

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')

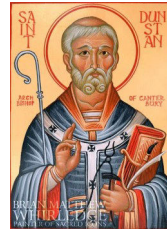
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: **Fr James Yakubu (MSP)** (07885 795962)

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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): Maria Ujuka Ogbanufe - RIP

Fr Casimir's Kazakh Appeal

Sunday 1st Nov: All Saints

Mt 5: 1-12

8.00am: Brian and Mary George - Golden Wedding Anniversary

9.30am: People of the Parish

with Children's Liturgy

Baptism of Lazarus Chan during Mass

11.00am: Deceased members of the Dunne and Roche Families

12.30pm: *Baptism of Leonardo Rodriques*

6.00pm: Sheila Elliot - RIP, and deceased members of the MgGilley Family

Monday 2nd Nov: All Souls

Mt 11: 25-30

12 noon: Deceased members of the Legion of Mary

7.30pm: Deceased relatives of the Dillon and Murphy Families

Tuesday 3rd Nov: St Winefride

Lk 14: 15-24

12 noon: Funeral Mass of Alan Everson

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 4th Nov: St Charles Borromeo

Lk 14: 25-33

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Christine Strain - RIP

Thursday 5th Nov: Feria

Lk 15: 1-10

7.30am: Marie & Jude Sutter - RIP and the welfare of their family

12 noon: John and Marjorie de Wolf - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 6th Nov: Feria

Lk 16: 1-8

12 noon: Maiyamma Kunnasseril - RIP

Adoration after Mass

7.00pm: *Young Adults meeting in the Hall*

Saturday 7th Nov: Dedication of St George's Cathedral

Lk 16: 9-15

9.00am: *Baptism Preparation Meeting*

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Sean Clancy's intentions

2.30pm: Convalidation of Quillen and Samuel

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Rosa and Colin

2nd Col.:

Archbishop's Appeal

Sunday 8th Nov: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Times (A) Mt 25: 1-13 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

8.00am: Douglas and Margaret Ward - RIP

9.30am: Eliodoro Evagelio, Rodolfo and Lolita Ignacio - RIP
with Children's Liturgy

11.00am: Francis Brown and John Delaney - RIP

3.00pm: Blessing of the Graves at Canterbury Cemetery

6.00pm: People of the Parish

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 1st Nov: All Saints

Mt 5: 1-12

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 8th Nov: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Times (A) Mt 25: 1-13

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, 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, Carol Cotton, Fermina Ortega, Alice Mathai, Chris Smith, Paula Smith, David Evans, Gerry Buckles, Kathy Starnes, Patti Earl, Alexander Oligo, Jenny Jones, Ann Hill, Honor Blake, Tony Grace, Brigitte Pachot-Hyde, Fr Mark White, Fr Peter Geldard and Jean Pegg

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': 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, Fr Tom Scannell, Gerald Reilly, Peter Darling and Alan Everson

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 November 2026:

There are no anniversaries in November 2026 - please remember all the dead of the parish.

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **31 October / 01 November 2026:** Fr Casimir's Kazakh Appeal

Next Weekend: **07/08 November 2026:** Archbishop's Appeal



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 7th November** 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 ...

I delight in the colours of the trees at this time of year. The many shades of green become subtle tones of yellow, orange, and brown. As we enter November, these are clear signs of decay and the start of death. Yet we might view autumn as a parable of grace. The dying leaf does not merely end—it blazes. It reaches its most striking beauty exactly at the point of letting go. Leaves keep falling as nature uses the remainder of autumn to prepare for winter—a fitting natural symbol of death, which occupies Catholic minds during November. Creation itself becomes a teacher. The falling leaves, the darkening days, the settling cold—all whisper “*memento mori*.” *Memento mori* means “remember your death” or “remember you must die,” and this call has a long history in Catholicism. Saints have long praised the value of reflecting on death, and the Church has traditionally set aside this month to encourage that practice. During November, we are reminded of the unavoidable reality of death—the deaths of those already gone, and our own inevitable end at some future time. This reminder is not meant to depress or worry us, but to impress the importance of a lifetime’s gift, the duty to use that time well, and the wondrous reward awaiting the faithful soul in eternity.

Today, the first day of November, All Saints Day, the focus is on the Church Triumphant. We celebrate all the saints who have died and are in Heaven, beholding the face of Our Lord, inspiring and interceding for us. Tomorrow, All Souls Day, and throughout November, the focus shifts to the Church Suffering. We pray for the Holy Souls enduring a time of purification before entering Heaven. This Autumn offers a fitting moment to renew commitment to the sacraments — especially Reconciliation and the Eucharist — and to pray each day for the Holy Souls, many of whom may await that exact prayer from someone like you.

Consider visiting a cemetery this November to pray for the departed; this quiet act of charity is *memento mori* expressed openly. Among those you have loved and lost, who comes to mind most when you think of praying for the Holy Souls — and what prevents you from offering that prayer this week?

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER 2026

For the proper use of wealth.

Let us pray for the proper use of wealth, that not succumbing to the temptation of selfishness, it may always be put at the service the common good and solidarity of those who have less.

