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**

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**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*

**Pope’s Prayer intention for May:** ‘For faith-filled young people’ Pope Francis urges everyone to pray for young Catholics to be courageous in their response to God’s call.

*“Let us pray, brothers and sisters, that all young people, called to live life to the fullest, may discover in Mary’s life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage of faith, and dedication to service. Amen”*

**Funerals:** Rosaleen Byrne funeral Mass will take place at Our Lady of Gillingham on Friday 27th May at 8.45am followed by burial at Woodlands Cemetery at 10.30am.

Please remember her family and friends in your prayers, may she rest in peace, Amen.

**Concert for Ukraine -** Medway Singers and St Simon Stock Choir invite you to a concert at St Simon Stock Church, Walderslade, Sunday 22nd May at 6pm. Admission is free but there will be a collection during the performance. Please see poster at rear of Church.

**Next Sunday, The Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians** will take place on Sixth Sunday of Easter, with the participation of Christians from all over Europe, the Middle East, the Horn of Africa and India. Western Christians are invited to recite the following bidding prayer for Eastern Christians: Let us pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East. May the Christians in these lands be strengthened in their faith so that they may continue courageously to give witness to Jesus Christ.

*“Heavenly Father, we pray today for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East.*

*By your heavenly grace, strengthen the faith and hope of Eastern Christians.*

*May they be blessed with peace and prosperity in their lands.*

*And may we be inspired by their devotion and witness to the Gospel, by their love and compassion for all in their communities, and by their courage, endurance and self-sacrifice against oppression.*

*Through their charity, tolerance and friendship, bring peace and reconciliation to those troubled lands, where Christianity was born and first spread.*

*Through Christ our Lord. Amen”*

**Bereavement Support Group Meeting -** Tuesday 17th May at 10.30am in the Parish Centre after 10am Mass.

**Free Food Support** - anyone in need of support please visit [Fee Food Support in Medway](https://rcaosouthwark-my.sharepoint.com/personal/rainham_rcaos_org_uk/Documents/New%20documents%202021/Parish%20Secretary/Newsletter/Newsletter%202022/May/Free%20Food%20Support%20in%20Medway.pdf) and [Free Food Support for Families with Children under 5](https://rcaosouthwark-my.sharepoint.com/personal/rainham_rcaos_org_uk/Documents/New%20documents%202021/Parish%20Secretary/Newsletter/Newsletter%202022/May/Free%20Food%20Support%20for%20Families%20with%20under%205's.pdf) or see noticeboard.

**Vacancies**, Parish Secretary St Osmund’s, Barnes, Secretary to Episcopal Vicar for South East London and Commissions for Racial Equality & Education; Diocesan Central Services Administrator. Full details available on the Diocesan website: [Vacancies: Archdiocese of Southwark (rcsouthwark.co.uk)](https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/get-involved/vacancies/)

**Noticeboard -** dates for your diary 2022, full details on our website

**Mass for New Catholics’** - St George’s Cathedral: Saturday, 21 May 2022 at **11.00am**

**Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage,** July 9th, St George’s Cathedral.

**Summertime 22 Altar Servers (11-17yrs) Summer Break,** 2nd – 5th August, Reading.

**May 2022**

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| 14 Saturday  Vigil Mass | **20.30** | **St Matthias, Apostle**  **Confessions 5.15 – 5.45pm**  Patricia White RIP (Friends at St Thomas’) |
| 15 Sunday | **10.30**  **18.00** | **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  Bernard & Luckie  People of the Parish |
| 16 Monday | **10.00** | **St Simon Stock, Priest**  Eucharistic Service |
| 17 Tuesday | **10.00** | **Feria**  **Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse**  Pat White RIP (M Shackleford) |
| 18 Wednesday | **10.00** | **St John I, Pope & Martyr**  John Lewis RIP (A Lewis) |
| 19 Thursday | **10.00** | **St Dunstan, Bishop**  Deacon Keith & Fr Doug Morris (J Boxall) |
| 20 Friday | **10.00** | **St Barnardine of Sienna, Priest**  For the Sick & Suffering (P White) |
| 21 Saturday  Vigil Mass | **18.00** | **St Christopher of Magallanes, Priest**  **Confessions 5.15 – 5.45pm**  Tommy Busher (Ann Williams) |
| 22 Sunday | **10.30**  **18.00** | **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**  **The Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians**  Ann & Robert Hodgson RIP (Colette Aylen)  People of the Parish |

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