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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**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*

**Fr. Tom** will be away from the Parish from Monday 13th September, returning Saturday 25th September. We wish him a pleasant and peaceful break.

**Do you have skills to offer as a Governor or Trustee in the Catholic schools in Southwark?** The Education Commission for the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark is looking to build up its list of people able to offer time, expertise and commitment to support primary, secondary schools and sixth form colleges in Southwark. The Diocese needs local people from its parishes to volunteer as foundation governors in Catholic maintained schools and academies and trustees/directors in their multi-academy trusts. Further information can be found on our website: [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**The Sharing of the Faith Group (RCIA)**, is for those who are interested in learning about the Faith or seeking to become part of the Catholic Church, as well as Adult Catholics who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, the programme will begin in October Please contact Deacon Jim on 01634 306558 or speak to Fr Tom for more details.

**Altar Servers’ Rally** - The Guild of St Stephen will be holding their annual Altar Servers’ Rally on Saturday 18th September 2021 at Aylesford Priory.  For details see poster at rear of church.  All are welcome and organisers look forward to seeing familiar and new faces.

**SVP Awareness Month. The need now is greater than ever.** This is the theme of this year’s awareness month. Pleases support our fund-raising walk which will take place on Sunday 26th September after the 10.30 Mass. All are welcome to join us and make a donation. If you are unable to walk with us please put a donation in an envelope marked SVP WALK and place it in any of the collection baskets. We suggest a contribution of £5 per walker or family group. We need your support to enable us to carry on our work.

**This Sundays 2nd Collection is for the Catholic Education Service (CSE)** to support Catholic education. The are over 2000 Catholic schools, academies and colleges in England educating over 800,000 pupils. The CSE is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education.

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

**The 107th World Day of Migrants & Refugees,** **26th September.** The Holy Father has chosen the theme **“Towards an ever wider' We'"**in which he outlines the need to welcome all and be open to one another on our common journey. **Also, on the** **22nd September Bishop Paul McAleenan** will be on Dover seafront at the memorial plaque for migrants for a prayer service at 12 noon to pray for all the refugees who lost their lives at sea and who have no one to pray for them, all are welcome.

**Please bear with us** we are currently experiencing problems with our main telephone line (232972) if you need to contact us either email [rainham@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:rainham@rcaos.org.uk) or in the case of an emergency telephone Fr Tom on 07340 183441 until we have rectified the problem.

**Collection** 28th & 29th August main collection amounted to £811.04 including S/O’s

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

Saturday **The Blessed Virgin Mary**

11 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

**18.00** Kathleen Nash

**2nd Collection for the Catholic Education Service**

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Sunday **TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY - Education Day**

12 Sun **10.30** Bill Devine (Mrs Ann Devine & Family)

**18.00** People of the Parish

**2nd Collection for the Catholic Education Service**

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13 Mon  **St John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**10.00** Eucharistic Service

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14 Tue **The Exaltation of The Holy Cross**

**10.00** Eucharistic Service

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15 Wed **Our Lady of Sorrows**

**10.00** Eucharistic Service

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16 Thur  **Ss Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**

**10.00** Eucharistic Service

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17 Fri  **St Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

**10.00** Eucharistic Service

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Next Saturday **St Edith of Kemsing**

18 Sat **Confessions 17.15 - 17.45**

**18.00** Siobhan Donnelly (M Fleming)

**2nd Collection for The Support of Home Mission**

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Next Sunday **TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY - Home Mission Day**

19 Sun **10.30** Jim Walsh RIP (Champ Family)

**18.00** People of the Parish

**2nd Collection for The Support of Home Mission**

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