

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**

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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')

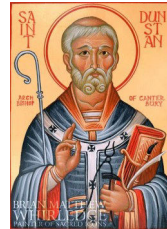
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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

University of Kent Chaplaincy: Chaplain: **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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

6.00pm (Vigil): George Allen - Thanksgiving

Sunday 4th Oct: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 21: 33-43

8.00am: Robert Smith - Thanksgiving

9.30am: John Bosco & Josephine Waskike - 20th Wed Anniv and thanksgiving
with *Children's Liturgy*

11.00am: Pietro Antonio Rencricca - RIP

12.30pm: *Baptism of Elliot Stears*

6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: **CAFOD**

Monday 5th Oct: St Faustina Kowalska

Lk 10: 25-37

12 noon: Angela Chak - RIP

Tuesday 6th Oct: St Bruno

Lk 10: 38-42

12 noon: Andrew Strain - RIP

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 7th Oct: Our Lady of the Rosary

Lk 11: 1-4

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Canon Richard Hearn - RIP

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 8th Oct: Feria

Lk 11: 5-13

7.30am: NO EARLY MASS

12 noon: Annie Queenan - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 9th Oct: St John Henry Newman

Jn 15: 9-17

12 noon: Antony K J - thanksgiving

Adoration after Mass

Saturday 10th Oct: St Paulinus of York

Lk 11: 27-28

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: UCM 75th Anniversary

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Georgiana and Edmund - welfare

Sunday 11th Oct: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 1-14

8.00am: George Joseph - RIP

9.30am: Yan Jie Gud

with *Children's Liturgy*

11.00am: People of the Parish

12.30pm: Baptism of Fraser Gowing

6.00pm: Neil Shannon - RIP

Appeal:
Rosminians

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER 2026

For mental health ministry.

Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 4th Oct: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 21: 33-43

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 11th Oct: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 1-14

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, Ann Hill, Honor Blake, Tony Grace and Bridget Pachet-Hyde
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, Fr Tom Scannell, Gerald Reilly and Peter Darling
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 October 2026:

John Kirwan, Evelyn Brooks Judith Parsons, Baby Jude Sutter, Viola Bashir and Edward Cody

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **03/04 October 2026:** CAFOD Fast Day

Next Weekend: **10/11 October 2026:** Rosminian 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 ...

When I was chair of the Liturgy Formation Committee of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission (in the 1990's), I worked with a wonderful and talented woman, Margaret Rizza. She had been a professional singer, had taught singing, trained choirs and made many recordings of her music. While on our committee, she wrote a Guide for Readers called 'Proclaiming God's Word.' This came from her experience of working on Readers Days, Workshops and Courses in various parishes in the Southwark Diocese. After a long and fruitful life Margaret sadly died last month. The news of her death enabled me to recall her great work of forming effective Readers.

She had a great passion for helping all those who were involved in the Ministry of Reader in their parish. She believed, as I do, that to be an effective Reader at Mass we need to know something of the nature of the Word, its purpose and the means of bringing the Word to life. She wrote, "the purpose of proclaiming the living Word of God in the midst of the assembly is help the members experience the living and life giving presence of Jesus in his Word."

Margaret reminded us that at Mass we all need to take on the role of listener. The community is called to listen. Without listeners there is no living Word. We are asked to listen with the ear of the heart thus opening ourselves to the life-giving Word. When we do not listen we close ourselves to the power of the Spirit who heals us, who enables ourselves to grow and transforms our lives. Margaret said, "the task is clear; we need to form life-giving readers and life-giving listeners. At the end of her first chapter she writes, "We come to realise that the ministry of reader is not just about getting up on Sunday or during the week and reading out aloud the scripture passages but it becomes a God-given ministry, a response to God's call which brings about our daily conversion - we come to realise that we are God's instrument-God is speaking his Word through us which is the Bread of life for all eternity".

Perhaps you might consider taking on this important Ministry of Reader. If you are already a Reader - I thank you for your Ministry.

This is how Margaret concludes her Guide, "Let us hope that through a deepening awareness and understanding of this wonderful Ministry, the Word of God may become more alive and active in ourselves as readers and in the hearts of those who listen."

