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

**Whilst Fr. Tom** is away, should you require a priest in an emergency, please call Gillingham 01634 852979, Parkwood 01634 377396 or the Dean at Rochester 01634 845430 as Fr Ki, supplying for Fr Tom, is new to the area and does not drive.

**Bishop prays for Archie Battersbee.** Following the High Court decision on Friday, 5 August 2022, ruling that 12-year-old Archie Battersbee cannot be moved to a hospice for withdrawal of treatment, Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues, said: “I assure the parents and family of Archie Battersbee, as well as all those caring for him and all concerned for his good, of my prayers at this painful time. “As his life support will now be withdrawn, every step must recognise his inherent dignity as a person created in the image and likeness of God. The process of compassionate accompaniment of Archie and his parents at this time of saying goodbye is so important." “The recently hard-fought arguments in the courts about Archie’s ongoing treatment and care highlight again the need to find better ways of mediation by which parents and health care professionals can reach common agreements and avoid complex legal proceedings. “Whilst the Catholic Church recognises that there are situations when medical treatment to sustain life is no longer obligatory if there is no hope of recovery, ordinary treatment and care should be provided appropriate to the condition of the patient.”

**Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies.** The CCRS is a knowledge-based, internationally recognised qualification that provides participants with an understanding of the teachings of the Catholic faith.  It enhances the understanding that education within the Church is a life-long process which leads to greater intimacy with Jesus Christ.  This course presents the basic foundational teachings of the Catholic Church in a manner that is captivating, inspiring, and applicable.  The CCRS is designed and intended to support the Archbishop’s vision of missionary parishes and schools by cultivating an evangelistic spirit.  Participants will be equipped to make an informed and practical contributions to their chosen field of ministry within the Church. Please visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs>

for further information.  Modules begin 13 September

**Thank you for your support -** CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, helps some of the poorest and most marginalised people across the world. We can reach so many people because we are a member of *Caritas Internationalis*, the Catholic Church network with a presence in 165 countries. Our local experts work with people over the long-term, helping them to have the right skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity and support their families.

**A recent BBC** poll found that 15% of British women had experienced pressure or coercion to have an abortion that they did not want. This abuse must be stopped. Please sign SPUC’s petition calling on the Health Secretary to urgently commission research into the area of abortion coercion, and in so doing recognise coerced abortion as a priority for health and social policy moving forward, by going to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/coercion>

**Noticeboard -** dates for your diary 2022, full details on our website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

**March for Life** - 3rd September visit <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/> for full details.

**The Relics of St Bernadette** **Tour** The Friars, Aylesford, from 24th to 28th October 2022.

**Collections** –**6th & 7th August** amounted to: Main Collection £529.13 not including S/O’s

**2nd Collections** for Comboni Mission amount to £974.86. Thank you for your generosity.

**August 2022**

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| 13 Saturday  Vigil Mass | **18.00** | **Ss Pontian, Pope and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs**  Confessions 5.15 - 5.45pm  Private Intention of Friends & Family of Elain Cottiss |
| 14 Sunday | **10.30**  **18.00** | **THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**  Mary Downing RIP (Rosemary Walsh)  People or the Parish |
| 15 Monday | **10.00** | **Feria**  Michael Harwar RIP (T Durham) |
| 16 Tuesday | **10.00** | **St Stephen of Hungary**  Shackleford Family: Frank, Ann & Colin (M Fleming) |
| 17 Wednesday | **10.00** | **Feria**  Fred Melder RIP (Morgan Family) |
| 18 Thursday | **10.00** | **Feria**  George Showkum RIP (V Showkum) |
| 19 Friday | **10.00** | **St John Eudes, Priest**  Robert O’Dowd (Olwen O’Dowd) |
| 20 Saturday  Vigil Mass | **18.00** | **St Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church**  Pat White RIP (C&M Mickleburgh) |
| 21 Sunday | **10.30**  **18.00** | **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY**  Stephen Link RIP  People of the Parish |

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