

NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

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St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Charlton

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Michael Etuka

email: michaelletuka@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Administrator:

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')

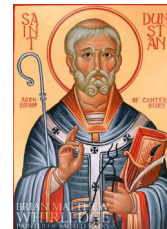
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 12th Jul: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 1-23

8.00am: Sue Smith - RIP and consolation of her family

9.30am: Tsige Buta - RIP (7th Anniv.)
with Children's liturgy during Mass
Baptism of Peniel Agwuazim during Mass

11.00am: Eliodoro Evangelio - RIP

6.00pm: Dan Rikh - RIP

Monday 13th Jul: St Mildred

Mt 10: 34 - 11:1

12 noon: Francis Brown - RIP

Tuesday 14th Jul: St Camillus de Lellis

Mt 11: 20-24

12 noon: John Delaney - RIP

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 15th July: St Bonaventura

Mt 11: 25-27

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Tom Carr - RIP (1st Anniv.)

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7- 8pm Prayer and Pub

Thursday 16th Jul: Our Lady of Mt Carmel

Mt 11: 28-30

7.30am: Patricia Metcalfe - RIP

12 noon: Rachel Hollands - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 17th Jul: Feria

Mt 12: 1-8

10 - 11.30: Baby and Toddlers Group in the Hall

12 noon: smooth recovery for Helena Pereira

Adoration after Mass

7.00pm: Young people's group in the Hall

Saturday 18th Jul: Feria

Mt 12: 14-21

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Emotional health, faith & successful studies of Maria Luisa Prioli

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Ray and Betty Scott - RIP

Sunday 19th Jul: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 24-43

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Pauline Ventress - RIP

with Children's liturgy during Mass

Baptism of Bethany and Thomas Hillier during Mass

11.00am: Annie Bennett - RIP

12.30pm: Baptism of Claire Ngwu and Akunna Ugwu

6.00pm: Holy Souls

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 12th Jul: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 1-23

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 19th Jul: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 24-43

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, 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, 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, Rhona Rollings, Baby Raphael and Rosanna Lam

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, Pauline Ventress, Anne Queenan, Fr George Marsden, Canon Alan McLean, Marjery Craig and Una Harris

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

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

Christopher Carr

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **11/12 July 2026:** Stella Maris (Sea Sunday)

Next Weekend: **18/19 July 2026:** No second collection

During the Month of July we have a special ongoing collection for **Peter's Pence** - donations may be left in the marked collection box in the Narthex or donated on the Pay Machines

From Fr Anthony

In the Gospel this weekend Jesus asks us a question; as he asked it of those of his own day: are you truly hearing and accepting my word, that it might grow in you and produce much fruit? Listening and hearing must be combined with understanding that the word may be awakened and spring to life take root and begin to grow.

In the parable of the sower and the seed planted, the sower is Christ himself, and the 'seed' is the word about the coming reign of God in the person and work of Jesus. In the parable the emphasis is on the sowing of the seed. In the interpretation of the parable the focus is on the way it is received.

How am I receiving the word of life, Jesus? Am I like the seed sown on the hard-beaten path? What in my life is hardened against Christ's words because I follow the culture, the "beaten path"? What teaching of Jesus seems unrealistic to me?

Or am I enthusiastic about what I hear but then as soon as difficulties and opposition rear their head I give up. I don't allow the word to take root. This is like the seed on rocky soil.

What are the attitudes or thinking that overwhelm me? This is like the seed that is sown among thorns. The word is choked out by the 'worries of life.' Do worldly preoccupations distract me from what is priority of spiritual things? Inordinate desires for worldly things such as possessions, popularity, pleasure and power can choke out the word and prevent it from bearing fruit.

What we are all striving for is to be a person who is receptive to the word of the kingdom.

Lord, give me the grace neither to be hard, shallow, or preoccupied. May your message get through to me and can be seen in a faith filled and holy life. May I be open to your life-giving word. May it penetrate my heart that I may be transformed and united to you wholeheartedly.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY 2026

For respect for human life.

Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

Altar Servers training

There will be an Altar Servers training session on Friday 31st July at 3:30pm. This is for all our altar servers and also for those who would like to become Altar Servers.

The Requiem Mass will be held in St Thomas' for the late Marjery Craig on Wednesday, 22 July 2026 at 12 noon

Canterbury Welcomes Refugees: Volunteers Wanted

We are a small charity helping families fleeing war rebuild their lives. We recently welcomed a Palestinian family into a safe Canterbury home. Now, we need volunteers for small, meaningful tasks like helping with job applications, managing everyday admin, or mentoring a young person for college. Whether you can offer a little spare time or something more regular, you will make a truly positive difference. Interested? Email us at cwrvolunteers@outlook.com

Diaconal Day

On the weekend of 11/12 July we are celebrating the third Archdiocesan Diaconal Day, during which we pray for the Permanent Deacons serving in our Archdiocese, as well as for the new vocations to this ministry. If you are a man between 21 years to 58 years, prayerful, with the desire to love and serve God and His people, you are involved in services within your parish and community, you have tried many things and still feel drawn to a closer relationship with Christ and His Church you might possibly be called to be a Permanent Deacon? If you require further information about the Permanent Diaconate, please speak to your Parish Priest, (Parish Deacon, if there is one), or contact the Diaconate Formation Director via e-mail: ianblack@rcaos.org.uk.



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 1st August** 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)

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea)

Our Parish Representative, Christine Robinson, will be speaking at all Masses this weekend, 11/12 July, about the important work done by Stella Maris volunteers.

There will be retiring collection for Stella Maris this weekend



Banneux ND GB Pilgrimages 2026: Banneux ND GB Pilgrimages invite you to join our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium, a major Catholic Marian pilgrimage site. It marks the spot where the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared eight times between January 15 and March 2, 1933, to an 11-year-old girl, Mariette Beco, calling herself the "Virgin of the Poor". During the visions, Mary indicated a stream, stating, "This spring is reserved for all nations to relieve the sick". The shrine was officially approved by the Roman Catholic Church in 1949 and was famously visited by Pope John Paul II in 1985. We will be travelling by luxury coach on the 12 August and returning on the 18 August. A full program of daily Holy Mass, Rosary, Talks, Divine Mercy devotions is available and a day trip to Beauraing, another Marian apparition site is included in the price. Hotel and full board included. Pls call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

800th ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF ST FRANCIS

In the 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 with Plenary Indulgence, under the usual conditions, see <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 on 22nd August 2026. More information, booking forms and reservations contact HELEN NATTRASS on email helennattrass@btinternet.com or phone 07803 612556

SAVE THE DATE AND OFFER YOUR LOVING SERVICE: On 5th December, the CTC (Christians Together Canterbury) Shine Your Light event takes place in Rose Square. Last year we had representatives from 10 churches playing contemporary worship, sharing the good news, giving out free bibles, helping with refreshments, kids face painting and sharing the good news and praying for passers by. We are looking to build on this and would love your involvement using your special gifts. We have many wonderful churches in the City, but there is a call to reach those who don't come to our churches, will you be involved? An initial early call to think ahead and if interested in involvement contact Sophie at sophm@hotmail.com