

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')

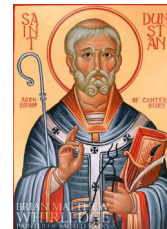
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: Fr James Yakubu (MSP)

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): Alexander's intentions

Sunday 16th Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Lk 1: 39-56

8.00am: Ann Silcock - RIP

9.30am: Holy Souls

Baptism of Akunna Ugwu during Mass

11.00am: Enid Hepner - RIP

12.30pm: *Ceremonies supplied (baptism) for Raphael Goodhew*

6.00pm: Fr Mark White - welfare

Monday 17th Aug: Feria

Mt 19: 16-22

12 noon: Terry Misson - RIP

Tuesday 18th Aug: Feria

Mt 19: 23-30

12 noon: Memorial Mass for Annie Queenan

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

Wednesday 19th Aug: St John Eudes

Mt 20: 1-16

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: For the intentions of the people of Kramatorsk

Thursday 20th Aug: St Bernard

Mt 22: 1-14

7.30am: Isaac - health and wellbeing

12 noon: Patricia Metcalfe - RIP

Friday 21st Aug: Pope St Pius X

Mt 22: 34-40

12 noon: Sr Corinne - welfare

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 22nd Aug: Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mt 23: 1-12

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Sean Clancy's intentions

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Anne Hill - RIP

Sunday 23rd Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 16: 13-20

8.00am: Filipino Community

9.30am: Mary O'Donnell - RIP

11.00am: Annie Bennett - RIP

6.00pm: People of the Parish

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.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 16th Aug: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Lk 1: 39-56

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 23rd Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 16: 13-20

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 and Jenny Jones
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': 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, Heather Dandison, Ann Pereira and Sr Rose Hughes

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

Next Weekend: **22/23 August 2026:** St Vincent de Paul Society



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)

From Fr Anthony ...

In the same month I was born Pope Pius XII infallibly proclaimed the truth of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He wrote in his Apostolic Constitution, "the Immaculate Mother of God, Mary ever Virgin, when the course of her early life was ended, was taken up body and soul into the glory of heaven." Even though it was only infallibly proclaimed seventy six years ago it has been the teaching of the Church from earliest times. The term "assumption" is a biblical metaphor expressing the final destiny of the faithful. Mary is the perfect reflection of Christ, the template of all Christians. Her assumption is a sign of hope for the world, a guarantee that God will realise his saving plan for humankind. As Mary is now, we are to be. As we celebrate this feast we remember our ultimate destiny to be with God. Father Fio Mascarenhas, in his book on Mary, writes that Mary's Assumption is not a personal reward. "It is a pledge of the fulfilment of the promises of God for all of humanity - for she is the model of the people of God, and where she is now, all the elect must hope to be one day!"

The Assumption of Mary has been a subject of Christian art for centuries and its feast day was made a public holiday in England by King Alfred the Great in the 9th century. St John of Damascus describes the origin of this belief in these words: "St Juvenal, Bishop of Jerusalem, at the Council of Chalcedon [AD 451], made known to the Emperor Marcian and Pulcheria, who wished to possess the body of the Mother of God, that Mary died in the presence of all the apostles, but that her tomb, when opened, upon the request of St Thomas [who arrived late], was found "empty"; wherefrom the apostles concluded that the body was taken up to heaven."

Eastern Orthodox churches celebrate the feast of the Dormition of the Mother of God on August 15, the same day that the Catholic Church celebrates Mary's Assumption. When I think of this feast I recall the beautiful Dormitian Church in Jerusalem run by the German Benedictines. In the centre, under a rotunda, is a simple bier on which rests a life-size statue of Mary, fallen asleep in death and waiting the assumption. The statue is made of cherry wood and ivory. In celebrating this feast this year can we pray for all those who are contemplating their own death. Some people can no longer face the pain and suffering of their illness. They want to hasten their end. Let us commend them to our loving Mother with the word we say in the Hail Mary - "pray for us now and at the hour of our death."

Here is something to ponder: If Mary's Assumption is a preview of what God intends for every human person — body and soul together in glory — how does that change the way you think about your own body, your suffering, and your death?

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

Hall Toilets Renovation Update from the Finance Committee

This is taking a bit longer than we thought it would due to unexpected sizing and fitting issues in the men's toilets. We are sorry for any inconvenience but we are working on keeping the progress going.

The good news is that the Sanctuary Window embrasure & wall has now been painted and the Canterbury Lane Window ledges have been filled and oiled.

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

The Growing in Faith Together for married and engaged couples is an ONLINE course,. Consisting of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom it is a wonderful opportunity for married couples to enrich their relationship; and engaged couples to explore their faith together. Next course: Tuesday September 8th at 8.30pm. Information and booking, contact Carole on mflkent@rcaos.org.uk

Back to school blessing Sunday 6th September There will be a blessing of children returning to school at the 9:30am mass ONLY. Whether your child is at a new school or nursery, or has just moved into a new class they are encouraged to either wear their school jumper or bring their book bag to be blessed. There will be cakes, plants and books on sale after the mass. Donations of cakes, plants and books welcome on the day.

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

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.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: A group from the parish are on a pilgrimage to Lourdes from Saturday, 22nd August; staying at Hosanna House, in the village of Bathes just outside Lourdes.

If you wish any petitions to be placed at the Grotto, please hand them to Father Anthony by Friday, 21st August 2026.

Please keep the pilgrims in your prayers.

UNIVERSITY OF KENT CHAPLAINCY: We welcome Fr James Yakubu MSP who has been appointed Chaplain to the University of Kent at Canterbury. He succeeds Fr Mark Wharton, who has been appointed Assistant Priest at St Saviour's, Lewisham. We wish Father Mark every blessing in his new role.

Do you want to join the Catholic Church, or are you an adult Catholic who would like to be confirmed? We are holding a '**Come & See**' meeting on **Tuesday 8th September at 7.00pm** in St Thomas's Church. This is an introduction to Our Journey in Faith, or RCIA, program which begins on Tuesday 22nd September. The first term is one of enquiry from which you can choose whether to continue. Application forms are available at the back of the Church or on our website.

A **memorial gathering for the late Annie Queenan** is to be held on Tuesday, 18th August. Meet and chat at Burgate Coffee House at 10am before proceeding to St Thomas' for Mass at 12 noon followed by a walk along Annie's favourite routes to the Miller's Arms - all welcome.

Edith Stein - A talk by Rev'd Dr Stacey Rand at Sts Cosmos & Damian Church, Tyler Hill Road, Blean, Canterbury CT2 9HT on Sunday 13th September 2026 at 2.30pm followed by refreshments. **FREE TO ATTEND. DONATIONS WELCOME.**

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

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

St Vincent De Paul says thank you The July collection raised £1011.25. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. During July we gave out £460 in supermarket vouchers, we paid for a bedroom, stairs and landing carpeting for a family. We bought a washing machine and a microwave.