

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:

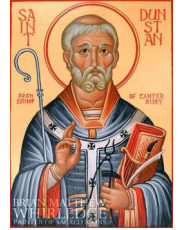
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: canterbury@rcaos.org.uk



ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): Chris Walters - RIP

Sunday 19th Apr: Third Sunday of Easter

Lk 24: 13-35

8.00am: People of the Parish

2nd Col.:

St George's Cathedral

9.30am: Owen Hodgson - RIP

11.00am: Avril Rodgerson - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Gwendoline Saunders-Chan*

6.00pm: Maureen and Syd Pepper - RIP

Monday 20th Apr: Feria

Jn 6: 22-29

12 noon: Michael Gale - RIP

Tuesday 21st Apr: St Anselm

Jn 6: 30-35

12 noon: NO MASS TODAY

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 22nd April: Feria

Jn 6:35-40

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Sister Elizabeth Morris - birthday wishes

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 23rd Apr: St George

Lk 9: 23-26

SOLEMNITY

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: For a Good Samaritan

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 24th Apr: Sts Justus and Mellitus

Jn 6: 52-59

12 noon: Marie Strong - RIP (1st Anniversary)

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 25th Apr: St Mark the Evangelist

Mk 16: 15-20

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Sean Clancy's intentions

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Chris Walters - RIP

Sunday 26th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jn 10: 1-10

WORLD DAY OF VOCATIONS

8.00am: John and Doreen Wrathall - RIP

9.30am: David Lewis - welfare

11.00am: Christopher Young - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Lilibet Celestine*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Joe's welfare

2nd Col.:

Priests' Training

Fund

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 12th Apr: Second Sunday of Easter

Jn 20: 19-31

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 26th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jn 10: 1-10

10.00am: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

Luxury Cream Tea, Saturday 16 May at the **Hersden Community Centre** at 3pm . Price £9 per person . Tickets available from Pauline on 07742 949084

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, Patti Earl, Elodoro Evangelio and David Lewis

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, Joshua John Taylor and Anne Thirkell

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

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' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **18/19 April 2026:** St George's Cathedral - this collection helps meet the cost of the upkeep of our Diocesan Mother Church.

Next Weekend: **25/26 April 2026:** Priests' Training Fund: Help to meet the costs of training students for the priesthood, the permanent diaconate and ongoing formation of the clergy.

From Fr Anthony

Since last October those who received the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil as part of their formation, have been coming to regular meetings each week. The celebration of the Sacraments was the high point in their life of faith. The weeks between now and Pentecost, which is 24th May this year, are also important for them and for us. They give us the opportunity to reflect on the wonderful new life that they have received. In these weeks with them we can savour the meaning of the sacramental experiences they have undergone. Now is the time to deepen our Christian experience, to grow spiritually and to enter more fully into the life and unity of our parish community. We can do this by mediating on the gospel, sharing in the Sunday Mass and performing works of charity.

The Emmaus gospel of this Sunday can be a way to deepen our understanding of the Eucharist. The two disciples are walking on the road to Emmaus. They have turned their backs on Jerusalem and the hopes they had for Jesus. They had heard the women news of the empty tomb, but they could not accept it. Jesus joins them as they walked along. They did not recognise him, and he asks why they are downcast. They share with him their hopes for Jesus. The risen Lord responds to the foolishness of these two by drawing them back to the wisdom of the scriptures. He unpacks the Hebrew Scriptures so they can see how these point to Christ. Later they admit that their hearts were burning within them as he talked with them on the road. As one commentator put it. "In the dimness of our faith, our prayer needs the constant enlightenment of the sacred word. Through the intricate paths of daily life, our conscience needs the guiding light of Gods own teaching. In the cold darkness of a secular society, we need to experience hearts burning within us as we hear the good news of God's self- giving love for us." (Sylvester O'Flynn O.F.M. Cap)

Jesus made as if to go on beyond Emmaus. The two disciples urge him to stay with them. At table Jesus takes bread, he blesses it, he breaks it and he gives them the bread. This is a Eucharistic action. It is only then that they recognise him. Jesus has fed their minds with the living word and handing them the bread their eyes were opened and they recognised him. They are changed. They set out that instant and return to Jerusalem.

