

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

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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 THOMAS' (All Masses are Livestreamed)

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

Monday 12th Oct: St Wilfrid

Lk 11: 29-32

12 noon: Nathaniel Holp - RIP

Tuesday 13th Oct: St Edward the Confessor

Lk 11: 37-41

12 noon: Marykutty Abraham - RIP

7.00pm: RCIA in the Hall

7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 14th Oct: St Callistus I

Lk 11: 42-46

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: m Abraham - RIP

7.00pm: Prayer and Pub

Thursday 15th Oct: St Teresa of Jesus (of Avila) Lk 11: 47-54

7.30am: Jane Mann - RIP

12 noon: Leon Cosmelli - welfare

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 16th Oct: St Hedwig

Lk 12: 1-7

12 noon: William Edwards - RIP

Adoration after Mass

7.00pm: Young Adults meeting in the Hall

Saturday 17th Oct: St Ignatius of Antioch

Lk 12: 8-12

10.30 - 11.30am: Reconciliation and Adoration

12 noon: Arch. Michael Bowen - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: Reconciliation

4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Euvon King - RIP

Sunday 18th Oct: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 15-21

8.00am: Thanksgiving

9.30am: Richard Corfield -RIP

with Children's Liturgy

11.00am: People of the Parish

6.00pm: Philip & Thresiamma, & Sebastian & Rosamma - RIP

2nd Col.: World
Missions (Missio)

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

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 18th Oct: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 15-21

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 Brigitte Pachot-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: **10/11 October 2026:** Rosminian Appeal

Next Weekend: **17/18 October 2026:** World Missions (Missio)



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 Michael ...

Family prayers are very important for a Christian family. The saying goes that 'the family that prays together stays together.' Prayer of course brings a family together in God's presence for a certain period of the day. This can only be a good thing. I do not have any data to offer on the adage, but I'm sure that where God is involved, the odds are good on the family staying together. Jesus himself also said, (Mt 28:20) 'For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.' I can also add that where Jesus is, the other persons of the trinity will not be far, neither will our blessed Mother Mary. It is also a duty as Christian parents to teach our children how to pray. What better way than for them to come together with parents and siblings to spend time with God speaking to him (CCC 2685). This is how we learn to develop a personal relationship with Jesus, with God. Knowing that He is always there, especially in those difficult times, that we will generally all come against. I'm not saying it is easy, but parents will have to 'firm up,' so to speak, because the children may not be in the best of moods to leave what they are going to come and pray for a while, but as this becomes a norm they will get used to it. The same applies to parents. You may come back from work tired and wish to do something else, but when that time comes you will need to have the discipline to call the family together.

I've been called to bless homes on quite a few occasions. Sometimes I'm told there are strange goings on in the house. Even though I've blessed the house, the habit of prayer must be maintained or commenced. The powers of evil do not go away never to return. They try to return at the earliest convenience. Remember when Jesus was tempted by the devil, the devil tried a number of times and even when Jesus saw him off, we are told he left him to await 'an opportune time' (to try again), Luke 4:13. The battle does not end with the blessing of the family's home. It is continued and won by a habit of prayer, best learnt in the family home, our first church. The use of sacramentals such as Holy water and candles to pray.

The more substantial, the longer lasting relationships I think are those where the persons have grown up together. Met maybe at school or university and have known each other over years. Shared experience, shared joys and difficulties. This is how our relationship with God develops. From when we were children. We get to know God as part of our family.

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: This Friday, 16th October at 7pm the parish young adults' group will be meeting in the parish hall to discuss, 'the greatest woman ever.' Join us for prayer, discussion, and fun.

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.

"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

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 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

A Day With Mary is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on Saturday 7 November 2026 (9.45am to 5.00pm). The Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster will be the Celebrant & Preacher at 10.30am Cathedral Mass on that day. Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

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)

Promise auction 24th October 7pm in the church hall.

There's still time to get involved email socialstthomasrc@gmail.com or the parish office canterbury@rcaos.org.uk to donate. Some of the wonderful "Promises" donated to our auction so far:

Mondaine watch
Antique writing box
Chess lessons
Guided tour & talk of fierce women of Canterbury by Connie Nolan
Walk with Father Anthony
Kombucha starter kit, a how to session for 2/3 persons with nibbles and drinks plus 1ltre bottle of Kombucha
Bespoke made to order felted pure wool pair of ladies' slippers
Garden tour and afternoon teas for 4
Spanish lessons x4 conversation/GCSE/A 'level support
Nigeria meal for 2 (Jollof rice, fried plantains & grilled chicken in stew)
Archaeological/History tour of Canterbury

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

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

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.

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.