

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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1 October 2023 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sat 30	St Jerome
5.45-6.15pm	Confessions
6.30pm	Intentions of Mary Collins
Sun 1 Oct	26th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
	Rosary Sunday
(St Teresa of the Child Jesus-2 nd national Mass count)	
9am	People of the Parish
11am	Francis Higgins RIP
Mon 2	The Holy Guardian Angels
12 noon	Good health of Daniel Farrelly
Tues 3	Feria
9.30am	Private intention
	(Bishop Howard Tripp – 1 st anniversary)
11am	Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel
Wed 4	St Francis of Assisi
12noon	For the care of God's creation
Thurs 5	St Faustina Kowalska
12noon	For all carers
Fri 6	St Bruno – Harvest Fast Day
12noon	Intentions of Mrs Tran
6-6.30pm	October devotions – see below
Sat 7	Our Lady of the Rosary
5.45-6.15pm	Confessions
6.30pm	Max Bartels RIP
Sun 8	27th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
	Day of Prayer for Prisoners & their Families
9am	People of the Parish
11am	Hazel Lucas RIP

THE WORD OF GOD: 26th Sunday (A), p659

1st Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Resp Psalm 24: Remember your mercy, Lord.

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 21:28-32

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for October: For the Synod We pray that listening and dialogue will permeate every level of the Church, and that she will let herself be guided by the Holy Spirit towards the peripheries of the world.

CONFESSIONS (Sacrament of Reconciliation):
Saturdays 5.45-6.15pm, also usually after Sunday & Weekday Masses.

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound and all who have requested our prayers, especially Paul Dale & Deacon Andrew Bishop. Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis.

Please continue to pray for **Danielle Middleton** whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here last Monday, and for Nick, her husband, and all the family.

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

Mass Intention envelopes are at the back of the church: Please write down 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.**

Parish Synod Meetings: 24 or 28 October 2023

In October 2021 Pope Francis launched a 'synodal pathway', a three-year process throughout the entire Church. 'Synodal' means 'journeying together'. Many parishes and communities have already begun to listen to one another and to reflect on their faith and experience of the Church. They have also shared with their bishops in preparation for the meeting of bishops (and other representatives from across the Church) in Rome this October. The bishops and other representatives gathering in Rome will consider the fruits of the process so far. They will meet again in October 2024.

Pope Francis wants the whole Church – especially in local parishes – to take part in the Synod. He is asking us to unite in prayer and also to come together to listen and discern what the Holy Spirit is saying to us today. We have two initial chances to meet, coinciding with the gathering in Rome. We hope these will develop into more opportunities when we can consider how we support one another on our 'journeying together' – in our own lives, our shared parish life, and our life as Christians in the world.

Please try to come to one of our meetings: Tuesday 24 October, 7pm for 7.30pm (9pm finish) OR Saturday 28 October 9.30am for 10am (11.30am finish)

CONSULTATION ON SATURDAY EVENING MASS

TIME: is 6.30pm too late, especially during the winter months? Would 5 or 5.30pm be better, thinking also of younger families and all involved in sports on Sundays? Feedback so far indicates 5.30pm. **Please do let me know what you think.**

Parish News

October is the Month of the Rosary What a great prayer the Rosary is – enabling us to contemplate the Life of Christ through the love/lens of Mary, His Mother. **October Devotions – Fridays in October 6.00-6.30pm.** Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, simple Benediction and the Rosary. All welcome – come for as long as you wish. 5 mins before the Blessed Sacrament is 5 mins of great grace.

World Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees A small group gathered last Sunday to bless and lay flowers at the Migrants' Memorial near Dover Eastern Docks. Thank you to Ben Bano and Seeking Sanctuary. *Seeking Sanctuary aims to raise awareness about people displaced from their homes and to channel basic humanitarian assistance from Faith Communities and Community Organisations. Further information from Ben Bano on 07887 651117 or Phil Kerton on 01474 873802. www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com*

Safeguarding The next few months will see us processing DBS checks for all Catechists and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Catechists and Ministers will be contacted directly.

Junior Church (Children's Liturgy) For children in school Year 2 and below at the 9am Sunday Mass. Please encourage families with young children to attend this Mass and join in Junior Church.

Flower Team New members needed! Training and support can be given to first time flower arrangers! Please contact Sue Wainwright (07966 502703).

Deal Area foodbank: Items currently needed are **Squash, UHT milk, ketchup, biscuits, tinned vegetables, custard, curry sauce.** Very many thanks.

Sacred Heart Chapel All welcome to pray the Rosary on Tuesdays at 11am.

Bishop Paul Hendricks will join us for the 11am Mass on Sunday 22 October 2023, during which fr Brian will make his Profession of Faith as Parish Priest.

St Edmund's Catholic School, Dover Open Mornings will this week – 2-6 October 9:00-9:45. St Edmund's is our successful Catholic Senior School: www.st-edmunds.com

Parish Finances Thank you all for your generosity to the parish. Please can I encourage as many of us as possible to give via Standing Order, and, if you pay income tax, to Gift Aid your offering. Forms can be found in the porch. **Your giving is our only source of income.** The parish bank details are: NatWest/ name: RCAS Deal/Acc no 09658378/sort code: 52-30-23.

Diocesan & National News

Harvest Fast Day 6 October 2023 CAFOD Harvest Fast Day envelopes are in the porch and a QR code. If using the envelopes, please post directly to CAFOD.

Prisoners' Sunday 8 October 2023 PACT, the Prison Advice & Care Trust, supports prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and their families to live lives which bear good fruit. For example, in the last year they supported 100,000 prison visits and answered 40,000 calls to the Prisoners' Families Helpline. If you are able to support the work of PACT go to: www.prisonadvice.org.uk or the QR code in the porch. Envelopes available in the porch – please post directly to PACT.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Kevin St Aubyn His Funeral Mass is at Our Lady Immaculate, Whitstable, on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 12noon (Vigil Mass 16 October 7pm).

National Annual Mass Count takes place over the four weekends: 23/24 Sept, **30 Sept/1 Oct**, 7/8 & 14/15 Oct.

The Season of Creation 1 September – 4 October

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, celebrated on 1 September, began the *Season of Creation*, a time of sustained prayer and action which lasts a month and four days. During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor. **Mass on Wednesday 4 October, Memorial of St Francis of Assisi, is for the Care of God's Creation.**

Other

UKRAINE For more information please visit: www.acnuk.org/ukrainecrisis **MOROCCO and LIBYA** More information on giving can be found on the website of the Disasters Emergency Committee: www.dec.org.uk

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.

... John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe him. The Synod starting in Rome this week (see above) encourages us to take Jesus' words to heart and go deeper in our lives of faith – 'journeying together' **Please make a note of our Parish Synod Meetings.** A blessed week, fr Brian

