

# 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: [michaelेतuka@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:markwharton@rcaos.org.uk))

**St Thomas' Catholic Primary School:** Head Teacher:

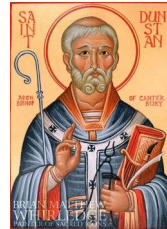
**St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School:** Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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 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

**Monday 11th May: Feria**

Jn 15: 26 - 16:4

12 noon: Margaret Collectt - RIP (Foundation Mass)

**Tuesday 12th May: St Pancras**

Jn 16: 5-11

12 noon: Padraig Raffety

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

**Wednesday 13th May:**

Jn 16: 12-15

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Seam Clancy's intentions

*Refreshments in the Hall after Mass*

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

**Thursday 14th May: The Ascension of the Lord** Mt 28: 16-20

**HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**

9.30am: Wellbeing of Gloria Higuera and family

12 noon: Michael Cronin - welfare

*Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)*

8.00pm: *Filipino Community*

**Friday 15th May: St John Stone**

Jn 16: 20-23

12 noon: Maureen and George Handley - RIP

*Adoration after Mass*

**Saturday 16th May: St Simon Stock**

Jn 16: 23-28

9.00am: *First Holy Communion Rehearsal in the Church*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Enid Grace Thorpe - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): David Heap - RIP

**Sunday 17th May: Sixth Sunday of Easter** Jn 17: 1-11

8.00am: Bob - welfare

9.30am: David Martin - RIP

11.00am: Beatriz de Higuera

4.00pm: Confirmation Session in the church

6.00pm: Romeo Espenilla - RIP

2nd Col.: Catholic  
Communications Network

### 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

**Wednesday, 13th May at 6.00pm:** Ascension Mass

**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, 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 Ambrosine, 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 Vereche, 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, Ashton Harrington and Audrey Martin

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

Next 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

In today's Gospel, Jesus promises his disciples and us, the Church, another Counsellor, another Helper, another Paraclete, another Advocate that will be with us forever. The Greek word is *paraklētōs*, that can be translated as advocate, helper, intercessor. This coming Thursday, when we celebrate the feast of the Ascension, we will hear how Jesus promises his disciples that they shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon them and they shall be his witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and "to the end of the earth". The feast of Pentecost is the third most important feast of the Church. We celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit, given to renew and transform the Church, to share the good news of Jesus with all.

Five years ago, Pope Francis, in his homily for Pentecost Sunday, reminded us of this promise: "When the Paraclete comes, whom I will send to you from the Father..." (Jn 15:26). With these words, Jesus promises to send his disciples the Holy Spirit, the ultimate gift, the gift of gifts. He uses an unusual and mysterious word to describe the Spirit: *Paraclete*. He is the very love of God, who does not abandon us, for being present to those who are alone is, itself, a source of comfort. Saint Bonaventure tells us that, "where the trials are greater, he brings greater comfort, not like the world, which comforts and flatters us when things go well, but derides and condemns us when they do not" (Homily in the Octave of the Ascension.)

The Spirit is the comforter, the consoler, the one who stands beside us to be our advocate. We have all received the fullness of the Holy Spirit at Baptism and confirmation. I encourage you all to prepare for the great feast of Pentecost by taking part in nine days of prayer beginning this coming Friday and ending on Saturday 23rd May. For each of these nine days, let us pray for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit in your life.

Here is a simple prayer:

Lord Jesus, I want more of your Holy Spirit. Activate aspects of His work that have been dormant in my life. Bring me into a deeper relationship with you. Give me greater zeal to be a witness for you and live a life of prayer, love, and service. Pour out your Holy Spirit on the whole Church! We need you, consoler Lord! Come!

## ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

**Canterbury Food bank appeal and Cake Sale:** Thank you to everyone who donated Food items to our appeal. Our Cake sale raised £134.87 for the food bank.

**Volunteers' appreciation celebration Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 6pm** Mass followed by a food and drinks in the church hall. To thank all our parish volunteers for all their hard work and dedication to our parish. All volunteers welcome to attend. Please RSVP [socialstthomasrc@gmail.com](mailto:socialstthomasrc@gmail.com)

**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 [mfikent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mfikent@rcaos.org.uk) As the title of your email, please write your parish location e.g. Canterbury.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN CANTERBURY EVENTS

**COME AND PRAY FOR OUR CITY 1-22 May 2026:** St Andrews URC church have an Upper Room prayer space for worship and prayer in the run up to Pentecost to gather together as the Disciples did. Alice Wilson-Sharp has materials about the City and prayer points from a room with a view of the City to inspire your prayer. This is an opportunity for individuals or groups to gather as the Holy Spirit leads them. Tuesdays 12-2pm Thursdays 10-2pm Fridays 10-2pm. Access through Oasis café entrance, St Andrews church Watling street

**On Saturday 23rd May**, Alice is organising a prayer walk around the city walls. There will be prayer point cards for the route. Meet at St Andrews at 10am in the Upper Room and walk will go out from there at 10.30/11. Please contact Alice for this: [office@standrewscanterbury.org](mailto:office@standrewscanterbury.org) The timing of this walk is strategic as there is a large event on Pentecost Sunday called 'Canterbury unlocked' which has many Pagan aspects to it, (whilst I understand some may see it as harmless fun). Canterbury Unlocked - Visit Canterbury

**On Pentecost Sunday 24th May**, City church invite others to join their Pentecost service (6.30-8pm) at St Andrews URC church in Watling street. This will involve other leaders from the City. If you don't have a service at your church at that time, do join the fellowship together!

[St Vincent de Paul says thank you](#) The April collection raised £845.71. Thank you very much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During April we gave out £280 in supermarket vouchers. We bought two mattresses and bedding for a family; we paid for a tool storage bill and unlocked a phone to enable someone to get back to work. We gave a family a donated second-hand good quality bed and mattress. Alongside other conferences in our District, we donated to Rainham SVP conference to support a family furnishing a new home.

**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 [ucmcanterbury@gmail.com](mailto:ucmcanterbury@gmail.com) More info: <https://cymfed.org.uk/>

**THE CANTERBURY TRAILS** Just a reminder — there are only a few days left to get your tickets for the world premiere of the Canterbury Trails. Tickets are still available for both performances: Friday 15th May at 7.30pm and Saturday 16th May at 2.30pm They are selling quickly, so be sure to purchase yours as soon as possible from the Church Shop. **Please note:** due to the nature of the performance, latecomers **will not be admitted** once the show has begun. Please arrive in good time, visit the loo beforehand, and take your seats ready to enjoy an uninterrupted performance. A splendid end to a truly memorable year if you can support this final celebration.

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

**Contemporary Theology Group:** Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 5 P.M. at St Peter's Methodist church. George Conye will speak on: The Trump Political Earthquake and American Faith Communities. Entrance £5 (free for students).