

# 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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): David Heap - RIP

**Sunday 17th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Jn 17: 1-11*

8.00am: Bob - welfare

9.30am: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Mass for: David Martin - RIP

11.00am: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

Mass for: Beatriz de Higuera

4.00pm: Confirmation Reconciliation Session in the church

6.00pm: Romeo Espenilla - RIP

**Monday 18th May : St John I**

*Jn 16: 29-33*

12 noon: Ann Strain - RIP

6.00pm: Mass at St Dunstan's, Hersden

**Tuesday 19th May: St Dunstan**

*Jn 17: 1-11*

12 noon: Raymond Donald Olupot

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

**Wednesday 20th May: St Bernadine of Siena**

*Jn 17: 11-19*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Sr Margaret Mary (OSB) on 50th Anniv. of her Profession  
*Refreshments in the Hall after Mass*

**Thursday 21st May: St Christopher of Magallanes & Companions**

*Jn 17: 20-26*

7.30am: Caridad Dela Vega

12 noon: Jomon Abraham - thanksgiving

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

**Friday 22nd May: St Rita of Cascia**

*Jn 21: 15-19*

12 noon: Ruth Weekes - welfare

*Adoration after Mass*

**Saturday 23rd May: Feria**

*Jn 21: 20-25*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Anne Morris - welfare

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): **SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION -**

Mass for Confirmation Candidates and their families

*Celebrant: Bishop Paul Hendricks*

**Sunday 24th May: Pentecost Sunday**

*Jn 20: 19-23*

8.00am: Filipino Community

9.30am: **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GOING FORTH MASS**

Mass for: FHC Candidates on their Going Forth

11.00am: People of the Parish

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Joshua Joseph Jomy - birthday blessings

### 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 17th May: Seventh Sunday of Easter**

*Jn 17: 1-11*

10.00am: People of the Parish

**Monday 18 May:**

6.00pm: Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Dunstan

**Sunday 24th May: Pentecost Sunday**

*Jn 20: 19-23*

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 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, Alexander Oligo, Peter Bruss, Danny Rikh, Diane Fenn and Rhona Rollings

**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, 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: **16/17 May 2026:** World Communications Day

Next Weekend: **23/24 May 2026:** No second collection this weekend

## From Fr Anthony

On Sunday, thirty eight children will be receiving Jesus in Holy Communion for the first time. Many of us will have happy memories of our own First Communion day. I still remember exactly where I sat on my First Communion day and that was over 65 years ago.

As a priest, I have been involved over many years with supporting catechists and parents in their crucial role of sharing their faith with the children. I well remember Sister Joan, a lovely catechist in my first parish, who always used to say that her aim in preparing children was, that when it came to their special day, they knew they had in some way encountered Jesus and were aware of God's love for them. One cannot love the True Presence of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacraments if one does not know the man Jesus as a real person.

As the children come in procession at Communion time, to receive the host and say "Amen" when the priest says "The Body of Christ," I am praying that for them this will be a new stage in their relationship of love with God. Their "Amen" is their saying yes to God's call to love and be loved. They now have the opportunity to love Jesus more deeply, to follow him more closely and to know him more intimately. May they slowly grow as people of prayer.

Ruth Burrow, in her book 'To Believe in Jesus' says, "In the Mass, we have the deepest expression of what prayer is. Here God does everything. Here Jesus, his beloved, offers himself, the perfect offering of perfect love in which his Father delights. He delights in it because it gives him the supreme eagerly desired opportunity to lavish himself on man. The reward of Jesus' surrender—and in what untold pain and darkness it was made and in what untold confidence and love—was God himself. Daily we have in our hands this perfect prayer as our very own."

Lord, we thank you for these young children on their First Communion day. As they say yes to what Jesus is doing and Amen to his call for them to enter into his saving death, may they be given a deeper understanding of the beauty and importance of the Mass and see it as essential in their life. Amen.

## 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, 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)

### 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 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. A number of young adults and organisers got together on Friday 8th May to discuss how to launch the group. We are looking to a launch in early June around the feast of Corpus Christi. Please watch out for further notices, posters, and announcements over the next few weeks.

### Archdiocesan Pilgrimages for Young Adults

Young adults (aged 18 to 35) are also invited to register interest for the **World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea** in August 2027 at [www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027](http://www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027)  
For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at [www.tinyurl.com/scys1](http://www.tinyurl.com/scys1)

**Plant and cake sale** 10<sup>th</sup> May thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising for the Priest training fund and UCM we raised £223.57

**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)

**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/>

**COMMUNION UNDER BOTH KINDS:** Father Michael and myself plan to reintroduce **Communion under both kinds** on the Feast of Corpus Christ (6/7 June 2026). In order for this to be possible, we are inviting all Eucharistic Ministers to a planning meeting on Saturday, 30th May at 1.00pm in the Hall.  
*Canon Anthony Charlton*

**HCPT FUNDRAISING QUIZ :** Our next HCPT fundraising event is the Quiz Night on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June. Details to follow

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

**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

### 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!

**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).