

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: 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)

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher:

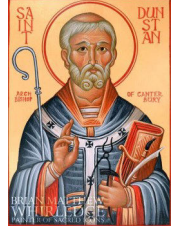
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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): Leelamma Joseph - RIP

Sunday 7th Jun: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) *Jn 6: 51-58*

8.00am: Joyce Grimer - RIP (1st Anniv.)

9.30am: Ruben Ramirez - RIP (5 yrs)

11.00am: Angela Nichols - RIP

6.00pm: Mrs Phelps - RIP

Monday 8th Jun: Feria *Mt 5: 1-12*

12 noon: Eleonore Comides - RIP

Tuesday 9th Jun: St Columba *Mt 5: 13-16*

12 noon: William Humphries - RIP

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

Wednesday 10th Jun: Feria *Mt 5: 17-19*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Isobel Gray - health and wellbeing
Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7- 8pm *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 11th Jun: St Barnabas *Mt 5: 20-26*

7.30am: Monica Munita - RIP

12 noon: Jonathon - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 12th Jun: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus *Mt 11: 25-30*

10 - 11.30: *Baby and Toddlers Group in the Hall*

12 noon: Requiem Mass of Angela Nichols
Adoration after Mass

Saturday 13th Jun: The Immaculate Heart of Mary *Lk 2: 41-51*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: John, Anastasia and Christine

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): UCM Thanksgiving Mass

Sunday 14th Jun: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) *Mt 9:36-10:8*

8.00am: Eleza Babu - blessings

9.30am: Ruben Ramirez - RIP
with Children's liturgy during Mass

2nd Col.: SVP

11.00am: Annie Bennett - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 7th Jun: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) *Jn 6: 51-58*

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 14th Jun: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) *Mt 9:36-10:8*

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, 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, 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': 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, Danny Rikh and Pauline Ventress

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

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

Theresa Penman

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **6/7 June 2026:** No second collection this weekend

Next Weekend: **13/14 June 2026:** St Vincent de Paul Society

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JUNE 2026

For the values of sports.

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 4th July** 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, we celebrate the **Feast of Corpus Christi**, traditionally known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. We are celebrating the gift of the Eucharist. The feast originated in the 13th Century. St Juliana of Mont Cornillon, Liège, had a deep faith in the Blessed Sacrament and felt very strongly that there should be a feast in its honour. She made her thoughts clear to the Bishop of Liège, Robert de Thorete, and he convened a Synod to discuss the matter. In 1246, he instituted the Feast of the Blessed Sacrament in his Diocese. Pope Urban IV, who had formerly been Archdeacon at Liège, formally instituted this as a universal Feast Day for the Church in 1264 and commissioned St Thomas Aquinas to prepare the text of the Office and Mass.

In our parish this year, those who come to receive Holy Communion, will be given the opportunity once again to receive the Precious Blood from the chalice. We receive the whole Christ, body, blood, soul and divinity, under the form of bread alone or under the form of wine alone. The fullness of the grace of His Presence is available to us under one kind or another. However, 'the meaning of Communion is signified as clearly as possible when it is given under both kinds' and Catholics are 'encouraged to desire Communion under both kinds in which the meaning of the Eucharistic banquet is more fully signified' (*General Instruction on the Roman Missal, no. 281*). It was Jesus who said, 'Take this, all of you, and drink from it'. Receiving Communion under both kinds was the normal practice in the early Church. St Cyril of Jerusalem in the 4th century summed up the practice of the early Church for coming forward for Holy Communion: 'Make your left hand a throne for your right, since your right hand is about to welcome a king. Cup your palm and receive in it Christ's body, saying in response "Amen". ... After partaking of Christ's body, go to receive the chalice of his blood. ... Bow your head and say "Amen" to show your homage and reverence and sanctify yourself by partaking also of Christ's blood. The Catholic Bishops of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland wrote in their document "One Bread One Body," receiving from the chalice expresses powerfully the sacrificial nature of the Mass. By taking part in the Eucharist we are drawn deeper into the new and everlasting covenant which was sealed with the Blood of the Lamb. Our communion together in the Blood of Christ is our communion with the sacrificial self-giving of Our Lord. "As we take the cup of salvation, we say that we are ready to drink from the cup that he drank, and to give ourselves in sacrificial love as servants of salvation." Here is the prayer written by Thomas Aquinas that the priest prays after Communion on this feast:

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Requiem Masses will be held in St Thomas' for the late Angel Nichols is on Friday, 12 June at 12 noon; the late Daniel Rikh is on Monday, 15 June at 12 noon; and the late Christine Diane Fenn on Tuesday, 16 June at 12 noon

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 see posters and flyers for latest information.

HCPT FUNDRAISING QUIZ: Quiz Night on Saturday 20th June at 7pm in the Church Hall. Entry is £5 per person. Tables are a maximum of 8 people. Please bring your own food and drinks, Nibbles, tea and coffee are provided. To reserve a table please contact Annie on 07866 515797 or anniejudge@hotmail.com

Save the Date: Mass of the Translation of St Thomas in Canterbury Cathedral on Tuesday, 7th July. Time to be confirmed

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 Badminton nets will be available.

RAFFLE DONATIONS: We are seeking donations and gifts for the Open-air Mass raffle. Please leave these at the office or shop for attention Christine Robinson.

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/>

St Vincent de Paul says thank you. The May collection raised £840. Thank you very much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During May we gave out £140 in supermarket vouchers. We bought some children's clothes and a new microwave. A second-hand, good quality, bedside cabinet has made a difference for someone who is confined to bed. We have several requests for larger items which we are currently processing.

Hall Toilet Refurbishment Update

We are very pleased to be able to tell you that the long-awaited refurbishment of our hall toilets will start on **15th June 2026**. The work is being carried out as one big project as dictated by the time and money available. Our contractor is Holbrook Construction Services who won the contract when we carried out a tendering process last year. They have done a lot of work for us and are very familiar with the way our parish runs and will be respectful of the church services and parish community needs. The project also has had the approval of the Archdiocese Property Committee. Next week we will give a bit more detail about managing the inconvenience we will have to bear for a short while.

Save the date: Saturday 11th July International Mass and bring and share lunch. To get involved contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com

Experience a powerful live retellings of the **Life of Christ** at Wintershall Estate, Bramley, Surrey on 16 - 20th June!

Secure your tickets now: <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/event/life-of-christ/>

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. 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 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

Contemporary Theology Group: Wednesday, June 17th 5 P.M. at St Peter's Methodist church. John Daniels will speak on: Money: where it comes from, where it's going, and why it's all about faith. Entrance £5 (free for students).

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