public Lecture by Christine Allen, Director of CAFOD, on Thursday, 16 April 7-9pm Grimond Lecture Theatre 3, University of Kent., CT1 7NG. Refreshments will be provided

HCPT. 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. All Welcome Please call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information

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

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 asap, and no later than the middle of May, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, home address, 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 mflkent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Canterbury.

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

FUNERAL MASSES:

The Requiem Mass for the late **Miriam Mehlin** takes place on Wednesday, 8 April at 12 noon in St Thomas'. The burial is at Canterbury Cemetery at 11am

The Funeral Service for the late **Winston de Hoedt** takes place on Wednesday, 8 April at 4.00pm at Barham Crematorium

The Requiem Mass for the late **Owen Hodgeson** takes place on Thursday, 16 April at 12 noon in St Thomas'

The Requiem Mass for the late **Patricia Martin** takes place on Friday, 17 April at 12 noon in St Thomas'

UCM Canterbury Events

Food bank appeal and Cake Sale 26th April. Donations to the food bank can be left in the box in the All Saints Chapel from the 12th April. Donations of cakes welcome on the 26th. All funds raised going to the Canterbury Food bank.

Save the date: 10th May 2026 - Plant and cake sale.

Churches Together in Canterbury News:

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.

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>**