Lord, in this Eastertide, walk with me, open the scriptures for me, share yourself in the breaking of bread. By your gift may I recognise you here at Mass. May my heart burn within me so that I may joyfully go back to the world sharing your word of life and radiating your hope.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 2 May** 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)

Congratulations to the 8 parishioners were commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist on Saturday, 11 April.

St Anselm's Catholic School, Canterbury are seeking to appoint Foundation Local Governance Committee Members. Please contact us at governance@kcsp.org.uk or use the QR code on the poster in the Narthex.

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). **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>**

UCM Canterbury Events

Lenten Lunch: thank you to everyone who donated delicious soups and fruits and all those who came and celebrated with us we raised £75.40 for the parish. Easter Celebration 5th April Thanks you to all who came and celebrated Easter with us. We raised £71 for the parish. **Plant and Cake Sale 10th May 10:30-12:30** in the church hall donations of Plants, seeds and cakes welcome on the day. Raising funds for the Priest training fund and UCM. Please see poster for more details

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage Sat, 11 July, St George's If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know asap, **and no later than mid-May**, providing: 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.

Stay and Play - Toddler & Babies Group - Fridays 10:00-11:30

A big thank you to all the mums, dads, and carers who joined us for our very first session! We loved having you and hope you enjoyed what we planned for your little ones. Any suggestions, please, let us know at stayandplaystthomas@gmail.com **Parishioners**, please keep our new toddler and babies group in your prayers as we grow this community together!

Musical Pilgrimage on the Augustine Camino June 8th-14th 2026

From Rochester to Ramsgate, via Canterbury, with Eddie Gilmore performing a little concert each evening in a pub en route. Contact Eddie for more details: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

WIDOWED, SEPARATED AND DIVORCED Weekend 8 to 10 May 2026 at Worth Abbey, West Sussex, RH1 4SB. *Beginning Experience* is a peer ministry to the widowed, separated and divorced led by trained volunteers. For details, please contact Mary on 07730 884315 or email: BeginningExperience.soe@gmail.com.

The world premiere of **The Canterbury Trails – Live This May!** "From all the shires of England to Canterbury they come" Step into a powerful new musical inspired by *The Canterbury Tales*—reimagined for today. Expect music, dance, story telling and unforgettable characters on a journey like no other.

St Thomas of Canterbury RC Church
 Fri 15th May (7:30pm) & Sat 16th May 2026 (2:30pm)
 £20 (£15/£10 restricted view) | Ages 10+ only (we love our children but this is not designed for them)
 75 mins (no interval)
 Created to celebrate the church's 150th anniversary
 Written and directed by the our own parishioner, internationally renowned choreographer Sir David Bintley, with music by celebrated composer Colin Towns
 Performed by our very own local parish talent
 A unique blend of tradition and modern storytelling
 Buy your tickets from the Church shop now – limited seats (200 per show)

Good Shepherd Sunday(26 April 2026) – Support Our Future Priests

The priesthood has always been at the heart of the Church. This Good Shepherd Sunday, we pray for vocations and support the Priest Training Fund, which forms men for service across our parishes, schools, hospitals, and communities. We currently have 9 seminarians, each costing around £30,000 per year over six years of formation. Your generosity helps make their calling possible.

Donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF

Call: 020 7960 2504 (weekdays, 9am–5pm)

Or use the envelopes at the back of church

Leave a lasting legacy to the Church

Please consider remembering our church or the Priesthood in your Will. Information: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy. Thank you for your prayers and support.



Shrine of St Jude Summer Celebration to be held Saturday, 30 May from 11am. See poster in the Narthex for details

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