

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)

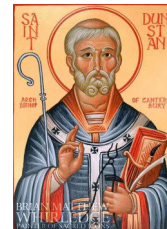
St Anselm's Catholic Secondary School: Head Teacher: **Mr J Rowarth** (01227 826200)

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): Joan and Harry Blows - thanksgiving

Sunday 6th Sept: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 18: 15-20

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: All priests

11.00am: Patricia Metcalfe - RIP

12.30: *Baptism of Ada Marie Louise Marr*

6.00pm: Anne Morris - health and wellbeing

Monday 7th Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 6-11

12 noon: Richard Prentis - RIP

Tuesday 8th September: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mt 1: 1-23

12 noon: Sean Clancy's intentions

7.00pm: *Come and See - RCIA Introductory meeting in Church*

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

Wednesday 9th Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 20-26

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation*

12 noon: Augustin Ogbanufe - RIP

8.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 10th Sept: Feria

Lk 6: 27-38

7.30am: Lynne - healing

12 noon: Ada Lake - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 11th Sept: St Ambrose Barlow

Lk 6: 39-42

12 noon: Adrian Caraccio - RIP

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 12th Sept: St Eanswythe of Folkestone Lk 6: 43-49

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Mieczyslaw and Maria Rucinsey (Micheslav)

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Uju and Chinedu - wedding anniversary

Sunday 13th Sept: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 18: 21-35

8.00am: People of the Parish

9.30am: Thanksgiving for graces received
with Children's Liturgy

11.00am: Theresa Hayes - welfare

12.30: *Baptism of Edward Brolly and Ternan Garlan;*

6.00pm: Siobhan Coen - RIP

2nd Col.: Catholic
Education Services

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

For the care of water.

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 6th Sept: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 18: 15-20

10.00am: Personal Intentions of Pauline Doney

Sunday 13th Sept: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 18: 21-35

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, Jenny Jones and Ann Hill

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, Ann Pereira, Mark Witz and Fr Tom Scannell

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 with 1st anniversaries in September 2026:

Jeanette Lee

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **05/06 September 2026:** No Second Collection this weekend

Next Weekend: **12/13 September 2026:** Catholic Education Services



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 3rd October** 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 ...

This weekend, we'll be reading a passage from St Matthew's Gospel, which the Jerusalem Bible translation entitles 'Settling Differences'. Jesus shows us a clear and organised way to sort out disagreements, rather than just going head-on. This approach is all about showing respect, being patient and loving. The first thing to do is talk to the person directly. Jesus suggests having a private chat about any wrongdoings, appreciating each person's worth. By addressing issues privately, Christians show humility and care, which helps avoid damaging reputations and encourages reconciliation. This is different from how people usually act, which often involves gossiping or avoiding problems. Jesus really likes direct, private and loving conversations. Next, you might want to involve two or three others. Jewish law needed two or three witnesses for justice and to stop false accusations. Synagogues also disciplined members to stay faithful. Jesus uses this idea but focuses more on mercy, reconciliation and salvation than on punishment. Finally, the community comes into play. If private talks don't work, the matter goes to the Church, which is the community with the power to help. Ignoring the Church means the person is treated as outside the faith.

Earlier this week, I was thinking about this passage and remembered Leo XIV's powerful words in his first encyclical. He really emphasised how important dialogue is in building a civilisation of love. He explained that dialogue is the main way people and nations can live together, offering a better option than open conflict. He described dialogue as something that happens all the time in human life, not just between countries, but with an attitude of wanting to build bonds of fraternity based on listening, openness, making time for each other and even spending time together. He ended by saying that real, genuine encounters with others, especially those who are different, strangers and migrants, make war much harder to imagine.

Last week, we got a letter from the Archdiocese that let us know the Synodal Process is now in its third phase: making it happen *for a Synodal Church*. This phase will run until December 2026. Each Diocese is invited to share how our understanding of Synodality has changed and how we can bring synodal practices into our parish life. We are encouraged to look at what we already do in a parish that supports the Church's mission and make it even better.

Synodality means getting together at all levels of the Church to listen to each other, talk and make decisions together. This old way of doing things started with the Council of Jerusalem and the 'constant ecclesial practice of meeting in synods'. These meetings help us talk, make decisions and work together within the Church.

Let us recite this prayer daily for our parish.

We gather together in Your name, Holy Spirit, and ask You to guide us. Teach us the path we must follow and how to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us foster disorder. Do not allow ignorance to lead us astray or partiality to influence our actions. Let us find unity in You so that we may journey together towards eternal life, remaining steadfast on the path of truth and righteousness. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

MASS FIRE MARSHALS: The Diocesan Property Team have notified us that every parish should have its own trained fire marshals (to comply with UK Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005), preferably at every Mass on the weekend. Fire safety involves checking for dangers, ensuring all equipment is free of obstructions and getting everyone out safely. This includes checking church doors, corridors, and escape routes are clear of obstacles and ensuring fire extinguishers and fire blankets are not obstructed.

Roy Collier (Diocesan Property team) will hold a training morning on Saturday 12th September from 10-12 in the Hall, for any parishioner who is willing to help with this. Please come along and help keep our worshipping community safe.

Scripture Group is starting again on Thursday, 10 September after midday Mass in the Upper room. All are welcome. Tea/coffee and biscuits provided - byo lunch.

FIRST RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION APPLICATIONS FOR 2027.

Forms for children (Year 3 & above) seeking to prepare for First Holy Communion in 2027 are available in the Narthex, on the website and from the office. FORMS and BAPTISMAL CERTIFICATES must be submitted to the Parish office no later than 8 November 2026. First Communion Day in 2027 is Sunday, 23rd May at 9.30am and 11.00am Masses.

Dear parents, grandparents and carers, our parish **BABY AND TODDLER GROUP** returns after summer break. Join us on Fridays from 10 to 11:45 for a cuppa, a chat, and playtime - a friendly space to meet other local families, share experiences and have fun together. All are warmly welcome.

ONLINE AND IN-PERSON PROGRAMMES - MARRIED & ENGAGED COUPLES.

Please see the poster in the Narthex for details of upcoming online and in-person courses for married and engaged couples.

Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

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

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.

Francis 800 - day of talks and reflection on St Francis of Assisi

St Thomas's Church Hall, Canterbury on Saturday 3 October 2026: 10am to 3pm. Entry is free of charge. Full details, schedule & registration on <https://Francis800-Canterbury.eventbrite.co.uk> or phone 07803 612556 - Helen Natrass

ANNUAL SERVICE FOR THOSE HARMED BY ABUSE: 30 September 2026, at 6.30pm at St George's Cathedral. The service will be lead by Archbishop John Wilson. Please attend if you are able.

You are warmly invited to join an experiential programme called **Teach Me to Pray** facilitated by *Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission*. The programme will be **online** on Tuesdays, starting **6th October from 7pm to 8.15pm**. Following 4 online sessions there is an invitation to conclude the programme with an in-person Reflection Day in a diocesan Retreat Centre on 5th or 12th December. There is no commitment to attend all sessions - join us whenever you can. **For details/ to sign up** see <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tnpn4hqg> or email for further information spirituality@rcaos.org.uk

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 ENTRY. DONATIONS WELCOME.**

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 representatives from 10 churches played contemporary worship, shared the good news, gave out free bibles, helped with refreshments, kids face painting and prayed for passers by. We seek to build on this and would love your involvement using your special gifts. We have wonderful churches in the City, but there is a call to reach those who don't come to our churches, will you be involved? Please consider, and if interested, contact Sophie at sophm@hotmail.com