

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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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

email: **michaelletuka@rcaos.org.uk**

Parish Administrator:

Miss Linda Scott (based at St Thomas')

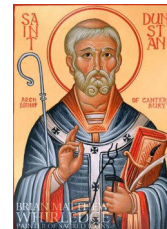
Parish Office open Mon, Tues & Fri: 10am to 3.00pm (closed 1pm to 1.30pm), Thurs 10am - 1pm

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): People of the Parish

Sunday 25th Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 34-40

8.00am: Jack Haley's intentions

9.30am: Fidel Ricofuerdo - RIP

with Children's Liturgy

11.00am: Filipino Community

12.30pm: *Baptism of Beatrix Wilson*

4.00pm: Polish Community Mass

6.00pm: Strien Family - welfare

2nd Col.: **St Vincent de Paul**

Monday 26th Oct: Sts Chad and Cedd

Lk 13: 10-17

12 noon: Fidel Ricofuerdo - RIP

Tuesday 27th Oct: Feria

Lk 13: 18-21

10.30am: *Marriage of Alexander Barton and Leonela Paladino*

12 noon: Brian Austen

7.00pm: *RCIA in the Hall*

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

Wednesday 28th Oct: Sts Simon and Jude

Lk 6: 12-19

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Eita & Jim Murphey & Margaret & Michael Spencer-Wright

7.00pm: *Prayer and Pub*

Thursday 29th Oct: Feria

Lk 13: 31-35

7.30am: George Family - thanksgiving

12 noon: Marcus Pinto - RIP

Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 30th Oct: Feria

Lk 14: 1-6

12 noon: Maureen Handley - RIP

Adoration after Mass

7.00pm: *Young Adults meeting in the Hall*

Saturday 31st Oct: Feria

Lk 14: 1, 7-11

10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*

12 noon: Kim Johnson - RIP

4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*

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

6.00pm (Vigil): Maria Ujuka Ogbanufe - RIP

Sunday 1st Nov: All Saints

Mt 5: 1-12

8.00am: Brian and Mary George - Golden Wedding Anniversary

9.30am: People of the Parish

Baptism of Lazarus Chan during Mass

with Children's Liturgy

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

Fr Casimir's Kazakh Appeal

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 25th Oct: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Times Mt 22: 34-40

10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 1st Nov: All Saints

Mt 5: 1-12

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 and Fr Peter Geldard

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 October 2026:

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

ST THOMAS' SECOND AND OTHER COLLECTIONS:

This weekend: **24/25 October 2026:** St Vincent De Paul

Next Weekend: **07/08 November 2026:** Fr Casimir's Kazakh 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 ...

In this Sunday's gospel, Jesus responds to a lawyer who asks, 'Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?' He replies: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul and mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And there's a second just like it: love your neighbour as yourself. Everything in the Law and the Prophets rests on these two.'

Today, we might wonder what we really mean by 'love'. We talk about loving our country, our jobs, our friends, our work, our parents and children, our families, our neighbours and God. I recall being a newly ordained deacon, about to give my first sermon in a local parish; the parish priest warned me, 'I don't want to hear all that love stuff.'

Twenty years ago, on Christmas Day, Pope Benedict wrote his first letter, 'God is Love' (Deus Caritas Est). He explained that he wrote it because, 'In a world where God's name is sometimes linked with revenge or even hatred and violence, this message – God is love – is both timely and important. That's why he wanted his first encyclical to speak about the love God pours out on us, and the love we should share with others.'

When we hear Jesus' answer in this Sunday's reading, we might ask: can we love God without seeing him? And can love really be commanded? These questions raise two doubts about the double commandment. No one has ever seen God, so how can we love him? And love isn't something we can simply order; it feels like a feeling that's either there or not, rather than something we can force with our will. Because God loved us first (see 1 John 4:10), love isn't just a rule; it's our warm response to the gift of God's closeness. This changes everything. Loving God and our neighbours isn't a chore from outside — it springs from knowing we're cherished by God in Christ. In a world where God is sometimes linked with anger or even hate, Benedict gently points to the boundless love God pours out on us.

Loving God and loving others go hand in hand — they're really one single command. Both grow from God's love for us. Pope Benedict explains that losing either side hurts both. Without any connection to God, we might see others only as people, missing God's image in them. On the other hand, if we ignore others just to be 'devout' or to tick off 'religious duties', our bond with God becomes dry — polite but empty. Only being open to others and showing love helps us tune in to God too. The question I need to ask myself is what aspect of my own daily life feels most challenged by the call to love both God and neighbour simultaneously — and what might that reveal about where God is inviting me to grow?

ST THOMAS' PARISH MATTERS

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.

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

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. Name, address, contact details. It could be that the person is elderly, unwell, lives alone, needs the sacraments, or would just like a visit. The visitor may be one of the priests or a parishioner/s on behalf of the parish priest.

Join March for Life UK on Tuesday 27th Oct 12-2pm in Parliament Square as we remember the anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act which happened on that date 59 years ago. Please don't bring posters as they will be provided. Stand with us as we remind our nation that abortion hurts the family. For further information contact info@marchforlife.co.uk or call 447773501721.

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 on Thursday 5th Nov and 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). 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/>

St Vincent De Paul says thank you The September collection raised £773.63. Thank you so much for your generosity and for other donations that we have received. In September we gave out £450 in supermarket vouchers. We bought a vacuum cleaner, a fridge freezer and paid for the connection of a gas cooker. Paying for half the costs for some garden fencing has given a family a safe place for the children to play. We are so grateful to you for your support to help local people in need.

SECOND COLLECTION 30 OCT/01 NOV: During the weekend Masses of The Feast of All Saints 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. Additionally, 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.**

QUIZ NIGHT

A fun family evening Saturday 7th November at 7:00pm in the Church Hall. Bring a friend or join a table/team (max 8 per table). BYO drinks and food. Tea, coffee and nibbles provided on the night. Raffle and prize for the winner. Advance booking is advised. Tickets: £5 Adult and £1 Child by emailing socialstthomasrc@gmail.com. All funds raised are going to our parish.

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.

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

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