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**

**Tel: (01634) 234677 Head Teacher Mrs Vicki Gallagher**

**St. John Fisher Catholic Secondary School, City Way, Rochester ME1 2FA**

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

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

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

**Pope’s May Prayer Intention: For the formation of men and women religious and seminarians**. That they may “grow in their vocational journeys through human, pastoral, spiritual, and community formation.”

**Recently Deceased: Shelia Guscott† and Edward Lancashire†** Please remember their family and friends in your prayers, may they rest in peace, Amen

**The Micallef family** wish to sincerely thank Father Tom and the people of the parish for their kind words, prayers, Mass cards and charity donations following Lawrence's death. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

**St George’s Cathedral** **2nd Collection**. For over half a century, St George’s has been the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark, home to 175 parishes and over 50,000 Roman Catholics. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George’s has been a beacon of light attracting thousands of worshippers and visitors each year. The Cathedral frequently hosts important Diocesan and national celebrations, as well as concerts and events for various Catholic charities. There is a rich musical tradition, maintaining a choir of boys and men, as well as a girls’ choir, both of which sing at Sunday Masses and on major feasts. In many respects, St George’s Cathedral serves as a spiritual home and ‘beehive’ for Catholic evangelisation and mission across the Archdiocese of Southwark. St George’s Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor has an endowment to rely on. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship.

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· Donate Online: <http://www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral>

· Or Scan QR Code using telephone camera (left)

· Telephone weekdays 9 am - 5 pm: 020 7960 2504

· Cash/Cheque - please use the envelopes at rear of church.

**Next weekend** the children of our parish will receive their first Holy Communion. Please remember to pray for the children and their families.

**With a General Election due**, we as Catholics, have a responsibility to make sure that politicians/parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between **CAFOD** and **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**, equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see **cafod.org.uk/encounter**for more information.

**Annual Mass** for Migrant Workers in honour of St Joseph the Worker on Monday 6th May, St George’s Cathedral at 12.30pm. All are invited, please come early.

**Special event with Bishop Paul Hendricks -** Friday 10th May hosted by the Catholic Men's Group 7-10pm at St Michael's parish, Chatham. No cost to attend. Please bring a bottle or Indian dish to share at dinner. Email: medwaycatholicmen[at]outlook.com

**Please** see our noticeboard and website [www.rcrainham.co.uk](http://www.rcrainham.co.uk) for up-coming events.

**Southwark Altar Servers Rally 2024** - Monday 6th May at The Friars, Aylesford Priory.

**The Friars Summer Fayre**, Sunday 23rd June, 11am to 4.30pm with Mass at 5pm

**Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage,** 23rd to 30th August 24 - apply now.

**Collections:** 20th & 21st April main collection in Church: £790.65 not including S/O’s.

Priest Training Fund: £333.20. Thank you for your kind generosity.

**APRIL & MAY 2024**

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| 27 SaturdayVigil Mass**2nd Collection**28 Sunday**2nd Collection** | **18.00****10.30****18.00** | **Feria**Jim Pearce† (Ann Pearce)**Maintenance of Saint George’s Cathedral Feria****FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Stephen Shaw† Rita & Jim Wolfe (Eileen & Denise Mills)**Maintenance of Saint George’s Cathedral**  |
| 29 Monday | **10.00** | **St Catherine of Siena, Virgin -** Anne Brown (TG) |
| 30 Tuesday | **10.00** | **St Pius V, Pope -** Mathew Clarke† (Noel Fernandez) |
| 1 Wednesday | **10.00** | **St Joseph the Worker -** Eucharistic Service**Day of prayer for God’s blessing on human work** |
| 2 Thursday | **10.00** | **St Athanasius, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**Majella Shackleford - People of the Parish |
| 3 Friday | **10.00** | **Ss Philip & James, Apostles** Ameer Intention (Irene & Tony Russell) |
| 4 SaturdayVigil Mass | **18.00** | **The English Martyrs, Feast**Derek Butcher†  |
| 5 Sunday | **10.30****18.00** | **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER** Mary & Kevin Bishop People of the Parish |