

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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15 October 2023 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sat 14 St Callistus

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm Michael Tighe RIP

Sun 15 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Final national Mass count

9am People of the Parish – **PEACE** among peoples
and nations

11am Maureen Coyle RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome.

Mon 16 St Hedwig, Religious

12noon Ints of Jennie & Sebastian Wood & Family

Tues 17 St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop & Martyr

9.30am Allen Harry Link RIP (1st anniv) & Family

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

(Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP – 2019)

Wed 18 St Luke, Evangelist

No Mass today

(5.30pm Schools' Deanery Mass, St Richard's, Dover)

Thurs 19 St Philip Howard, Martyr

12noon Kenneth Brinley Stamp RIP

Fri 20 FERIA

(7.45am Mass at St Edmund's School)

10am Tony Harlow RIP

11am Burial of Tony Harlow's ashes – Hamilton Road

6-6.30pm October Devotions

Sat 21 St Margaret Clitherow, Martyr

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm Dr Roddy Macaulay RIP

Sun 22 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

World Mission Sunday

9am People of the Parish

11am Intentions of the Smith Family

(Bishop Paul Hendricks presiding)

THE WORD OF GOD: 28th Sunday (A), p668

1st Reading: Isaiah 25:6-10

Resp Psalm 22: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell
for ever and ever.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:12-14.19-20

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! The Word was made flesh and
lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave
power to become children of God. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

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. Please keep the Synod in Rome in your prayers.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marjorie Baker and Raphael (Raph) Fox who have died. Please keep their families in your prayers. Funeral arrangements are: **Marjorie Baker RIP** – Thursday 26 October 2023 12noon at Barham Crematorium. **Raphael (Raph) Fox RIP** – Friday 27 October 2023 11am Funeral Mass at St Thomas', 12noon burial at Hamilton Road Cemetery. May they rest in peace.

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.

The weekly newsletter is on our website:
<https://stthomasdeal.org/>

CHANGE OF SATURDAY EVENING MASS TIME:
5.30pm from Saturday 2 December, weekend of 1st Sunday of Advent. This change is made in the faith-filled hope that families and all parishioners with commitments on Sundays will participate at Saturday evening Mass at a time which is more convenient for them.

Parish News

Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions leave Beechcroft, Rectory Road, in early November. There is a Mass at St John's, St Richard's Road, on Saturday **28 October 2023 at 4.30pm** for the Sisters – Beechcroft is in St John's parish. We will have a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sisters on Friday 3 November at 12noon.

Safeguarding Catechists and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: please collect a Volunteer Registration form after Mass this weekend.

Junior Church (Children's Liturgy) has a break for half-term on 22 & 29 October. It is very encouraging to see more children at the 9am Mass.

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

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. Bishop Paul looks forward to meeting as many parishioners after Mass in the Becket Centre – All welcome.

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.

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).

Volunteers Needed! To help with tea and coffee at our parish synod meetings. If you can help, please have a word with fr Brian.

CHRISTMAS 2023 Mass Times: 25 December 2023 is a Monday. Christmas Eve is Sunday 24 December. I propose the following, taking into account Sunday morning Mass attendance on 24 December is likely to be lower than normal, the low attendance at Midnight Mass in recent years, and the work load on those involved in many Christmas preparations: Saturday 23 December 5.30pm; Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve) 10am, 5.30pm Vigil Mass of Christmas, 10pm Mass During the Night; Monday 25 December (Christmas Day) 11am. These times are open for consultation – please let me have your views.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH on St Thomas' Day, Friday 29 December at 12.45pm, following Mass at 12noon. St Thomas of Canterbury is our Patronal Feast and an

excellent day to reintroduce the very successful Christmas lunch of previous years. The lunch is primarily for our senior citizens and those who are by themselves over the Christmas period. We have room for 40 guests. There is no charge. Donations on the day to defray costs will be gratefully received. We need to know numbers by the end of November. If you would like to attend, please contact fr Brian (at Mass, via email or 'phone). Volunteers needed to help with setting up, clearing up and serving lunch in the Becket Centre. Volunteers also needed for transport. Hugh Irvine has very kindly agreed to prepare the lunch and source the food.

Diocesan & National News

World Mission Sunday is next week. John Letts, our Missio (Red Box) rep, will distribute the *Missio* magazine at all Masses. We will delay the 2nd collection for Missio until the weekend of 18/19 November when Fr Noah, from Missio, will speak at all Masses. Missio is the Church's official agency for the support of foreign missions. The collection goes directly to the young churches in mission territories to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations.

Other

CATHOLIC YOUTH MINISTRY INTERNSHIPS

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Youth Ministry Internship Programme. The scheme gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the English Lake District. For more information contact director@castleriggmanor.co.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.

The terrible events in Israel and Gaza of the past week impel us to pray and work for justice and peace. Terrorism must be condemned. History can often be seen in terms of humanity's inability to live in peace with each other. The issues are complex and complicated, but surely one thing is clear: the suffering of the innocent and defenceless cannot be the way to lasting peace and justice. What can we do? Are we helpless in the face of global and regional conflicts? We can give our support in humanitarian aid (see www.dec.org.uk). We can give thanks and pray for all those who come to the aid of the afflicted. We can pray for the leaders of nations, that the understandable anger at the death and destruction of lives will not give way to the rage of revenge, that the innocent will be protected for they are innocent and victims themselves. We can pray that we will live lives of deeper integrity and honesty – that we will seek the good at all times and strive to treat all of God's people with love and respect. fr Brian

