St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972)

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

Contact Address: Parish Office, 63 London Road, Rainham, Kent, ME8 7RH

Tel: (01634) 232972 e-mail: rainham@rcaos.org.uk website: [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**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

When attending Church please observe social distancing and do not attend or socialise with anyone outside of your household or bubble while in church, wear a face covering, use the hand sanitiser and check in using one of our Track & Trace methods. Thank you for your patience and co-operation during these difficult times.

**Due to the current Covid Restrictions, Deacon Alan’s Funeral Mass on Tuesday 8th December at 10am will be private, for family and former colleagues only. We have arranged to live stream the Mass for anyone wishing to pay their respects and join in the ceremony. Please go on** the direct share link at <https://youtu.be/7eC2Uhc-Zt4>

**Deacon Alan** will be received into the Church at 4.45pm on Monday 7th December.

**Vigil Mass** at 6pm on Monday 7th December for the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

**Recently Deceased: Mrs Peggy Hill, Mr Paul Tapley, Mr Gordon Flynn and Mr Zygmunt Zebrowski.** Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen.

**Christmas Masses - Due to the current restrictions, numbers allowed in the church are significantly reduced. To ensure we abide by government guidelines and protected the safety of our parishioners you will be required to book if you wish to attend any of the following Christmas Masses by calling the parish office on** 232972 **or emailing** rainham@rcaos.org.uk

**Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve Masses at 6pm, 8pm and midnight.**

**Friday 25th December - Christmas Day Masses 9.00am and 11.00am.**

**Extra Volunteers** are needed to Steward over the Christmas period, if you can spare some time and wish to help please contact Deacon Arthur 01634 360251.

**Prayer - Please keep all the sick and housebound of our parish in your prayers and continue to remember and pray for those who feel isolated and anxious during these difficult times.**

**Children’s Wooden Nativity Set – we have 25 sets available to families in our parish at the cost price of £7.50. Please contact the parish secretary/office if you would like one.**

**Celebrate Advent with CAFOD*.*** After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit our virtual Advent Calendar at <https://cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-calendar> Also visit **CAFOD World Gifts**[cafod.org.uk/worldgifts] a range of virtual gifts that make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. Let’s spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Also, Kayode Akintola, who works for CAFOD in Sierra Leone, West Africa, has recorded a special message of thanks for everyone’s continued support during this difficult time: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NYe7cyEARaI&feature=youtu.be>

**Poinsettia -** if you would like to place a poinsettia around the altar at Christmas in memory of a loved one, please bring it to the church by Wednesday 23rd December.

 **DECEMBER 2020 – MASS INTENTION**

**Saturday Feria**

5 Sat **18.00** Gianfranco Sotgiu

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**Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

6 Sun **10.30** People of the Parish

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7 Mon  **St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

 **10.00** Paul Tapley RIP

 **16.45 Reception of Deacon Alan Boxall**

 **18.00 Vigil Mass for the Solemnity of Our Holy Mother**

Deacon Alan Boxall RIP

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8 Tue  **The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

10.00 Funeral of Deacon Alan Boxall

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9 Wed  **St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin**

 **10.00** Eucharistic Service

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10 Thur **The Blessed Virgin Mary of Loreto**

 **10.00** Godfrey F Roberts RIP (AA & JH Roberts)

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11 Fri **St Damasus I, Pope**

 **10.00** Pat Williams RIP (UCM)

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**Next Saturday Our Lady of Guadalupe**

12 Sat **18.00** People of the Parish

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**Next Sunday THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

13 Sun **10.30** Vincent Martin RIP (Noel Fernandez)

 **2nd Collection for Peter’s Pence**

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