St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972)

Deacon James Coleman (T: 306558) & Deacon Arthur Champ (T: 360251)

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**Rainham Safeguarding e-mail:** **rainhamsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk**

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

**Tel: (01634) 234677 Head Teacher Mrs Clare Redmond**

**St. John Fisher Catholic Secondary School, Ordnance St, Chatham ME4 6SG**

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

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

**Funeral: Mr Hyre ‘George’ Showkum,** The Garden of England Crematorium on Wednesday 11th August at 4:00pm.Please remember his family and friends in your prayers, may he rest in peace, Amen.

**Covid Route Map – Guidance to Ensure a Safe Environment in Places of Worship.**

* **Churches** to continue to provide hand sanitiser at entrances & exits and masks to be worn by those in Church unless you are exempt.
* **Social Distancing** – here at St Thomas’s we will continue to have an area of social distancing for people who may wish to keep a safe space, this will be available in the side chapel.
* **Congregational Singing**, indoor singing is now allowed however until infection rates begin to reduce, face covering must be worn by those who sing.
* **The Track & Trace system** to continue
* **The time** to receive Holy Communion will go back to the normal time.
* **Extraordinary Ministers** **of Holy Communion**. For those who bring Holy Communion to the housebound please use hand sanitise before and after your visit. Also only one morning and one afternoon visit a day is to be made to minimise risk of infection.

**Hymn Books** - Please return hymn books to the appropriate boxes at the rear of church.

**Medway Foodbank -** Thank you for your ongoing prayers and generous support. At Medway Foodbank we have known the faithfulness and protection of God as we have continued to serve him by supporting those in need across the towns. Our work remains busy but with some quieter days. It is good to see the support available across Medway and we continue to work with 150+ agencies within the community who have provided excellent support and advice over this last year.

*“I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart”. Psalm 91:4*

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

**First Holy Communion Programme 2022 -** You are invited to express your interest in enrolling your child/ren on the 2022 First Holy Communion Programme.

All eligible children for enrolment to the programme should be in year 3 or above from September 2021. The deadline for expressing your interest is Wednesday 1st September 2021, with the first session starting in September 2021. Please register your interest with Claire Drain by email clairedrain@outlook.com or text/WhatsApp 07961 952448.

**Please note** this applies to the families in the parish of St Thomas’s and also for those families who regularly attend Mass at St Thomas’s.

**Diocesan Marriage Mass:** St George’s Cathedral **on Saturday October 9th**at 3pm. To book or for further details please email: mflsw@rcaos.org.uk

**MFL Bereavement** -**"Grief and Loss, Hope in Christ" retreat weekend,** Aylesford Priory **8th-10th October.** For further information email enquiry@thefriars.org.uk

**Collections –** 17th & 18th July’s main collection amounted to £780.00 including S/O’s

**JULY & AUGUST 2021**

Saturday **St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

31 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

 **18.00** Cherry Burgess (A.J Champ)

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Sunday **EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY**

1 Sun **10.30** Greta Gommel, Susan & David Wright

 **18.00** People of the Parish

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2 Mon  **St Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop**

 **10.00** Peggy Rose ((Josie Boxall)

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3 Tue  **Feria**

 **10.00** T&I Russell Wedding Anniversary

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4 Wed **St John Vianney, Priest, Memorial; Patron of parish priests.**

 **10.00** Alison Hodder RIP (Back Family)

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5 Thur **The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major**

 **10.00** Audrey Fernandez RIP (Noel Fernandez)

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6 Fri **The Transfiguration of The Lord**

 **10.00** Sister M O’Neill (J&R O’Neill)

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Next Saturday **St Sixtus II, Pope**

7 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

 **18.00** Nigel Cartlinge RIP (M Shackleford)

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Next Sunday **NINETEENTH SUNDAY**

8 Sun **10.30** Charles W Long (Monica Long)

 **18.00** People of the Parish

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