St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972)

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**Tel: (01634) 234677 Head Teacher Mrs Clare Redmond**

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**Tel: (01634)** **543123 Head Teacher Mrs Dympna Lennon**

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

**Pope Francis** prayer intention for January 2021 focuses on human fraternity. The Holy Father calls for people of different religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to return to the essential: love of neighbor.

**Recently Deceased: Mr John McGee, Mr Patrick Hamilton, Elsie and Philomena Mary Belsey.**  Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen.

****Peace Sunday****- Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the celebration of the 54th World Day of Peace ‘The culture of care as a path to peace’, the theme is dedicated to caring for others and for creation. The full text can be found on our website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)

Following the latest Government announcement we are still able to celebrate Mass however we cannot emphasis enough that parishioners observe the following when attending Church:

respect social distancing and do not attend or socialise with anyone outside of your household or bubble while in church, wear a face covering, this is now law unless you are exempt, use the hand sanitiser and check in using one of our Track & Trace methods. Thank you for your patience and co-operation. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the stewards, cleaners, Deacons and Mike Long for their generosity of service that enables us to celebrate Mass in our church safely as a parish during these challenging times.

**Polite Reminder** **-** Please do not be offended, however it seems some people are not adhering to the regulations requiring the mandatory wearing of face mask when attending Mass, which is now Law. People who are exempt due to health or disability reasons are asked to show an exemption card, children under 11 are not legally required to wear a mask. Please ensure that you bring a suitable face covering to mass, or request a mask at the door if you have forgotten to bring one.

**Further information** and exemption certificates can be printed off from the following link:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>

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

**The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity -** the church observes eight days prayer for Christian Unity from 18th until 25th January 2021.  *“Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”*

**Covid 19** - a very challenging time for many marriages with so much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time brings even more challenges. You just can’t cope, would you be better apart you wonder. Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, for confidential information about Retrouvaille’, or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing on 25th- 28th February 2021 Call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

**JANUARY 2021**

**Saturday The Blessed Virgin Mary**

16 Sat **18.00** Gordon Flynn RIP (Pat & Jean)

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**Sunday SECOND SUNDAY - Peace Day**

17 Sun **10.30** People of the Parish

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18 Mon  **Feria**

 **10.00** Peter Arujah RIP (Noel Fernandez)

 **11.00 Funeral Mass of Mr Paul Tapley**

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19 Tue  **St Wulstan, Bishop**

10.00 Teresa Clarke RIP (Noel Fernandez)

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20 Wed  **St Fabian, Pope and Martyr**

 **10.00** Eucharistic Service

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21 Thur **St Agnes, Virgin and Martyr**

 **10.00** Paul Tapley RIP

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22 Fri **St Vincent, Deacon and Martyr**

 **10.00** Florence Classey (T Durham)

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**Next Saturday The Blessed Virgin Mary**

23 Sat **18.00** Pat Williams RIP (J&R O’Neill)

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**Next Sunday THIRD SUNDAY - Sunday of the Word of God**

24 Sun **10.30** People of the Parish

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