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 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 & Friday*

**Recently Deceased: Linda Dominque, Ann Hodgson and Michael Brown.**  Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen.

[**Pope’s December prayer intention: For Catechists﻿**](https://r.spclists.va/r.html?uid=D.P2.D0v.nNd.8Dp.A.PNnlD2CzK0239_-J7SGS5_i69-9l2O9PSnrqxM9QPuJtdFi3wcDT-a8ELs_HJF29UMnPFnvcetoFeRNJwvFk2g) *“summoned to announce the Word of God,” that they might “be its witnesses, with courage and creativity, and in the power of the Holy Spirit, with joy and much peace.”*

**The Season of Advent -** Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ’s Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

**CYCLE OF PRAYER** - Intentions for Advent and Christmas Time:

Expectant Mothers (*especially on Fourth Sunday of Advent*)

**Advent Reflections - Stations of the Infancy -** Monday evenings at 7pm in the church**.** This week we reflect on five events starting with ‘The Word becomes flesh’ and ending with ‘The Magnificat’. Everyone welcome.

**Keeping Christ in Christmas** *-* Let’s forget those seasonal festivals that seem to erase Christ from Christmas and get back to the real reason for the season – something more eternal, awe-inspiring and uplifting. What can be more incredible and miraculous than Christ’s coming at Christmas – the Word made flesh – fully human and fully divine? Our National Office for Vocation is offering a video Advent Calendar focussed on keeping Christ at the heart of our Christmas journey visit<https://www.ukvocation.org/advent>

**The Day by Day Advent Booklets** available at rear of the church. Suggested donation £1.

**RCIA** (Sharing the Faith). Due to the need for social distancing the formation has been postponed until after the New Year so that a suitable space can be found in the Parish Centre. If there are any questions, please contact Deacon James.

**MISSIO RED BOXES** - Please could all holders bring them to church for end of year counting as soon as possible.  Thank you for your continued support.

**UCM Meeting**- our next meeting will be from 1.45pm - 3.30pm on Thursday 9th December in the Parish Centre. Masks to be worn. Please bring your own cup/beaker,

a pen and packaged food to share.  Alma Payne, contact No: Medway 362896.

**SVP** - A big thank you to all who supported our food collection for Medway Food bank. Your ongoing support is much needed especially at this difficult time in the lives of so many. If able, please continue to purchase and donated future donations **in-store** at the large **Tesco** and **Asda** in Medway, **Co-op** Walderslade and **Morrison’s** Strood.

**Church Services -** due to ever changing restrictions being implemented to combat rising covid infections please regularly check our website for changes to our publish services.

**Collection -** 20th - 21st November main collection amounted to £804.00 incl S/O's.

2nd Collection for Archbishop's Appeal amounted to £89.85. Thank you for your generosity

**DECEMBER 2021**

Saturday **St John Damascene, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

4 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

 **12.00** Marriage Blessing -Jim and Beverly Spencer (Josie Liney)

 **18.00** The Reid Family (JB)

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Sunday **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

5 Sun **10.30** Peggy Rose (Mrs Ann Devine & Family)

 **18.00** People of the Parish

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6 Mon  **St Nicholas, Bishop**

 **10.00** The Awoyokun Family

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7 Tue **St Ambrose, Bishop and Doctor of the Church.**

 **10.00** Joseph Brooks RIP (Marleen Brooks)

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8 Wed **THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 10.00** Bernice Anning RIP (M Shackleford)

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9 Thur **St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**

 **10.00** Peggy Rose (J&J Viotto)

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10 Fri  **Our Lady of Loreto, Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

 **10.00** George Showkum RIP

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Next Saturday **St Damasus I, Pope**

11 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

 **18.00** John Magee RIP (Elaine Cottiss)

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Next Sunday **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

12 Sun **10.30** Mamie Gibb RIP (R Riseborough)

 **18.00** Martin Dante RIP (Eileen & Denise Mills)

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