NEWSLETTER

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

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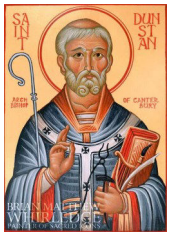
ST DUNSTAN'S, HERSDEN
East View, Hersden, CT3 4HH
Telephone: ***01227 462896***
Email: ***canterbury@rcaos.org.uk***



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): Annie Bennett - RIP

Sunday 22nd Nov: Christ the King (A) *Mt 25:31-46*
8.00am: Filipino Community
9.30am: The Gill Family - RIP (Foundation Mass)
with Children's Liturgy
11.00am: Maurice Silcock - RIP
4.00pm: Polish Community Mass
6.00pm: People of the Parish

2nd Col.: Catholic Youth Services

Monday 23rd Nov: St Clement I *Lk 21: 1-4*
12 noon: Holy Souls

Tuesday 24th Nov: St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps. *Lk 21: 5-11*
12 noon: Anna Koeller - RIP
7.00pm: RCIA in the Hall
7.30pm: Charismatic Prayer Group meets in the Upper Room

Wednesday 25th Nov: St Catherine of Alexandria *Lk 21: 12-19*
10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*
12 noon: James and Marion - RIP
7pm-8pm Prayer (Adoration) and Pub

Thursday 26th Nov: Feria *Lk 21: 20-28*
7.30am: Chris Silcock - welfare
12 noon: Tom Carr - RIP
Scripture Group in Upper Room after Mass (byo lunch)

Friday 27th Nov: Feria *Lk 21: 29-33*
12 noon: George Handley - RIP
Adoration after Mass
7pm Young Adults in the Hall

Saturday 28th Nov: Feria *Lk 21: 34-36*
10.30 - 11.30am: *Reconciliation and Adoration*
12 noon: James Silcock - Birthday
4.30 - 5.30pm: *Reconciliation*
4.30pm: Legion of Mary meet in the Upper Room

6.00pm (Vigil): Irene Ratnam - RIP

Sunday 29th Nov: 1st Sunday of Advent (B) *Mt 13: 33-37*
8.00am: People of the Parish
9.30am: Hannah Loughran - RIP
with Children's Liturgy
11.00am: Marcus Pinto - RIP
12:30pm: *Baptism of Finn Poilew and Eliana Garcia*
4.00pm: *Confirmation Session in the Hall*
4.00pm: Youth Group meeting in the Church
6.00pm: Brown and Delaney Families - welfare

Friends of the Holy Land Appeal

ST DUNSTAN'S

Sunday Mass at 10am

Sunday 22nd Nov: Christ the King (A) *Mt 25:31-46*
10.00am: People of the Parish

Sunday 29th Nov: 1st Sunday of Advent (B) *Mt 13: 33-37*
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, 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, Paula Smith, David Evans, Gerry Buckles, Kathy Starnes, Patti Earl, Alexander Oligo, Jenny Jones, Ann Hill, Honor Blake, Tony Grace, 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**: 21/22 November 2026**: Catholic Youth Service
Next Weekend: **28/29 November 2026**: Friends of the Holy Land Appeal



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 ...

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent and the beginning of a new liturgical year. In our eagerness to celebrate Christmas, we risk overlooking the spiritual gifts of Advent. This year, I encourage you to make Advent a time to slow down, wait patiently and prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. Rather than rushing towards Christmas, I invite you to embrace the wisdom of this beautiful season. Can our Christmas preparations – shopping, writing cards, baking and gathering with family and friends – become opportunities for spiritual reflection and renewal, helping us to make room for Christ in our hearts?I don't think it is enough simply to have an Advent calendar that enables us to count down the days while enjoying a chocolate! We need to go deeper. During the weeks of Advent, the Church offers us a wealth of Scripture readings each day, which we can use as part of our daily prayer. Our Archdiocese of Southwark's Spirituality Commission has produced a series of daily Advent reflections based on the readings of the day.

Advent falls into two distinct parts, each helping us to appreciate the full meaning of the season. From the First Sunday of Advent until 16 December, our attention is directed particularly towards the Second Coming of Christ at the end of time. The Scripture readings encourage us to stay spiritually awake and to be ready to welcome Christ when he comes again in glory.From 17 December, our attention turns more directly towards the celebration of the birth of Jesus. During these final days, the Church prays the ancient 'O Antiphons' at Evening Prayer, expressing the longing of God's people for the coming of the Messiah.

Advent is a season of devout and joyful expectation. Although it invites us to conversion of heart and encourages us to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, its underlying character is one of hope and joyful anticipation.Two figures accompany us particularly during this season. The first is Our Blessed Lady, who is our model of prayerful and patient waiting. Her generous 'yes' to God and her quiet, faith-filled expectation teach us how to welcome Christ into our lives. The second is John the Baptist, whose urgent cry to 'prepare the way of the Lord' challenges us to clear away whatever prevents us from welcoming Christ – our sins, our pride and the many distractions of daily life.

Perhaps we might ask ourselves this Advent: What is there in my life that prevents me from welcoming Christ more fully? How can I create more space for him?I believe the whole meaning of Advent is captured in the ancient prayer of the Church:

Maranatha – Come, Lord Jesus! The world rushes to consume; the Church slows down to receive.

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.

Advent Retreats

December 4th: 'Light in the Darkness.' A Retreat Day at Minster Abbey.
December 7th- 11th: Advent online Retreat with daily inspirational speakers.
Contact Eddie Gilmore: gileag@gmail.com www.eddiegilmore.org

St Thomas Junior Youth Club — Sunday 22nd November @ 4:00pm Join us for another fun session! We'll talk about The Good Shepherd and practice music and readings to join the choir for the 6pm Mass.

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

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

HCPT Children's Easter Pilgrimage to Lourdes 28th March – 3rd April 2027
Would you like to join Group 87 as a volunteer helper?
Do you know, or could you sponsor, a child who could benefit from thisvery special experience? Find out more from:: an-niejudge@hotmail.com,

World Youth Sunday 2026 : Today is World Youth Sunday. The second collection will support the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which helps young people encounter Christ, grow in authentic friendship, and be equipped for mission in the Church and the world. To find out more about our activities for young people and young adults, visit www.scys.org.uk or scan the QR code.Additional resources are available from the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMFed) at www.cymfed.org.uk/wys

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND APPEAL. On 28/29 November, Chris Timmins of Friends of the Holy Land , will visit our parish and speak about the work of the Friends and the difference it makes to the small Christian population in Palestine, Israel, and Jordan. There will be a reiring collection and he will bring some leaflets/ newsletters about the work of FHL for more information,

SRI LANKAN LUNCH FUNDRAISER FOR MARY'S MEALS
Sunday 6 December, from 11.00am onwards
Come and enjoy a delicious Sri Lankan lunch while supporting the wonderful work of Mary's Meals. All proceeds will help provide school meals for hungry children around the world.

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.

Daily Reflection for Advent: As an aid to personal prayer during Advent, the Spirituality Commission have produced a helpful daily reflection based on the readings for the day. Each is short, practical and calls us to action. All who register will receive an email each morning directly to their inbox! To sign up - here is the link http://eepurl.com/dcNmsv or you can take a look at their website www.southwarkdsc.org.uk and click on the box marked ADVENT REFLECTIONS.

A big thank you to all the children and adults who enjoyed our fun evening of music and Barn Dancing in aid of HCPT Easter Children's Pilgrimage to Lourdes. We raised £326 for our HCPT Group 87, thank you.

ST DUNSTAN'S PARISH MATTERS

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.