

NEWSLETTER

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

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

59 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HJ

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St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Priest:

Canon Anthony Charlton

email: anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest:

Fr Michael Etuka

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Parish Administrator:

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')

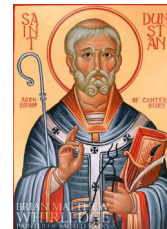
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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 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
After Mass Young adults to meet to visit the Cathedral

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

Monday 27th Jul: Feria

Mt 13: 31-35

12 noon: Dan Rikh - RIP

Tuesday 28th Jul: Feria

Mt 13:36-43

12 noon: Anne Curtin - RIP

Wednesday 29th Jul: St Mary, Martha & Lazarus Lk 10: 38-42

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation

12 noon: Marcus Pinto - RIP

Refreshments in the Hall after Mass

Thursday 30th Jul: St Peter Chrysologus

Mt 13: 47-53

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: William Edwards - RIP

Friday 31st Jul: St Ignatius of Loyola

Mt 13: 54-58

12 noon: Thelma de Costa's intentions

Adoration after Mass

3.30pm: Altar Servers Practice for current and new servers

7.00pm: Young adult's group

Saturday 1st August: St Alphonsus Liguori

Mt 14: 1-12

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Eugene Deque - RIP (1st Anniversary)

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Angela Mallion - RIP (Anniversary)

Sunday 2nd Aug: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 14: 13-21

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Fr Mark White - welfare

with Children's liturgy during Mass

11.00am: The Father of All Mankind - thanksgiving

12.30pm: Baptism of Miley Rooney

6.00pm: Judith Roser - RIP

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 2nd Aug: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 14: 13-21

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 Vereche, 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, Una Harris and Peter Bruff

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 August 2026:

Eugene Deque, Aurora Dawson and Jeanette Lee

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **25/26 July 2026: St Vincent de Paul**

Next Weekend: **01/02 August 2026: No second collection**

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST 2026

For evangelization in the city.

Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

From Fr Anthony ...

After serving as an Assistant Priest in two parishes, I was appointed to work in catechetics for the Diocese and later became a University Chaplain. It was during this period that I was given the opportunity to take a sabbatical. I travelled to Boston in the United States to make the Thirty-Day Spiritual Exercises at a Jesuit retreat centre. Looking back, I can honestly say that those thirty days were a defining moment in my priesthood and in my life. They transformed the way I prayed. I came to a much deeper awareness of God's loving presence in every aspect of my life and I returned to the United Kingdom with a renewed desire to share this gift with others.

Next week the Church celebrates the feast of **St Ignatius of Loyola**, whose life and spirituality have inspired countless Christians over the centuries.

Born in 1491 into a family of minor nobility in northern Spain, Ignatius was one of thirteen children. As a young man he was captivated by the ideals of knighthood, honour and military glory, dreaming of winning fame through great deeds. Everything changed in 1521 when he was seriously wounded during the Battle of Pamplona. During his long recovery, he had little to read apart from the life of Christ and the lives of the saints. As he read, he noticed something remarkable; thoughts of worldly success left him restless and dissatisfied, while imagining himself following Christ and the saints filled him with a lasting joy and peace. Gradually, he recognised that these movements of the heart were God's way of leading him.

Over the following years, Ignatius developed a profound understanding of prayer and the discernment of spirits. He gathered his insights into what became *The Spiritual Exercises*, one of the most influential works on the Christian spiritual life. More than simply a book, the Exercises are a practical guide to encountering Christ, discerning God's will, and growing in freedom to love and serve Him. Together with a small group of companions, Ignatius founded the Society of Jesus—the Jesuits. He envisioned them as “contemplatives in action” - men whose deep prayer would lead naturally to generous service in the world. This vision has shaped not only the Jesuits but also generations of Christians who have embraced Ignatian spirituality.

At the heart of Ignatian spirituality is the conviction that God can be found in all things. Prayer is not confined to church or moments of silence. God is present in our relationships, our work, our joys and disappointments, our successes and failures. Everything can become a place of encounter with the Lord if we learn to notice His presence and respond to His grace.

That was the gift I received during my retreat in Boston. St Ignatius taught me that God is always at work in our lives, inviting us to know Him more deeply, love Him more generously and follow Him more faithfully. It is a gift I continue to treasure and one I hope I share with others.

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, 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)

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!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This Sunday, 26th July at 9.30am Mass will be the last Children's liturgy until 5th September

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

FUNDRAISING FOR DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE. From Bishop Paul. One of the trustees of our Lourdes pilgrimage has been doing a sponsored walk to raise money to help disabled pilgrims to go to Lourdes. He will be in parts of Kent and SE London this week. If you would be willing to contribute, he has a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/calourdes125sw

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.

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.

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

CELEBRATE Summer Family faith resources: Created to equip and encourage families in sharing faith with their children.

[Revised Summer family activity pack](#) - families can choose from faith filled activities, support for family prayer, books for different ages and film suggestions.

[Summer Psalm Walk](#) - designed to help families explore Psalm 139 whilst they walk in their local park or on holiday.

St Thomas of Canterbury Church Shop need part time and reserve Volunteers. Please contact Pat Moore, Tel. 07753958729.

AI SCAM: The Diocese has warned us of a **new type of scam** targeting individuals within our parish communities through **WhatsApp**. using artificial intelligence (AI) to create convincing videos, voice messages and texts/emails impersonating members of the clergy requesting money or donations. **IF YOU ARE UNSURE ABOUT A REQUEST, PHONE THE PARISH OR SPEAK TO OUR PRIESTS**

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. There is a call to reach those who don't come to our churches - if you are interested, please contact Sophie at sophm@hotmail.com