

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:

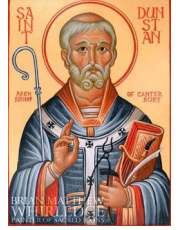
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST 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): 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

Monday 25th May: Mary, Mother of the Church *Jn 19:25-34*

PUBLIC HOLIDAY

10:00: Betty Scott - RIP

Tuesday 26th May: St Philip Neri *Mk 10: 28-31*

12 noon: Bincy Jomon - thanksgiving

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

Wednesday 27th May: St Augustine of Canterbury *Mk 10: 32 -45*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Abraham Family - thanksgiving

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 28th May: Lord Jesus Christ, Eternal High Priest

Mt 26: 36-42

7.30am: Dan Rikh - RIP

12 noon: Maria Clarine Pinto - birthday wishes

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 29th May: St Paul VI *Mk 11: 11-25*

12 noon: Marcus (RIP) and Maria Pinto

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 30th May: Feria *Mk 11: 27-33*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Mary Teresa Mariasy - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Andrew Peter Kanny - RIP

Sunday 31st May: The Most Holy Trinity *Jn 3: 16-18*

8.00am: Gerald Patrick Conellan - RIP

9.30am: Florinda Allcorn - RIP

11.00am: Fr Barry Angus - RIP

6.00pm: Simon Hall-Raleigh

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 24th May: Pentecost Sunday *Jn 20: 19-23*

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 31st May: The Most Holy Trinity *Jn 3: 16-18*

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, Alexander Oligo, Peter Bruff, 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, Audrey Martin, Diane Fenn, Elodoro Evangelio and Danny Rikh

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

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 THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

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

Next Weekend: **30/31 May 2026:** No second collection this weekend

From Fr Anthony

I watched the young people come before the Bishop to be anointed at their Confirmation Mass on Saturday. He smeared their foreheads with Chrism oil saying, "Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit." This is the eve of Pentecost. It is the feast when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit which transformed the Apostles, Mary and the women. They were now filled with courage which enabled them to venture forth and share the Good News with the whole world.

It is good for us who have been confirmed to be reminded of the Gift of the Spirit that all of us received at our own Confirmation. Our young people have received the fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit to witness before all to the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus. My hope and prayer is that they become active members of the Church and discover for themselves what it means to serve others.

We need to examine ourselves and ask; How are we doing with our witnessing and serving?

Recently Pope Leo met with young people who were preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation and said, "It is very beautiful to receive this Sacrament because the fullness of the Holy Spirit gives us enthusiasm, strength, and the ability to follow Jesus Christ, to say "Yes" to the Lord always and not to be afraid to follow courageously, to live the faith in a world that so often wants to lead us far from Jesus." He also said the Bishop who confirms often feels sadness, since many young people never set foot in the church again, disappearing from their parishes. Pope Leo therefore appealed to young Catholics to pay special attention to the Holy Spirit's gift of perseverance, so that they live their faith together.

Let us pray for our young people that they become faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and persevere in the faith. May they participate in the many activities and opportunities offered to them so that they can live in community. As Pope Leo reminded the young people he met: "We do not live the faith alone; we live it together. And forming these relationships of friendship and community is a way to live perseverance as disciples of Jesus."

Holy Spirit, memory of God, revive in all of us the memory of the gift we have received at Confirmation. Free us from the paralysis of selfishness and awaken in us the desire to serve, to do good. Come, Holy Spirit: you are harmony; make us builders of unity. You always give yourself; grant us the courage to go out of ourselves, to love and help each other, in order to become one family. 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. 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 invited to register interest for the **World Youth Day pilgrimage to Korea** in August 2027 at www.tinyurl.com/wyd2027

For information about youth activities for all ages across the Archdiocese please visit our website at www.tinyurl.com/scys1

Catholic Legacy Week, 24-30 May, is a time when Parishes and Catholic charities such as CAFOD celebrate the work made possible in the life of the Church through gifts in Wills. Find out more about the week using the QR code or at cafod.org.uk/CatholicLegacyWeek



OPEN AIR MASS 28th June 2026 at 10am at St Anselm's School

Our next planning meeting is **Monday, 15th June at 8.30pm in the Presbytery**. We are looking for helpers to help set up for the Mass on Saturday, 27th June at 12 noon and to help clear up on Sunday after the Mass
ON THE DAY: Could parents please bring outdoor games on the day to keep children entertained. Football goal net and Badmington nets will be available.

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

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 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

Our Hall Toilets – a message from the Parish Finance Committee

We are delighted to announce that we have secured funding towards the cost of refurbishing our hall toilets. Very little has been done to them since they were built in 1963 and many of you kindly completed our survey in January this year, where the clear message was that improvements were needed.

We therefore applied for another National Lottery Community Grant and were thrilled to learn recently that our application was successful. The grant will cover around half of the expected costs, with the remaining amount already included in our budget.

Work is expected to begin in June 2026 and we will share further updates nearer the time.

800th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST FRANCIS

In the coming months leading up to 4th October our parish will celebrate the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis and the relevance of his teaching for us today. Pope Leo has designated 2026 as a Year of St Francis. He has decreed a Plenary Indulgence, under the usual conditions, for anyone who visits a Franciscan Friary or a church dedicated to St Francis and prays/meditates on St Francis.

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2026/01/16/260116c.html>

We will make a day-pilgrimage to the Franciscan Capuchin Friary at Erith near Dartford to fulfil this act of grace on 22nd August 2026 as well as celebrating other events later in the year. Please see poster in Narthex for details. For more information, a booking form and reservations contact HELEN NATTRASS on email helennattrass@btinternet.com or phone 07803 612556

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 Hall.

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

Volunteers' appreciation celebration Saturday 13th 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