St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972)

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**St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Romany Road, Gillingham ME8 6JH**

**Tel: (01634) 234677 Head Teacher Mrs Vicki Gallagher**

**St. John Fisher Catholic Secondary School, City Way, Rochester ME1 2FA**

**Tel: (01634)** **543123 Head Teacher Mrs Dympna Lennon**

**Parish Secretary**: Emma’s office hours this week: 9-12 Mon, Wed & Friday

**Live Streamed Mass Links** are available on our website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**Pope’s April Prayer Intention:** For the dignity of women.We are asked to pray that “the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture.” The prayer intention includes praying for an end to the discrimination many women face in different parts of the world.

**Recently Deceased: Shelia Guscott† and Edward Lancashire†** Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen

**Priest Training Fund Second Collection 21st April.** Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the collection that pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After their ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 5 men in formation to the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

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· Donate Online: <http://www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral>

· Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (left)

· Telephone weekdays 9 am - 5 pm: 020 7960 2504

· Cash/Cheque - please use the envelopes at rear of church.

**The 2nd Collection** next weekhelps to meet the maintenance cost of the upkeep of St George’s Cathedral, the mother church of the Diocese.

**First Holy Communion** -This weekend our children will be practising how to receive Holy Communion as they prepare to receive the Blessed Sacrament for the first-time next month. Please continue to keep all our candidates and their families in your prayers.

**Annual Southwark Altar Servers Rally 2024** - Monday 6th May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory. Please take the time to ‘Come and See’. All welcome to come and enjoy the day.

**SVP** Fundraising Quiz Friday 26th April in the hall, 7pm for 7.30pm start.  Entry £3 on the door.  Tables of six.  Bring your own drinks and nibbles.  Prizes and raffle.  Contact John on 0163436162 or Jacqui 07914851025 to reserve a table.

**Tom Carter** would like to say a big thank you for all your cards and messages he

received for his 100th birthday. Although his eyesight is poor a relative read the messages and he remembered so many people.

**Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage** - apply now to join us from 23rd to 30th August 24. This year’s theme “Go tell the priests to build a chapel here and that people should come in procession”. Please see poster and take a leaflet from rear of Church.

**Please** see our noticeboard and website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk) for up-coming events.

**Aylesford Priory Farmers Market** Sunday 21st April 9.30am to 1.30pm.

**Catholic Men's** **Pilgrimage**,Saturday 4th May 10.45am from Rochester Cathedral

**The Friars Summer Fayre**, Sunday 23rd June, 11am to 4.30pm with Mass at 5pm

**Collections:** 13th & 14th April main collection in Church: £754.22 not including S/O’s.

**APRIL 2024**

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| 20 Saturday  Vigil Mass  **2nd Collection**  21 Sunday  **2nd Collection** | **18.00**  **10.30**  **18.00** | **Feria**  Allan Howard† (Caroline Budden)  **Priest Training Fund**  **FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life**  June Dante† (Dante Family)  Margaret Murphy & Family (Eileen & Denise Mills)  **Priest Training Fund** |
| 22 Monday  **Funeral** | **10.00** | **Feria**  Lawrence Micallef**†** |
| 23 Tuesday  **Funeral** | **10.00**  **14.00** | **ST GEORGE, Patron of England -** People of theParish  John Coyne**†** |
| 24 Wednesday | **10.00** | **St Adalbert, Bishop & Martyr -** Eucharistic Service |
| 25 Thursday  **Funeral** | **10.00** | **St Mark, Evangelist**  Maria Reid**†** |
| 26 Friday | **10.00** | **Feria -** Christine McDonagh’s Intention |
| 27 Saturday  Vigil Mass  **2nd Collection** | **18.00** | **Feria**  Jim Pearce† (Ann Pearce)  **Maintenance of Saint George’s Cathedral** |
| 28 Sunday  **2nd Collection** | **10.30**  **18.00** | **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  Stephen Shaw†  Rita & Jim Wolfe (Eileen & Denise Mills)  **Maintenance of Saint George’s Cathedral** |