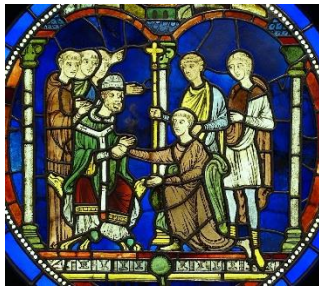


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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29 October 2023 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sat 28 Sts Simon and Jude

10am Parish Synod Meeting – Becket Centre
(tea & coffee from 9.30am)

12noon Baptism: Thea Joyce Lowicz-Brady

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm Danny Thompson RIP

CLOCKS GO BACK ONE HOUR DURING THE NIGHT

Sun 29 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

9am Paul Farmer RIP

11am People of the Parish

*Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –
All welcome.*

Mon 30 Feria

9.30am Mgr Hugh O'Flaherty RIP

Tues 31 Feria

No Mass today

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 1 Nov ALL SAINTS – HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

12noon Ints of Jean Ellis & Family

6.30pm Peace

Thurs 2 Nov ALL SOULS

12noon All deceased parishioners & priests of Deal

6.30pm Fr Francis Kemsley O.Carm RIP

Fri 3 Nov St Winefride, St Martin de Porres

12noon Thanksgiving for the Sisters of Our
Lady of the Missions

6-6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Sat 4 Nov St Charles Borromeo

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm Deceased members of the Dunn Family

Sun 5 Nov 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

9am George & Bridie Strong RIP

11am People of the Parish

*Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –
All welcome.*

THE WORD OF GOD: 30th Sunday (A), p676

1st Reading: Exodus 22:20-26

Resp Psalm 17: I love you, Lord, my strength.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Open our heart, O Lord, to
accept the words of your Son. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:34-40

Many thanks to Bishop Paul Hendricks and to all parishioners for last Sunday. The parish priest's Profession of Faith and Oath of Fidelity is a reminder of his ministry of service and the privilege of praying and working with parishioners to live and spread the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for November: For the Pope We pray that the Holy Father, in fulfilling his mission, may continue to accompany the flock entrusted to him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Marjorie Baker and Raphael (Raph) Fox whose funerals took place last week. May they rest in peace. Please keep their families in your prayers.

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/>

Parish News

Masses this week We welcome Fr Philip Gilbert who is here for the Saturday 6.30pm Mass on 28 October. Fr Brian is at the Mass for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions at St John's. **Wed 1 Nov is ALL SAINTS and a Holyday of Obligation. Thurs 2 Nov is ALL SOULS – a very special day to pray for all who have gone before us in faith.** There are 2 Masses on both days – 12noon and 6.30pm. Fri 3 Nov Mass at 12noon is our Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions.

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.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions leave Beech Court, Rectory Road, in the next week. There was a Mass at St John's, St Richard's Road, on Saturday **28 October 2023 at 4.30pm** for the Sisters – Beech Court is in St John's parish. **We will have a Mass of Thanksgiving for the Sisters on Friday 3 November at 12noon. Please keep Sr Kathleen, Sr Anna and Sr Rose Ann in your prayers.**

The annual Mass count taken recently over 4 weekends indicates that our average weekend Mass attendance is 220 over 3 Masses.

Sacred Heart Chapel has been in the care of the parish for 50+ years. For 31 of these years Moira and Mike Sykes have taken day-to-day responsibility for the former Convent Chapel of the Visitation nuns who left in the early 1970s. As they step down from this great service we owe them a huge debt of gratitude for these years of love and dedication. Those who attend the regular Tuesday mornings time of prayer have very kindly agreed to continue to care for the chapel for the immediate future. Very many thanks.

Safeguarding Catechists and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: if not already done so, please collect a Volunteer Registration form after Mass this weekend. Please return completed forms at your earliest convenience.

Junior Church (Children's Liturgy) is on a half-term break. It returns next Sunday 5 November. 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.

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

Very many thanks to all who attended our parish synod meetings. The format of the meetings was different to the usual parish meeting. Times of listening to the Word of God and silence are crucial if we are to discern what the Holy Spirit is asking of us today. Yet, when we take time to listen – really listen – to God and to each other, to spend time together in moments of silence, we find that we are liberated for God's work in spreading the Good News of the Kingdom. Getting to know each other a little better, sharing our experiences of faith in trust and confidence, we begin to 'journey together' as disciples and apostles.

We hope to follow up these initial meetings with a slightly longer time together on **Saturday 2 December, 10am-1pm**. All welcome, including all who were not able to attend the initial meetings. Many thanks to Danny Curtin who expertly guided us at last week's meetings.

CHRISTMAS 2023 Mass Times: Saturday 23 December 5.30pm; Sunday 24 December (Christmas Eve) 10am; Vigil Mass of Christmas 5.30pm; Mass During the Night 10pm; Monday 25 December (Christmas Day) 11am.

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

Passing on the Faith? How do we do it as couples, parents and grandparents? Our diocesan Marriage & Family Life Team are offering:

PASSING ON THE FAITH AS GRANDPARENTS What practical steps can we take and what sort of conversations can we have which will help anchor our grandchildren's faith? Four online sessions starting Weds evenings November 8th, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on mflse@rcaos.org.uk

PASSING ON THE FAITH FOR PARENTS How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages? Four online sessions starting Thurs eves November 9th, 8pm – 9:30pm. Email Lisette on mflse@rcaos.org.uk

GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for: married couples to enrich their friendship and love, engaged couples who have completed their marriage preparation course and want to continue exploring their faith together. The course runs on Tuesday evenings from 8-9pm beginning **October 24th** and continuing on **Oct 31st, Nov 7th and 14th**. To **register** click on the link below: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/together>

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.

Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation on St Therese of Lisieux - well worth reading - can be found at: www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apos_exhortations/documents/20231015-santateresa-delbambinogesu.html

November is the month of the Holy Souls – a month when we pray for all who have died: relatives, friends, parishioners, those who have no one else to pray for them, victims of war and violence. We are reminded that the goal of our lives is Heaven – the Beatific Vision. We live now in expectation of the fullness of the Kingdom. We pray for PEACE in our world and in our lives. A blessed week, fr Brian

