

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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Deal

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<https://stthomasdeal.org/>

7th May 2023 – 5th Sunday of Easter

Sat 6	St John Paine, Priest & Martyr
6.30pm	HM The King & HM The Queen
Sun 7	5th Sunday of Easter
9am	People of the Parish
11am	Margaret Lynch RIP
Mon 8	Feria of Easter
	No Mass today
Tues 9	Feria of Easter
12 noon	Jonathan Richard Victor Moore RIP
Wed 10	Feria of Easter
12 noon	Catherine Dobbyn RIP
Thurs 11	Feria of Easter
	No Mass today
Fri 12	Funeral Mass
11.30am	Kathleen Ashton RIP
Sat 13	Our Lady of Fatima
6.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 14	6th Sunday of Easter
9am	Megan Rembridge RIP
11am	Johanna Higgins RIP

THE WORD OF GOD: 5th Sunday of Easter (A) p 310

1st Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm 32: May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

2nd Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Jesus said: I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 14:1-12

Pope Francis' Prayer Intentions for May 2023: For Church movements and groups: We pray that each day Church movements and groups may rediscover their mission of evangelisation, placing their own charisms at the service of the world's needs.

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers Peggy Evans, Kate Stephen and Bill Thomson.

MARY, the Mother of God and Mother of the Church. May and October are months with a distinctive Marian focus. In May we celebrate various feasts of the Blessed Virgin Mary, culminating in the Visitation on 31 May. October is the month of the Holy Rosary (7 October). On Sundays we pray the Hail Mary as part of the Intercessions after the Creed. Mary, in a truly unique way because she is the Mother of God, is indispensable in our Catholic faith to enable us to grow closer to Jesus, the Risen Lord, who invites us to share in His Resurrection Life on earth and, ultimately, in heaven.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Kath Ashton who died on Maundy Thursday 6 April. Kath's Funeral Mass is here on Friday 12 May at 11.30am and the committal is at Barham Crematorium at 1.20pm. Pray, too, for **David Morris** whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here last week. Please also keep their loved ones in your prayers.

We welcome to the parish: Fr John Panario, Dean of the Dover deanery, and parish priest of Buckland, with us for the 6.30pm Mass on Saturday 6 May, and Fr Peter Geldard, for many years Chaplain at the University of Kent and now retired, here for the Sunday morning Masses on 7 May. **fr Brian is away 4-8 May 2023**, officiating at a wedding in France.

Services of the Word & Holy Communion have become popular in many places where a priest is not available to celebrate Mass with the People of God. The focus is on the Word of God and an attentive listening to the God Who Speaks in Scripture, especially when it is proclaimed in Church. There is also the opportunity to receive Holy Communion. Yet, we have to be attentive: these Services are not 'quick' Masses and they can never replace the parish community sharing in the celebration of the Sacrifice of the Mass. There is also something very positive: the importance of Scripture in our lives and how Christ is truly present to us in the Proclamation of the Word of God. [See below for an Invitation from the Southwark Vocations team.](#) [We need to pray for all Vocations.](#)

Refreshments after the 9 & 11 am Sunday Masses are served in the Becket Centre. Please do join us for a cup of coffee.

Mass Intentions Please write down on an envelope the intention (for example, someone who has died) date & time preferred, contact name and number, and include any offering (Mass stipend) you wish to give. **If you know the dates of Masses you wish to request (even a few months in advance), please do not delay.**

The new Parish Website is now 'live': go to <https://stthomasdeal.org/> We are in the early stages of development and will add to it in the future. Grateful thanks to all for your help.

Diocesan & National News

DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE: the Bishops of England and Wales have chosen Tuesday of the 5th Week of Easter as the Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse – this year it is Tuesday 9 May 2023. In the Easter season – a season of hope and new life – we pray for those who have been abused. The Isaiah Journey has prepared a range of resources for prayer, action and reflection for use throughout the year which are launched on the day of prayer. The Isaiah Journey (formerly 'Let's Be Honest') is a working group of the Bishops' Conference which has grown out of the need for a pastoral – spiritual response to the suffering of victims and survivors of abuse in the Church. More information can be found on the Bishops' website: www.cbcew.org.uk

AN INVITATION FROM SOUTHWARK VOCATIONS Have you ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minutes webinar on **Tuesday 9th May at 7pm** entitled *The Good Shepherd Calls* where different presenters will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join us by registering for this event in advance: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUpdOuprDMtH9wKUQ77ddSSjLBucMtsONT>

Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, 18th-25th August. Message from Bishop Paul. *After the restrictions of the past few years, I'm delighted that we are now once more able to include support for pilgrims who need assistance for medical or mobility reasons. In Lourdes, those who are often marginalised are placed at the centre, and we who travel with them are blessed by their presence. I warmly invite you to join us. For details, please see <https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/southwark-ca>*

Other

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? **Retrouvaille** is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and enables your marriage to grow. Many, many couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to

register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

A Message from CAFOD: Shukla is a mum in Bangladesh who has been very worried about her children's nutrition. After joining a community project in Bangladesh, which is supported by CAFOD, Shukla has a productive garden and can grow food for her son. Shukla says, "worry has completely disappeared now." People support us in so many ways – giving in church, giving to us by direct debit, or leaving us a gift in their will. This generosity and compassion reaches hard-working mothers like Shukla. Thank you. To read Shukla's story, go to cafod.org.uk/GiftInWill The Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD) is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International.

Mary's Meals works in 18 countries to provide nutritious meals for children so that they can attend school, enjoy their childhood and give comfort in the midst of the hardships of life – from natural disasters, conflict or deep poverty. It costs just £19.95 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a school year. Please visit marysmeals.org.uk or there is a QR code in the church porch to enable you to donate.

A Prayer for Peace & Justice

O God of peace, who are peace itself, and whom a spirit of discord cannot grasp, nor a violent mind receive, grant that those who are one in heart may persevere in what is good and that those in conflict may forget evil and so be healed. Amen.

Prayer for The King & The Queen

*O God, to whom every human power is subject, grant to your servant our sovereign Charles success in the exercise of his high office, so that, always revering you and striving to please you, he may constantly secure and preserve for the people entrusted to his care the freedom that comes from civil peace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen. (**Prayer cards are in the porch.**)*

MAY & OUR BLESSED LADY

A Marian Prayer – the REGINA CAELI (prayed during Eastertime in place of the Angelus): QUEEN OF HEAVEN, REJOICE, ALLELUIA. THE SON WHOM YOU MERITED TO BEAR, ALLELUIA. HAS RISEN AS HE SAID, ALLELUIA. PRAY FOR US TO GOD, ALLELUIA. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Many blessings for the coming week, fr Brian

WORLD PARKINSON'S DAY was Tuesday 11 April. We have in our parish a group of people affected by the illness who enjoy time together through various activities. If you would like to know more, please see www.parkinsonsgof.org or contact Peter Roger: peterroger@btinternet.com This is part of the growing outreach ministry of our parish.