

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 James Yakubu (MSP)**

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School: Head Teacher: **Mrs H Seager-Fleming** (01227 462539)

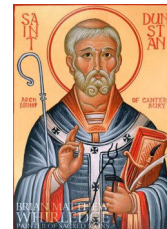
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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): 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

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: People of the Parish

Monday 24th Aug: St Bartholomew

Jn 1: 45-51

12 noon: Requiem Mass Peter Frederick James Bruff

Tuesday 25th Aug: Feria

Mt 23: 23-26

10am: Funeral of Baby Nathaniel Holp at Canterbury Cemetery

12 noon: Damien Hennelly - RIP

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 26th Aug: Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God

Mt 23: 27-32

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Requiem Mass of Heather Margaret Dandison

Thursday 27th Aug: St Monica

Mt 24: 42-51

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS TODAY

12 noon: Sr Aelred - RIP

Friday 28th Aug: St Augustine of Hippo

Mt 25: 1-13

12 noon: Ann Widdecombe - RIP

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 29th Aug: The Passion of St John the Baptist

Mk 6: 17-29

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Intentions of Rev Kathryn Sarah Gillett

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Marcus Pinto - RIP

Sunday 30th Aug: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 16: 21-27

8.00am: David Riley - RIP (*foundation Mass*)

9.30am: Mrs Assunta Riley & Mrs Eva Lee (*foundation Mass*)

11.00am: Anna Luong Thi Xiem, Augustino Vu Van Thuong, Beryl and Roy Anthony

12.30: *Baptism of Noah Archer Dack*

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Friday, 28th Aug:

10.30am Requiem Mass of Sr Margaret Hughes at St Anne's Convent

Sunday 30th Aug: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 16: 21-27

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 Vereeche, 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 and Ann Pereira
St Dunstan's: Marion Nash, Lorna Hazelwood, Irene Foster, Sr Marian McCouaig, Martina Morrissey and Lynette Dawn Reed, Sr Margaret Rose Hughes, Sr Bridgid Kennedy and Sr Bernadine Corcoran

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

Next Weekend: **29/30 August 2026:** No Second Collection this weekend



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 ...

On Friday this week we celebrate the Feast of St Augustine of Hippo. He was born in Thagaste in Africa of a Berber family in 354. Although brought up a Christian, he left the Church early and spent a great deal of time seriously seeking the truth, first in the Manichaean heresy (which he abandoned on seeing how nonsensical it was) and then in Neoplatonism. At length, through the prayers of his mother St Monica and the teaching of St Ambrose of Milan, he was converted back to Christianity and baptised in 387, shortly before his mother's death. One of his best known books was the *Confessions* which he wrote soon after he became bishop, in order, he tells us, "to stir up the human intellect and affections into God." Peter Kreeft in his book on St Augustine writes, "Confessions has been the single most read, reread, and quoted post-Biblical Christian book ever written. On its very first page is the single most quoted post-Biblical Christian sentence ever written, and that sentence is its central theme and the main thing Augustine is "confessing" - that "Thou hast made us for Thyself and [therefore] our hearts are restless till they rest in Thee." The *Confessions* is simply the Gospel; it is the Gospel of the restless heart."

When Pope Leo XIV was elected on May 8 2025 in his very first greeting he described himself as a "son of St. Augustine." He has belonged to the Order of St. Augustine since September 2, 1978, the day he first professed vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. St. Augustine has marked every step of his journey since. His influence on Pope Leo XIV's teaching and style is unmistakable. For example, his papal coat of arms bears the motto "*In Illo uno unum*" — "In the One Christ we are one" — taken from a sermon by the Bishop of Hippo on Psalm 127. Another Augustinian mark appears in his papal emblem, the heart burning with the arrow of the Word. On the day of his election the Pope quoted St. Augustine directly, "For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian."

Here is something for us to consider. St. Augustine wrote that our hearts are restless until they rest in God — yet most people today fill that restlessness with noise, distraction and comfort. In what area of your own life do you sense that holy restlessness and are you running toward God with it — or away?

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

FATHER CYRIL EZEANI'S LAST FULL WEEK. This is Father Cyril's last full week with us as he returns to his home diocese on 31st August. We thank him for care for us these last two months and assure him of our love and prayers.

A Requiem Mass will be held at St Thomas' for the late Peter Bruff on Monday, 24 August at 12 noon
the late Heather Dandison on Wednesday, 26 August at 12 noon

A funeral service at Canterbury Cemetary will be held on Tuesday, 25th August at 10.00am for Baby Nathaniel Holp

ST THOMAS PRIMARY WELCOMES A NEW HEAD TEACHER:

'The Governing Body of St Thomas' Catholic Primary School is delighted to welcome Mrs Hester Seager-Fleming as Head Teacher with effect from 1st September 2026. Mrs Seager-Fleming joins us from St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Aylesham. As an experienced Catholic headteacher, she brings a deep commitment to our school's ethos, placing Gospel values at the heart of daily life and learning. Sincere thanks are given to Mrs Carol Brooker, Interim Head Teacher, for her dedication, commitment, and leadership during the recruitment period.'

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,. 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 milkent@rcaos.org.uk

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.

From **September 1 to October 4**, the feast of **St Francis of Assisi** each year, the Catholic Church joins with other faith traditions to celebrate the **SEASON OF CREATION** by praying and acting together to protect our common home.

The **2026 theme**, "**Living Water**," is inspired by the vision in the Book of Ezekiel: "Wherever the river flows, every living creature that swarms will live... and everything will live where the river goes." (Ezekiel 47:9). The Season of Creation invites us to see water not simply as a resource, but as a gift from God and a source of life, connecting people, communities and the whole Earth community. The theme that Pope Leo XIV has chosen for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2026 is "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4). In his message, the Holy Father highlights the connection between armed conflict and environmental degradation. The title — a passage in which Isaiah prophesies the transformation of weapons into agricultural tools — is an explicit invitation to prioritise development and sustainability over violence and destruction.

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.

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.

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

A Requiem Mass will be held at St Anne's Convent for the late Sr Margaret Hughes on Friday, 28th August at 10.30am