FUNERAL OF ALAN EVERSON: The funeral of Alan Everson is on Tuesday, 3rd November at 12 noon

CONFIRMATION SESSIONS: 2026/2027 Confirmation Sessions start on Sunday, 15 November at 4.00pm in the Church Hall.

PARISH HOME VISITS

If anyone knows of a person/s who would like a pastoral visit, please give their details (with their consent) to the parish office.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: The parish **Annual General Meeting** will be on **Sunday 15th November at 12.15**. All welcome. John Renn, Chair, Fr. Anthony

QUIZ NIGHT: A fun family evening Saturday 7th November at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. Tickets: £5 Adult and £1 Child: email: socialstthomasrc@gmail.com. All funds raised are going to our parish.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES: The blessing of the graves at Canterbury Cemetery will take place on Sunday, 8th November at 3.00pm. Meet at the Cemetery Chapel.

YOUTH RETREAT – YOU'RE INVITED! Calling all young people aged 13–17! Join us for an exciting Youth Retreat (a fantastic day of faith, fun, friendship, prayer and inspiration as we grow together in our relationship with God led by the Southwark Catholic Youth Service Mission Team). **Date:** Saturday 7 November 2026. **Time:** 11:00am – 4:00pm. **Venue:** St John Fisher School, ME1 2FA. Whether you're looking to deepen your faith, make new friends or spend time with other young Catholics, we'd love to see you there. **BOOK YOUR PLACE:** <https://tinyurl.com/retreatnov26>. Spread the word, invite your friends and join us for a brilliant day!

HCPT BARN DANCE: Saturday, 14 November in the Church hall from 7pm to 10pm with live band “Rejigged Ceilidh Band”. Bring your own food and drink. Water, tea and coffee provided. Entrance £13 (U14 - £6). Tickets reserved in advance from Annie on 07866 515797 or email: anniejudge@hotmail.com

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School open mornings for prospective intake of September 2027 Thursday 12th Nov at 9.30am for approx. 1 hour. Please book your space via the school office on 01227 462539.

A DAY WITH MARY at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7 November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

NOVEMBER PRAYER LISTS: Prayer lists for writing the names of your deceased loved ones are available in the Narthex. The completed lists can be left in the box in the Narthex and during Masses in November they will be placed on the Sanctuary. Please do not leave cash with these lists.

SECOND COLLECTION 30 OCT/01 NOV: This weekend we welcome Lithuanian priest, Father Casimir, who, for fourteen years has been on mission in Kazakhstan in the diocese of Almaty, serving as parish priest of Jarkent and Saryozek. Fr Casimir is seeking financial aid to support his pastoral and missionary work including the refurbishments and adaptations of buildings and, as there is still no official Catholic translation of the Bible or liturgical books into the Kazakh language (Russian is the language used in liturgies) focusing on translations as a missionary priority, to enable the Kazakh people to celebrate Mass and pray in their own language. Kazakhstan's vast territory presents enormous pastoral challenges with immense distances to reach isolated mission stations to minister to people of high unemployment in many rural communities. Fr Casimir has to drive several hundred kilometres, but with a minimal stipend he is required to raise funds himself for his travel and basic needs. **Your generosity can make a real difference.**

Hall Toilets Refurbishment

The toilets have now been completely refurbished and are open for use again. Thank you all for your patience during the works. This has been a 16-month project, starting from when we first went out to tender. We needed to obtain permission from the Archdiocese for the work to go ahead, and we were also fortunate to secure £20,000 towards the costs from the National Lottery Community Fund. Many thanks to parishioner Mike Lilford for project-managing the work on our behalf and helping to bring the project to completion. I am sure you will all agree that the refurbished facilities are a great improvement!

Promise auction 24th October we raised £505 for our church. Thank you everyone who attended despite the weather and all those who donated “Promises”. **UCM Canterbury Cake, Plant and books sale** thank you to all who supported our fundraising event. **We raised £162.77**. Our next UCM meeting is on 1st November 10:30am in the church hall all are welcome to attend.

Could you help charity Mary's Meals as a Church Engagement Volunteer?

Contact us on Volunteer@marysmeals.org or call 0800 6981212 or fill in the form at the bottom of our volunteering webpage marysmeals.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION - 2027 APPLICIATIONS

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. Closing date for return of forms: Sunday, 8th November 2026

MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: The Friends of Westminster Cathedral invite you on Wednesday 4 November at 6.30pm to Westminster Cathedral Hall, for a talk by Fr Hugh MacKenzie on *Magnifica Humanitas* - exploring Pope Leo's reflections on the distinction between human and artificial intelligence, and what rapid development of AI means for our understanding of humanity, morality and faith. As AI increasingly shapes our studies, working lives and relationships, this is a fascinating and timely discussion. Drawing on Pope Leo's teaching, Fr Hugh will consider what makes human intelligence unique, why our God-given dignity cannot be reduced to data and algorithms, and the dangers of allowing technology to take the place of human judgement, authentic relationships or spiritual fulfilment. For further details and tickets visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/news-events/>