

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: 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:

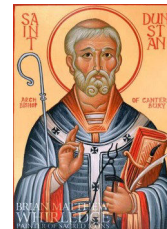
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

ST 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): 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

Monday 20th Jul: St Apollinaris

Mt 12: 38-42

12 noon: Colin Corcoran - RIP

Tuesday 21st Jul: St Lawrence of Brindisi

Mt 12: 46-50

12 noon: Welfare of Fr Mark White

4.30pm: *Reception of the late Marjery Craig's body into church*

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

Wednesday 22nd July: St Mary Magdalene *Jn 20: 1-2, 11-18*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Requiem Mass of the late Marjery Craig

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

7- 8pm *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 23rd Jul: St Bridget of Sweden

Jn 15: 1-8

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: Linda' intentions

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 24th Jul: St Charbel Makhlof

Mt 13: 18-23

12 noon: Memorial Mass for Anne Thirkall

Adoration after Mass

7.00pm: *Young adult's group*

Saturday 25th Jul: St James the Apostle

Mt 20: 20-28

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Annie Queenan - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): People of the Parish

Sunday 26th Jul: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 44-52

8.00am: Fr Kevin Melody (O'Carm) - intentions

9.30am: Holy Souls

with Children's liturgy during Mass

11.00am: Filipino Community

12.30pm: *Baptism of Holly and Emmie Keaveney*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

4.00 - 5.45pm: Junior Youth Club in the Hall

6.00pm: Sean McEvoy - RIP

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 26th Jul: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 13: 44-52

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

Next Weekend: **25/26 July 2026:** **St Vincent de Paul**

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 Michael ...

The parable of the Darnel shows the great care the farmer has for his product and in the same way the great care God has for his people. He tends the weak limbed. He does not hurry along the one who can barely walk but treats him with care. Isaiah 42:3 "A bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench. He will faithfully bring forth justice."

Darnel or *Lolium temulentum* (its Latin name) was a problematic weed in ancient agriculture. How to deal with it? It looked very much like wheat in its infancy, and its roots intertwined with the real wheat plant as it grew. It becomes more identifiable at harvest. Wheat stands more upright while the Darnel dangles.

Looks the same but there is a difference. There must be a difference in Christians, in Catholics. I was speaking to a person of another Christian denomination the other day and he was saying, "we Christians are all the same." "A few minor theological differences, but really we are all the same." This tends towards indifferentism. In other words, anyone can worship wherever they want. We are all the same. Well, we are not. One person who does good things is not necessarily the same as another who does similar good things.

The difference I think lies in Grace. We rely on God's grace. Why don't we, for example, receive Holy Communion in any other Christian church? The Catholic Church has the real presence. The real body and blood of Christ. Not a representation or symbol. Not a "now it's the body later it's plain bread again." We receive in Holy Communion the real Jesus Christ, God. Our faith is Christ's gift to us. Christ gives us grace (CCC153).

There must be a difference in us, not necessarily one that is always seen. Interior difference is the most important. This is what we have as Catholics. I'm not saying other Christians or even other faiths, do not have grace. We have all Christ's sacraments. These give us grace (CCC1127). Our lives must abound with interior grace. This must not bring pride, but humility. We deserve nothing and are nothing without God's grace. The same but very different.

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.

AI SCAM: The Diocese has warned us of a **new type of scam** targeting individuals within our parish communities through **WhatsApp**. Cyber criminals are increasingly using artificial intelligence (AI) to create convincing videos, voice messages and written communications impersonating members of the clergy, aiming to deceive unsuspecting people into believing they are communicating with a clergyman or other Parish representative before requesting money or donations. **IF YOU ARE UNSURE, PHONE THE PARISH OR SPEAK TO OUR PRIESTS**

The Requiem Mass for the late Marjery Craig on Wednesday, 22 July at 12 noon

ANNE QUEENAN's Funeral can be viewed at <https://watch.obitus.com/login/n3dvs2>
Username gumu8333 ; Password 463337. A memorial Mass at St Thomas' will take place in the near future - details to follow.

Stay & Play: Summer Break

A huge thank you to all the parents, grandparents and carers who have joined our Toddlers & Babies group these past few months. It's been such a joy having you with us! We'll be taking a break for the summer and will resume on *Friday 4th September*. See you all in September! Wishing you a lovely summer!

SCRIPTURE GROUP : The final Scripture Group meeting before the summer break will be on July 23rd. We shall resume on September 10th.

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



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)

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.

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our parish raised £813.28. Your generous gifts ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk

St Vincent De Paul says thank you The June collection raised £748.95. Thank you very much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During June we gave out £420 in supermarket vouchers, we bought a bed and a set of bookshelves which, after hanging a curtain, is used to tidy away medical supplies. We bought a family a fridge freezer and another a washing machine.

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB: Sunday 26th July 4.00- 5.45pm in the Hall

Banneux ND GB Pilgrimages 2026: Banneux ND GB Pilgrimages invite you to join our pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Banneux, Belgium, from 12- 18 August.. Pls call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

A Day With Mary is hosting an International Symposium from 29 July to 31 July 2026 at St Mary's Catholic Church, West Croydon Further information is available at www.adaywithmary.org/symposium

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

Enjoying God's Creation: A summer retreat day at Minster Abbey on August 29th led by Eddie Gilmore. Contact: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

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. 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