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

FIRE MARSHAL TRAINING

We need more fire marshals to cover all our weekend Masses. Further training - only an hour - is being offered by our Archdiocese H&S representative on Monday 19th October 2026 at 7pm in the Church Hall. I would be very grateful if more people could attend to fill this important role for us. *Fr Anthony*

SAVE THE DATE: HCPT Barn Dance: Saturday, 14 November in the Church hall. More details to follow.

Adoremus 2026 – 9 & 10 October

Join us for **Adoremus 2026**, a special celebration of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

Friday 9 October, 7–9pm: Young Adults (18–35) Vigil at Most Holy Trinity, Dockhead, with Adoration, Confessions, Fr Emmanuel Mansford, Bishop Gerard Bradley and One Hope Project.

Saturday 10 October: The main Adoremus celebration begins at St George's Cathedral with Mass at 12 noon, followed by a Eucharistic Procession to Westminster Cathedral. A **Youth Vigil takes place at Westminster Cathedral from 8–11pm**, followed by Eucharistic Adoration throughout the night.

Full details: scys.org.uk/adoremus-2026

Save the date Saturday 7th November 7pm Quiz night

Sunday 18th October 10:30- 12:30 there will be a cake, books and Plant sale in the church hall (donations of items welcome on the day) raising funds for the Union of Catholic Mothers Canterbury

"The Rosary: A Prayer Full of Grace" - a talk on the Rosary, and book launch, with Alexander Gray Muir Fri 16 Oct, 6pm, St Thomas's Church and livestreamed

The toddlers and baby parish team invites you to a **Teddy bear picnic**; Saturday 11th October, 10:30 to 12:15, church hall. All children and families from across the community are warmly invited! Come dressed as your favourite saint, princess or superhero – and don't forget to bring your favourite teddy! Enjoy games, lucky dip, raffle and more. All proceeds towards new equipment for the group. We would be very grateful for donations of unused, unwanted presents for our stalls. Please leave them at All Saints altar or the presbytery. Thank you for your support!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2026-2027. Application forms for the Confirmation programme for young people in Year 9 or above (but under 18 years) are now available in the Narthex, from the office or on the webpage. Closing date for return of forms is Sunday, 11 October 2026 (with Baptismal Certs)

Church Hall Toilet Refurbishment - Update

Delays from the suppliers to our contractors has sadly meant more delays for us in getting the hall toilets completed. They have assured us they hope to be finished by 12th October 2026. We are also aware that the Accessible Toilet being used by women has had issues with the flush system. This calls for patience please. The system is a standard one for such toilets but it does not expect to have the constant traffic to has been getting due to the ladies toilets being out of action. If you can use the public toilets in Canterbury Lane (opposite the hall entrance) this would help. Once more we are grateful for your patience and understanding.

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School is holding open mornings for prospective intake of September 2027. These will take place on Thursday 5th Nov and Thursday 12th Nov at 9.30am for approximately 1 hour. Please book your space via the school office on 01227 462539.

FEAST OF ST JUDE: 24, 25 and 28 October 2026. 34 Tanners Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7JW. See poster in Narthex for details and contact information

Promise Auction 24th October, 7pm in the church hall **there will be an Auction of Promises and other items in the church hall. Available on the night, light snacks and nibbles. Free entry. There will be lots of fun with varied and interesting lots and many one-off, not-to-be missed opportunities.**

The organisers are seeking promises from our parish community so if you can offer a service or an item for sale, they would be very interested to hear from you. Contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com or the church office. It will be fun watching us all bid for the lots. All funds raised going to our parish. Sign up forms in the Narthex.

Union of Catholic Mothers Canterbury are celebrating 75 years with a renewal Mass on 10th October 12 noon followed by light nibbles in the hall. All UCM past and present members are encouraged to attend.

The next Parish Pastoral Council will take place in the presbytery on Monday 12th October at 18.30. John Renn, Chair.

The experiential online programme **Teach Me to Pray**, facilitated by *Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission*, starts on Tuesday, **6th October from 7pm to 8.15pm. For details/ to sign up** see <https://aecsouthwark.churchsuite.com/events/tm4hqd> or email for further information spirituality@rcaos.org.uk

FIRST RECONCILIATION & HOLY COMMUNION - 2027 APPLICATIONS

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.