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, I hope that you are keeping well in these troubled times. Further to the Catholic Bishops Conference and in line with Government advice concerning social gatherings the following action is being taken by the Catholic Church in England and Wales:-

1. **As of today 20th March 2020, there will be no public celebration of Mass in this Church until further notice.** Father Simon Peter will celebrate the mass in private. Please let as many people as you know who attend mass that this is the current situation. The obligation to attend Mass is suspended due to the extraordinary circumstances that we are in. The Bishops have suggested that on Sunday’s you read the readings of the day and be in spiritual communion with the Church or you can live stream, if you have a computer, one of the many Catholic Masses that are celebrated on line.
   1. There will be no gathering within the Church so the saying of Morning Prayer/Rosary etc are suspended in a group setting.
2. The Church will be closed until **Wednesday 25th March** after which the Church will be opened at specified time /times, yet to be agreed, during the day for the opportunity to pray in front of the Blessed Sacrament, but not in a formal gathering situation, and social distancing is too observed.
3. The Church's phone message has been changed to indicate that Masses are cancelled and a notice put on the Parish website.

Please again reach out to all you know who go to Mass to tell them the current situation and save them a journey to Church this Saturday and Sunday  and the foreseeable future, until the suspension is lifted..

As you all can appreciate these are very difficult times, but we take this action as a responsible Church, it’s for us to remain constant in prayer to Our Heavenly Father through his Only Son and the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen us through these trouble times.

We are all challenged to trust in the Lord.

God bless you all and your families and keep safe.

Deacon Arthur.

**SVP and Coronavirus.**   In the next few weeks, if anyone is in the situation where they are confined to their homes and are having difficulty with the delivery of essential supplies, the SVP would be able to help.  Contact John on 07743383577 if you need our help.

**World Day of Prayer** - all who attended please pray about the commitments you made individually in light of yesterday’s announcements that we should stop any unnecessary socialising.

**Collections** 14th & 15th March main collection amounted to: £803.10 incl. S/O’s

The following **Mass Intentions** will still be offered by Fr Simon during the Mass he will be celebrating daily in private.

**March 2020 Intentions**

**21 Saturday Feria**

Benefactors & Beneficiaries of SVP (SVP Members Rainham)

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**22 Sunday FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

People of the Parish

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23 Mon **Feria**

Hannah Chapple RIP (Back Family)

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24 Tue **Feria**

Joh Ellery (Owen O’Neill)

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25 Wed **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

Deceased Members of the Vaughan Family (M Shackleford)

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26 Thur **Feria**

Friends & Family (Yonne & Chris Illes)

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27 Fri **Feria**

Archbishop Emeritus Michael Bowen

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**28th Saturday Feria**

Lenny Pope RIP (J&Y Durkan)

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**29th Sunday FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

People of the Parish

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**Please check the parish website for regular up-dates** [**www.rcrainham.co.uk**](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk)