

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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Web Site: <https://stthomasofcanterbury.com>

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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')

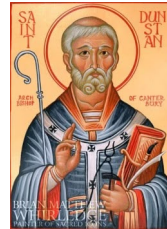
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

St Thomas' Shop (01227 462896): Open Sundays from after 9.30 Mass until 12 noon

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: To be Advised

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): Fr Geroge Marsden - RIP

Sunday 9th Aug: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 14: 22-33

8.00am: Vinod Antony and Family - thanksgiving

9.30am: Raymond and Florinda Allcorn - RIP

11.00am: Sally Pilkington - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Akunna Ugwu*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 10th Aug: St Lawrence

Jn 12: 24-26

12 noon: Pascual Lawrence Pereira and family - good health

Tuesday 11th Aug: St Clare

Mt 18: 1-5; 12-14

12 noon: Elizabeth Lee's intentions

2.30pm: Funeral of Terence Macklin at Canterbury Cemetery

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

Wednesday 12th Aug: St Jane Frances de Chantal Mt 18: 15-20

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Stewart Clarke - RIP

Thursday 13th Aug: Sts Pontian and Hippolytus Mt 18: 21 - 19: 1

7.30am: Susan Browne - RIP

12 noon: Margaret Dwyer - RIP

Friday 14th Aug: St Maximilian Kolbe

Mt 19: 3-12

12 noon: Richard Clark - RIP

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 15th Aug: Feria

Mt 19: 12-15

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Viltus Yatulis - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Alexander's intentions

Sunday 16th Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lk 1: 39-56

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Holy Souls

11.00am: Enid Hepner - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Raphael Goodhew*

6.00pm: Fr Mark White - welfare

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 9th Aug: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) Mt 14: 22-33

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 16th Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lk 1: 39-56

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, 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

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, Una Harris, Peter Bruff, Paula Smith and Heather Dandison

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: **08/09 August 2026:** No second collection

Next Weekend: **16/17 August 2026:** No second collection



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 5th September** 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)

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 ...

When I began my studies for the priesthood in September 1969 at the age of 18, one house rule was the “Magnum Silencium.” After night prayer, we couldn’t speak and stayed in our rooms until morning prayer the next day. This “great silence” was meant to offer a period of profound quiet and reflection. It helped us focus on God, rest our minds and aid transition from daily work to deep prayer.

This rule reminded me of the words from this weekend’s first reading. Elijah had gone to the mountain of God - Horeb - to encounter Him. Standing at the cave’s entrance, the LORD passed by, a great wind tore mountains and broke rocks before Him, yet the LORD wasn’t in the wind. An earthquake followed, but the LORD wasn’t in it. A fire came, but the LORD wasn’t in that either. Finally, a low whisper. Elijah wrapped his face in his cloak and went out to the cave’s entrance. God wasn’t in any of the loud destructive forces. Instead, God revealed Himself in what’s traditionally translated as “**a still small voice**” or “**a gentle whisper**.” In Hebrew, it’s “*qol demamah daqqah*”—a voice of thin silence. Ultimately, God called Elijah to recognise Him not only in the mighty signs of wind, earthquake and fire, but in the mystical theophany of the “still small voice.”

I think it’s helpful to see prayer as sitting still before the Divine Presence. One of my favourite authors, Fr Michael Casey OCSO, says that excessive speaking (*multiloquium*), inner noise, in prayer prevents the experience of compunction, from which contemplation arises. Creating silence in our lives requires discipline, time and attention. But it’s golden. To truly encounter God, we must carve out genuine silence in our schedules.

Lord, please send your Holy Spirit to still my heart and mind so I can be silent before you. Guide me like Elijah, teaching me to wait for your quiet, small voice. Replace my restlessness with inner calm and help me, like Mary, to ponder these things deeply in my heart. Amen.

ST THOMAS’ PARISH MATTERS

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

An e-action link is now available, by which people can write to their MPs, asking them to vote against the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill, which will have its second reading on 11 September. The link is at: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>. You may also wish to make a statement within your own Diocese, to encourage the clergy and people to contact their MPs between now and Sept.

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 helenatnass@btinternet.com or phone 07803 612556

THE DIVINE MERCY MESSAGE AND DEVOTION - a talk by Fr Donald Calloway (Vocation Director and Vicar Provincial of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception, Mother of Mercy Province) on Tuesday, 18th August 2026 at 7pm at St Paul’s Catholic Church, 103 Maison Dieu Road, Dover, CT161RU

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 31 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on WhatsApp 07957594646 for more information.

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

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 dates: September 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th.

The Growing in Faith Together for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course. This programme is about the Catholic faith by Fr Stephen Wang, Bishop-Elect of Arundel and Brighton. Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for married couples to enrich their friendship and love; and engaged couples who want to continue exploring their faith together. The next course begins on Tuesday September 8th at 8.30pm. For more information and booking, please contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

A Talk on Edith Stein/St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross by Jeremy Rowe
Friday, August 14th. 6pm. St. Thomas’s Church Hall.

Edith was born into a large German Jewish family. At 15 she left school, declaring herself an atheist. A decade later she was a Doctor of Philosophy. 5 years later she had become a Catholic. In 1933 she became a Nun, and in 1942 she was murdered in Auschwitz. She was Canonised by Pope John Paul II in 1998. Her Feast Day is August 9th, the date of her death.

If these bare facts interest you, please come and fill out her life with us.

Requesting Mass for a Particular Intention

It is a long-established and laudable Catholic custom to ask that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Every Mass is offered for the glory of God and the salvation of the world; nevertheless, the priest may also offer the Mass for a specific intention. In this parish, Mass intentions are usually published in the newsletter. Anyone may request that Mass be offered for a particular intention. Masses are commonly offered for the welfare of an individual or family, in thanksgiving, for a special need, or for the repose of the soul of someone who has died. When requesting a Mass, it is customary to make an offering as a sign of one’s particular participation in the offering of the Mass and in support of the Church’s ministry. This offering is not a payment for the Mass but a gift directly to the priest, and no one is obliged to make one. The suggested offering is £10; some give less, some give more, and some are unable to give anything. Please never feel that a Mass cannot be offered for your intention because of financial difficulty. The grace of the Mass is never bought or sold. Its true price has already been paid for us in the saving death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Mass intention envelopes and request forms are available in the Narthex or from the Parish Office.