

# 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](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)

Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

Facebook:

**St Thomas of Canterbury**

Parish Priest:

**Canon Anthony Charlton**

email: [anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priest:

**Fr Michael Etuka**

email: [michaelletuka@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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:**

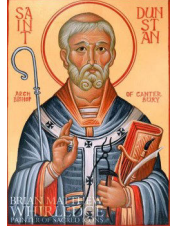
**St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: Mr J Rowarth (01227 826200)**

ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN

East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH

Telephone: **01227 462896**

Email: [canterbury@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:canterbury@rcaos.org.uk)



### ST THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

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

6.00pm: Joshua Taylor - RIP

**Monday 4th May : The English Martyrs**

*Jn 14: 21-26*

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10.00am: Amelia Grant - RIP

**Tuesday 5th May: Feria**

*Jn 14: 27-31*

DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE

12 noon: Alexie Forrester - RIP

7.00pm: RCIA in the Hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

**Wednesday 6th May: St John Paine**

*Jn 15: 1-8*

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Siobhan Coen - welfare

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7.00pm: Prayer and Pub

**Thursday 7th May: Feria**

*Jn 15: 9-11*

7.30am: Patsy and Angela Cassidy - RIP

12 noon: Susamma Jacob - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

**Friday 8th May: Feria**

*Jn 15: 12-17*

12 noon: James Scott - RIP

Adoration after Mass

6.00pm: Public Meeting re Hale's Place Chapel at St Stephen's Community Centre, Tenterden Drive

**Saturday 9th May: Feria**

*Jn 15: 18-21*

9.00am: First Reconciliation Service for FHC Children and Parents

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Elizabeth Murphy - welfare

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

**Sunday 10th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Jn 14: 15-21*

8.00am: Deceased members of the Cassidy & Breen families

9.30am: Ofelia Salgado - RIP

11.00am: Bernadette Kern - RIP

12.30pm: Baptism of Harry Wood and Charlotte Alesbrook

4.00pm: Confirmation Session in the Hall

6.00pm: William Edwards - RIP

2nd Col.: SVP

### POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MAY 2026

*That everyone might have food.*

Let us pray that everyone, from large producers to small consumers, be committed to avoid wasting food, and to ensure that everyone has access to quality food.

### ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

**Sunday 3rd May: Fifth Sunday of Easter**

*Jn 14: 1-12*

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Sunday 10th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter**

*Jn 14: 15-21*

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, Elizabeth Delaney, Diane Fenn, Chris Smith, Paula Smith, David Evans, Gerry Buckles, Kathy Starnes, Patti Earl, Elodoro Evangelio and Alexander Oligo

**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, Anne Thirkell, Angela Nichols and Ashton Harrington

**St Dunstan's:** Marion Nash, Lorna Hazelwood, Irene Foster, Sr Marian McCouaig and Martina Morrissey

**Please pray for those whose 1st anniversaries are in May 2026:**

Constance Mary Wright

### ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **02/03 May 2026:** No second collection

Next Weekend: **09/10 May 2026:** SVP

Following Weekend: **16/17 May 2026:** World Communications Day



**St Thomas' Baptism Preparation:** To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 6th June** 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 week instead of my usual thought for the week I felt it was important to share with you the letter Archbishop John has written to us on this Sunday, designated as Safeguarding Sunday. Father Anthony.***

Together with our entire Archdiocese, I am wholeheartedly committed to ensuring that every parish, ministry, and event is a place of safety, welcome, and care for all — especially for the most vulnerable among us. Safeguarding is not merely a matter of policy; it is a vital expression of our shared Christian calling and mission.

As a community of faith, we are guided by the teachings of the Church to protect and stand alongside those who are most in need. This includes the safeguarding of children, young people, and adults at risk from any form of harm, abuse, or neglect. Each person is made in the image and likeness of God, and each deserves to be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion. No one should feel unsafe in our parishes, communities, or at any event or activity offered by our Archdiocese.

Safeguarding is central to the credibility and witness of the Church. Our ability to share the love of the Lord Jesus Christ with integrity depends on how we protect, value, and support those who come to us in trust. Any act of abuse is a profound betrayal of that trust and causes deep and enduring pain. Such harm has no place in our Church and stands in direct opposition to the Gospel we proclaim.

Our Archdiocese's safeguarding policies are rooted in more than compliance — they reflect our desire to build a culture where care, vigilance, and mutual responsibility are part of daily life. We all have a role to play in this. Together, we can make our Archdiocese a truly safe and welcoming home for every person. Let us remain united in our commitment to safeguarding and in offering support and solidarity to those who have been harmed.

We acknowledge with sorrow the immense suffering caused by abuse within the life of the Church. To all survivors, we extend our heartfelt apologies. Your pain should never have been part of your experience. The Church must be a place of refuge, never a source of harm, and we recognise with humility and shame the failures that have taken place.

We warmly invite any survivor of abuse — whether within the Church or beyond it — to come forward and contact our diocesan safeguarding team. You will be listened to with respect, responded to with compassion, and supported in seeking healing, justice, and a renewed sense of hope.

With an assurance of prayers  
**Most Reverend John Wilson**  
Archbishop of Southwark

## ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

### Flame 2027 Book, Raffle & Plant Sale — Sun 14 June, 10:30am, church hall\*

Help us send 20+ young people to Flame 2027 in London! We need to raise £400. The UCM is supporting this with a book, raffle and plant sale on \*Sunday 14th June at 10:30am\*. Please come along and support us on the day. Every book and plant bought gets our youth closer to this amazing event! To donate or get involved, contact us at [umcantebury@gmail.com](mailto:umcantebury@gmail.com) More info: <https://cymfed.org.uk/>

**Junior Youth Club** (children who have completed their first Holy Communion & are yet to be Confirmed. There are two meetings in May. Sunday 3rd and 31st from 4-5.45 in the Church Hall. Join us for activities based on Faith, Fun and Friendship

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

**Safeguarding Sunday 2026.** Sunday 3 May is Safeguarding Sunday. In line with today's Gospel, we are called to protect, called to care, called to act. Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday at [rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday](https://rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday) or via the QR code.



**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

### 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

### Musical Pilgrimage on the Augustine Camino June 8<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gileag@gmail.com) [www.eddiegilmore.org](http://www.eddiegilmore.org)

### St Thomas's Young Adults

Some members of the parish are seeking to set up a young adult's group. We are looking at a membership age range of between 19 - 40 years old. It is thought that the format would include time for faith sharing as well as social time together. A group where young adults can come together and discuss issues of faith relevant to their lives as well as have some social interaction. This is only a beginning and will develop further as time goes on. If this is of interest to you, please come to an initial planning meeting on Friday 8th May at 7pm in the parish centre. Thank you.

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage Sat, 11 July, St George's** If you are celebrating your 1<sup>st</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup>/40<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know asap - **no later than mid-May**, Contact [milkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:milkent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Canterbury.

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)

**HALES PLACE CHAPEL** We are holding a public meeting on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm at St Stephen's Community Centre, Tenderden Drive to discuss the way forward for the chapel. Our vision is to establish a group that will oversee the day-to-day running of the building, support fundraising efforts, and ensure the chapel is well maintained. The aim is for the chapel to be open to the public for community activities and formal events. See poster in the Narthex for more details