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) 335757 Head Teacher Mrs Dympna Lennon**

**Parish Secretary**: Emma’s office hours this week 9 - 12pm Mon & Friday

Emma will be away from the office from 30th December to 3rd January

**Thank you** to the choir and musicians, flower arrangers, welcomer’s, readers, Eucharistic Ministers and all who helped prepare the Church and Liturgy for our Christmas celebrations.

**Also many thanks** to everyone involved in the **International Carol Concert** last weekend, readers, singers, head cooks and bottle washers, it truly was a wonderful afternoon.

**Poinsettia -** if you would like to place a poinsettia around the altar at Christmas in memory of a loved one, please bring it to the church by Monday 23rd December.

**Let us pray** with Pope Francis that every country decides to take necessary measures to make the future of children a priority, especially the future of children who are suffering today.

**Funerals: Mr Paul Vella,** reception into Church Sunday 22nd December at 4.30pm, Funeral at St Thomas’ Monday 23rd December at 12 noon followed by committal at the Garden of England Crematorium at 1pm. **Recently Deceased: Marie Casey** Please remember their family and friends in your prayers. May they rest in peace, Amen**.**

**Children’s Liturgy** - Christmas Eve 6pm mass, with carols from 5.30pm. Children are invited to dress as nativity characters.  There will be no children’s liturgy on Sunday 29th December. We will resume in the New Year on Sunday 5th January.

**Altar Servers** - Please remember St Stephen’s Day, Thursday 26th December, your Patron Saint. During morning Mass you are asked to renew your promises. Thank you for all your help throughout the year.

**St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School -** Timetable for applications of nursery and primary admissions on noticeboard at rear of Church.

**Eucharist Ministers Meeting Saturday 11th January 2020 at 10.30am** after morning Mass in the Parish Centre to discuss the New Code of Practice for Eucharist Ministers; a general round up of the Ministry, plus any other business. I look forward to seeing you there, Deacon Arthur

**New Year’s Day Dawn Mass** at 7.45am followed by breakfast in the Parish Centre

**Used stamps -** please place used stamps in the box at the rear of the church.

**Collections –** 14th & 15th December main collection amounted to: £1052.35 incl. S/O’s

2nd Collections for Christmas Altar Flowers £154.02

**Medway Foodbank** **Parish Collection** Thank you for your support and generosity.

**PARISH PROGRAMME FOR CHRISTMAS 2019**

**Saturday Feria**

**21 Sat** 10.00 People of the Parish

**Confessions 10.30 – 11.00 &** **17.30 – 17.45**

**Vigil Mass** 18.00 Pat White (Jean Doherty)

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**22 Sun FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Expectant Mothers**

10.30 Audrey Fernandez (N Fernandez)

18.00 Mary & Tony Mooney (J&R O’Neill)

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23 Mon **- Feria** 10.00 Mountain Family RIP (Ann Brown)

12.00 Funeral Mass for Paul Vella

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24 Tue  **Christmas Eve**

10.00 Margaret Hill’s Intention

17.30 Children’s Nativity Liturgy

**Vigil Mass** 18.00 **Family Mass** **– Vigil of the Nativity**

Rozalia & Dominik Chowanice RIP (Jarek & all Powaga Family)

23.30 Carol Service

12.00 **Midnight Mass** - People of the Parish

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**25 Wed THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

10.30 Christmas Day Mass – Peter McAlinden RIP (J&A Pearce)

**No Evening Mass**

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26 Thur **St Stephen, the first Martyr**

10.00 John Liney RIP (Liney Family)

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27 Fri **St John, Apostle and Evangelist**

10.00 Val Parks RIP (Alan & Josie Boxall)

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**Next Saturday The Holy Innocents**

28 Sat10.00 Shackleton & Vaughan (M Shackleton)

**Confessions 10.30 – 11.00 &** **17.30 – 17.45**

**Vigil Mass** 18.00 Div Colgan (M&S O’Hare)

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**Next Sunday THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH**

29 Sun10.30 John Lewis RIP (Anne Lewis)

18.00 People of the Parish

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**May I wish you and your family a blessed and joyful Christmas, Fr Tom**