St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Simon Peter (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) 335757 Head Teacher Mrs Dympna Lennon**

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

Dear all, thank you for your cooperation and patience at this time, affording us the opportunity of attending Church to celebrate Mass again as a Parish, within a safe and controlled environment for everyone. Please bear with us and we can only reiterate you read and adhere to the guidelines below:

In line with Government guideline we are required to **Track & Trace** everyone attending Mass.

* On arrival you will be required provide your name and contact details before you can enter. The information is placed in a sealed envelope in the safe for 21 days then destroyed. To assist in meeting this requirement and help speed up the process of seating people for mass it would be helpful if people could bring this information with them on a slip of paper. Anyone not providing this information will not be permitted to enter Church.
* On entering Church you are required to sanitize your hands in the porch and wait to be seated by a Steward. Please be patient, there may be some queuing on entry, maintain social distancing, we will attempt to seat you as quickly as possible
1. Remember currently there is no Sunday obligation to attend Mass, however if you attend Mass during the week this fulfils your Sunday obligation.
2. To comply with guidelines and social distancing measures the church can only seat around 50 people, slightly more for people who live in the same household, meaning once this number is reached **WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO LET ANYONE ELSE IN**. To ensure everyone can celebrate Mass it would help immensely if parishioners, who are able to attend Mass during the week do so freeing up capacity at weekends.
3. Only one Reader is required to read the 1st Reading, Psalm and 2nd Reading.
4. Only Fr Simon Peter and a Deacon will be on the Sanctuary, apart from the Reader
5. Communion will be at the very end of the Mass.
* The Priest will receive Holy Communion and immediately cleanses the paten and Chalice; then hold a reverent silence before the Prayer after Communion, Blessing and dismissal. At this point, if required Ministers of the Eucharist will come forward to assist the priest, cleansing their hands and receiving Holy Communion under one kind. Ministers then move to points for distribution.
1. Communicants directed by stewards will be guided from pews to receive Holy Communion ensuring people take their belongings, as they leave church immediately after communion
2. Facing altar, people sitting on the left had side of church will exit via the front door, after receiving Holy Communion, those sitting on the right hand side will exit by the rear door.
3. There will be no normal collection, however baskets at exits for those wishing to donate.
4. We are being encouraged by the Diocese to pay our offerings by Bankers Order or BACS, and if you wish to do so forms will be available at all masses.  If you have any queries please contact Chis Illes, Parish Finance Chairman on chrisiles311@gmail.com or by phone on 01634 373840.

**Further Guidance for Mass -** To ensure that we maintain social distancing when at mass, and to cover all eventualities it has been decided that the kneelers will not be used during mass, so you can either sit or stand when you would normally knee. The kneelers will be taped up so that they are not able to be used.

**GOOD NEWS** **-** Speaking with Fr Tom, the Diocese has finally agreed it is safe for him to return and he is expected to be back in the Parish in the last week of July. Please pray for him and his family and his safe return.

**JULY 2020**

**Saturday St Benedict, Abbot, Patron of Europe**

11 Sat18.00 David Jones *(Susan Jones)*

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**Sunday FIFTEENTH SUNDAY - Sea Sunday**

12 Sun10.30 Paddy Mongan RIP *(Frank & Helen)*

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13 Mon **St Mildred, Abbess**

10.00 John Lewis RIP *(Anne Lewis)*

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14 Tue **St Camillus de Lellis, Priest**

 10.00 Mathew Clarke RIP *(Noel Fernandez)*

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15 Wed **St Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church**

10.00 Peggie Rose *(Morning Mass People)*

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16 Thur **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**

10.00 Anthony O’Sullivan RIP

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17 Fri **Feria**

10.00 Frank Doohan *(Ronnie Riseborough)*

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**Next Saturday Our Lady**

18 Sat18.00 Anne O’Neill *(Gina Maplesden)*

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**Next Sunday SIXTEENTH SUNDAY**

19 Sun10.30 Isabel O’Neil RIP *(Owen O’Neill)*

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