St. Thomas of Canterbury RC Church Newsletter

PARISH CLERGY Fr Tom McElhone (T: 232972) Deacon James Coleman (T: 306558)

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**St. Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Primary School, Romany Road, Gillingham ME8 6JH**

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

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

**Funerals:** **Hanna Flynn** Funeral Mass at St Thomas’ on Thursday 13th December at 10.00am.

**Robert Hodgson** Funeral Service at St Thomas’ Friday 14th December at 10.45am, followed by burial at Woodlands Cemetery at 11.30am.

**Recently Deceased: Alex Davis**. Please remember their family and friends in your prayers. May they rest in peace, Amen**.**

**In December, we pray with Pope Francis:** “That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time”.

**Season of Advent -** Cycle of Prayer (C) - Intentions:

Migrants and Refugees (*especially on Migrants’ Day 3rd December*)

Expectant Mothers (*especially on Fourth Sunday of Advent*)

**Ahotokurom -**Our annual collection for Ahotokurom will take place on the 8th and 9th December. Please give generously to support this important project. Thank you.

**Newman Circle Meeting** **-** 9th December at 53 Cherry Tree Road at 7.30 pm.  Any queries contact Marie Casey on 389095.

**Letters from Pope Francis and Archbishop Peter.** Both letters deal with the scandal of sexual abuse of young people by clergy in the Catholic Church. Copies at rear of Church.

**One Big Family -**Thank you to everyone who supported or sponsored our Youth club members in their survival day. A total of £383.50p was raised which will provide beds for at least 38 people in night shelters run by One Big Family over the winter. Thank you J

**Advent Reflections -**Last week we reflected on the Annunciation and Visitation through scripture and art. This week we will reflect on the next two Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the Nativity and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple. Please join us on Monday evenings at 7pm in the church. The diocese has also produced a series of short daily emails, to sign up please visit [www.southwarkdsc.org.uk](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk)

**International Carol Service 16th December:** We thought it would be nice to include a celebration of our culinary diversity under the heading **"Soups of the World"**. Group organisers and anyone else who wishes to help, please call Anne Trabucchi 01634 317125.

**Baptism -** Dates for the next 2 meetings for parents who wish to have their children baptised: Saturday **12th & 19th January**. The meetings will be in the church at 11.30 am.

**Donate old Scrabble sets -** pleasecontact Sarah: 07947 762267 or leave at rear of Church.

**Choir practice for Christmas Eve Mass -**Tuesday at 6.30pm in Parish Centre, all welcome.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**International Carol Service -** St Thomas’ ChurchonSunday 16th December at 12.30pm.

**Parish Lunch** **-** Sunday 30th December in the Parish Centre at 12.30pm

**Collections –** 1st & 2nd December main collection amounted to £1044.47 incl. S/O’s.

**December 2018**

**Saturday - THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

8 Sat10.00 Joseph Brooks (Marleen Brooks)

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

18.00 Ken Almond & Carrie Klimek RIP (Fox Family)

 **2nd Collection for Friends of Ahotokurom**

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**Sunday SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Bible Sunday**

9 Sun10.30 Denis Moley RIP (Deb Moley)

 **15.00 Reconciliation Service**

 18.00 People of the Parish

 **2nd Collection for Friends of Ahotokurom**

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10 Mon **- Feria** 10.00 Mairead Humphey (A&J Boxall)

 19.00 Advent Reflections

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11 Tue **- St Damasus 1** 10.00 Vincent Martin (Noel Fernandez)

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12 Wed **- Our Lady of Guadalupe**

10.00 Eucharistic Service

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13 Thur **- St Lucy** 10.00 Funeral Mass for Hanna Flynn

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14 Fri **- St John of the Cross**

10.00 William Musgrove RIP (Mrs M Arnold)

 10.45 Funeral Service for Robert Hodgson

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**Next Saturday Our Lady**

15 Sat10.00 People of Parish

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

18.00 Bridie Curran RIP (CM Mickleburgh)

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**Next Sunday THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

16 Sun10.30 Joan & James Hargabon (B Mudd)

 **12.30 International Carol Service**

 18.00 Carmalita & Erk Thorne RIP (E&D Mills)

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