

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: michaelEtuka@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')

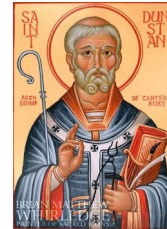
Parish Office open **Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm** (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), **Thurs 10am - 1pm**

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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): Chris Walters - RIP

Sunday 26th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter *Jn 10: 1-10*

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY - 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

Monday 27th Apr: Feria

Jn 10: 11-18

12 noon: *Kuriyacose Mathoor - RIP*

Tuesday 28th Apr: Feria

Jn 10: 22-30

12 noon: Anne Morris - welfare

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 29th April: St Catherine of Siena

Mt 11: 25-30

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Patricia Nolan - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 30th Apr: St Pius V

Jn 13: 16-20

7.30am: Victoria O'Grady - RIP

12 noon: Shincy Jomy - Thanksgiving

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 1st May: St Joseph the Worker

Mt 13: 54-58

12 noon: Fernando Lopez de Leon Gordo - RIP

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 2nd May: St Athanasius

Jn 14: 7-14

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Josh Taylor - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 3rd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jn 14: 1-12

SAFEGUARDING SUNDAY

8.00am: Lorna Baily - RIP

9.30am: Florinda Allcorn - RIP

11.00am: Brian George Henley - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of*

6.00pm: Joshua Taylor - RIP

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 26th Apr: Fourth Sunday of Easter

Jn 10: 1-10

10.00am: Marion Nash - RIP

Sunday 3rd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter

Jn 14: 1-12

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, 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

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This 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.

Next Weekend: **02/03 May 2026:** No second collection

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, 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)

From Fr Anthony

This weekend is known as Good Shepherd Sunday and traditionally we pray for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

Here is my first draft of a homily that I hope to preach at the first Mass of a priest who is being ordained next week

"Yesterday, at your ordination, the Bishop laid hands on you and anointed you with chrism. He said these words, 'Almighty Father, grant to your chosen one the dignity of the priesthood. Renew within him the Spirit of holiness. As a co-worker with the order of Bishops may he be faithful to the ministry that he receives from you Lord God and be to others a model of right conduct. May he be faithful in working with the order of Bishops so that the words of the Gospel may reach the ends of the earth and the family of nations, made one in Christ, may become God's one, holy people.' We are all full joy and thanksgiving that God has chosen you as an instrument to enable the Word of God so that it may reach the ends of the earth. God has chosen you, not because you are the best priest or the most perfect priest. He has chosen you because he loves you deeply and has a special work for you. He wants you to be an earthenware jar that carries this treasure which is Himself.

I chose these words for my ordination card that are found in 2 Corinthians 4:7. The duty of the priest is to grow to know Jesus as the Living Word. The priest is responsible for helping the people he serves, through encouragement and leadership, to explore ways that we can share that Word, that Gospel, in our world and lives today. As a priest, it is important to pray for true humility. Remember that Christ has chosen you because you are not perfect but fragile and weak like an earthenware vessel. God our Father, by no merit of your own, has chosen you for communion with the eternal priesthood of Christ and for the ministry of the Church. I pray that you will be an ardent yet gentle preacher of the Gospel and a faithful steward of God's mysteries."

On Good Shepherd Sunday let us pray for all priests and to inspire hearts to answer God's call for vocations.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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 - **no later than mid-May**, Contact mflkent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Canterbury.

Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries invite all Red Box supporters to two events in 2026. Join Fr Joseph Donkor (Missio Diocesan Director for Southwark) and the Mill Hill Missionaries for Mass, followed by lunch and sharing of mission work on Saturday 6 June at 11am at St Simon Stock Church, Bleakwood Rd, Walderslade, Kent ME5 0NF

Join us for this special World Mission month mass with Missio National Director, Fr Anthony Chantry MHM, and Fr Joseph Donkor on Saturday, 3rd October at 11am At St Elizabeth of Portugal RC Church, The Vineyard, Richmond TW10 6AQ.

UCM Canterbury Events

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

St Vincent de Paul say thank you: The March collection raised £813.39. Thank you very much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. In March we gave out £350 in supermarket vouchers and bought a fridge freezer and cooker. We bought a freezer and a cooker with timely grants from Connecting Canterbury. Gillingham SVP Conference very kindly half-funded a fridge freezer. We are also very grateful to the 1485 Trust which gave half-funding for a new mattress, a washing machine and a reclining chair to ease a medical condition. A very generous grant from the Beerling Foundation has bought much needed carpets. A kindly-donated new microwave was much appreciated by its recipient as was a good second-hand washing machine. We are so grateful for all you support.

Stay and Play: Toddler & Babies Group

Our fun sessions continue this Friday at 10:00am. All mums, dads, and carers are welcome, just drop in! We're also looking for second-hand donations of baby gyms, wooden play kitchens, and toddler tables. If you have any spare, please send us a photo at: stayandplaystthomas@gmail.com, or talk to Jan or Nieves

The Growing in Faith Together for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course, which has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team, the Agency for Evangelisation and Sycamore, a programme about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang.

The next course begins on **Tuesday May 5th at 8.30pm**. For further information and to book a place, please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

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.



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.so.e@gmail.com.

The world premiere of **The Canterbury Trails – Live This May!**

THIS SHOW WILL NOT BE LIVESTREAMED

"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 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)

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