NEWSLETTER

CATHOLIC CHURCHES OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, CANTERBURY & ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN, KENT

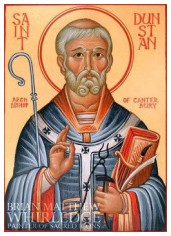
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
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ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
Telephone: ***01227 462896***
Email: ***canterbury@rcaos.org.uk***



Parish Priest: **Canon Anthony Charlton** *email:* ***anthonycharlton@rcaos.org.uk***
Assistant Priest: **Fr Michael Etuka** *email:* ***michaeletuka@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): 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

Monday 9th Nov: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica *Jn 2:13-22*
12 noon: Marjery Craig - RIP

Tuesday 10th Nov: Pope St Leo the Great *Lk 17: 7-10*
12 noon: Therese Punnett - birthday wishes
7.00pm: RCIA in the Hall
7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 11th Nov: St Martin of Tours *Lk 17: 11-19*
10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*
12 noon: John Kirwan - RIP

Thursday 12th Nov: St Josaphat *Lk 17: 20-25*
7.30am: Fr Anthony's intentions
12 noon: Joseph Puthuppallil - RIP
Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 13th Nov: St Francis Xavier Cabrini *Lk 17: 26-37*
12 noon: Marjery Craig - RIP
Adoration after Mass
7.00pm: Young Adults Meeting in the Hall

Saturday 14th Nov: Feria *Lk 18: 1-8*
10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*
12 noon: Philip Craven - RIP
1.30pm: Blessing of the Graves at Sturry Cemetery
4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*
4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room
7.00pm HCPT Barn Dance in the Hall

6.00pm (Vigil): Rita Dempsey - RIP

Sunday 15th Nov: 33rd Sunday (Ordinary Times (A)) *Mt 25:14-30*
WORLD DAY OF THE POOR
8.00am: Ruben Ramirez and Ofelia Salgado - RIP
9.30am: For all priests and religious
with Children's Liturgy
11.00am: Gerald Reilly - RIP
12.15pm: *Annual General Meeting in the Hall*
4.00pm: *Confirmation Session in the Hall*
6.00pm: People of the Parish

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

ST DUNSTAN'S
Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 8th Nov: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Times (A) *Mt 25: 1-13*
10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 15th Nov: 33rd Sunday (Ordinary Times (A))*Mt 25:14-30*
10.00am: Pauline Doney's intentions

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, Pauline Ryan, Juliet Nakabugo, Marie David Ambroisine, , 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, Jean Pegg, Catherine Lavelle and Helen Brazier
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**: 07/08 November 2026**: Archbishop's Appeal (info opposite)
Next Weekend: **14/15 November 2026**: St Vincent de Paul



St Thomas' Baptism Preparation: To all parents wishing to have their children Baptised; our next preparation meeting will be on **Saturday, 5th December** 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 ...

The nights are drawing in. The Christmas lights will be turned on in Canterbury this coming Friday. All the stalls for the Christmas market are in place, and Christmas Day is less than seven weeks away.
During the next three weeks of November, the gospel readings at Mass come from the 25th chapter of Matthew. This chapter is often described as one of the most striking and sobering chapters in Scripture. It contains three parables:
In the "The Ten Bridesmaids" Jesus shows that readiness means the Holy Spirit filling us continually — not merely outward appearance. Five were wise and five foolish; the foolish ran out of oil before the bridegroom arrived and were excluded.
In the parable of the "Talents," talents stand for God-given abilities for assigned duties. Faithfulness depends not on output but on how sincerely we manage what God has given to us. In the "Judgement of the Nations", the familiar passage called "The Sheep and the Goats," Jesus describes final judgement as dividing people into righteous and unrighteous groups.
Taken together, this chapter offers us one unified vision of Christian life:
Watchfulness-nurture interior holiness rather than relying on appearances.
Faithful stewardship — employ every gift God provides, avoiding fear.
Active love — serve Christ in the suffering, refusing indifference.
This chapter makes clear that our own eternal outcome rests on how we treat others. It reveals who Christ is: He is the Bridegroom we await, the Lord who entrusts gifts, and the one hidden in the face of the poor.
The unsettling current beneath the entire chapter is the risk of indifference. Across the chapter, indifference exacts a heavy cost — we cannot afford to be indifferent toward Jesus, the Holy Spirit, our resources, the needy, or lost humanity.
Rather than becoming anxious about all the many things that we need to do before Christmas, over the next three weeks let Matthew 25 be for us a daily examination of conscience. Am I living as if Christ might return tonight? Am I using what God has given me? Am I recognising Christ's face in those who suffer around me?

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.

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

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: THIS SUNDAY, **8th November 2026**

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

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP: are meeting on Friday, 13th November at 7pm in the parish hall. Join us for prayer, discussion, and fun.

THANK YOU! Social Committee who raised funds to replace our Altar Linens.

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 morning for Sept 2027 prospective intake on Thurs 12th Nov at 9.30am ±1 hour. Book via School on 01227 462539.

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC SCHOOL FORM SIGNING: Canon Anthony will be available in the Presbytery, 59 Burgate, to sign Certificates of Catholic Practice on:
Monday, 16 November 2026 between 3.30pm and 5.30pm; and
Friday, 20th November 2026 between 6.00pm and 8.00pm.
No appointment required

AFRICAN COMMUNITY MASS: Please save the date in your diaries for our celebration on **20th December 2026 at 1pm** in the church and then in the hall.

Christmas Fair 13th December 10:30-1pm A family friendly event
Raffle , Tombola, Preloved stalls, tea and cakes. Father Christmas and lots more.
We would be grateful for donations for the following stalls:
Items to our raffle, unopened bottles (wines, spirits etc.), chocolates, smellies etc.
Gift baskets and Gift bags, New items for our tombola.
Any contribution is appreciated. No donation is too small.
Donations can be made up to Saturday, 12th December.
These can be dropped off in the All-Saints Chapel in the church.
Homemade cakes (on the day please)
There will be lots more stalls and activities including Father Christmas.
If you can help on the day or would like to book a stall to promote your business (limited availability) please contact socialstthomasrc@gmail.com
All monies raised go towards our church projects.

Archbishop's Appeal Second Collection Sat 7th / Sun 8th November
The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2026.
Every gift is welcome. Find out more, or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal or:
Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
Cash / Cheque – please use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church.
Thank you for your generosity of heart.

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.

REQUIEM MASS AT HALES PLACE: At 2pm on Saturday 21st November Fr Anthony will be conducting a Requiem Mass for the clergy and members of the religious community who are buried in Hales Place chapel grounds. All parishioners are invited to attend. The recent renovations by the Council to the chapel has enabled the first opportunity for many years to conduct a service. Please note that the chapel is very small and so it will be necessary to stand outside the chapel door.

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.

Social committee planning 2027 meeting, 15th November 10:30am in the church hall . If you would like to find out more about what we do or have ideas to share, come join us.

UCM Canterbury cake and book sale 29th November 10:30am supporting HCPT Hosanna House fundraising in the church hall. Donations are welcome on the day.

ST THOMAS JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB: This Sunday, 8th Nov @ 4pm
Come and join us for another wonderful session! We'll learn about saints from the British Isles and further afield, plus football drills and lots more fun activities!

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES AT STURRY CEMETERY: Fr Anthony will be blessing the graves at Sturry Cemetery on Saturday, 14 November at 1.30pm.

SAVE THE DATE: The **Hersden Parish Christmas Party** takes place in The Art Room, Euphrasie Barbier on Saturday, 5th December 2026 from 2.30pm to 4.30pm. See the poster for details.