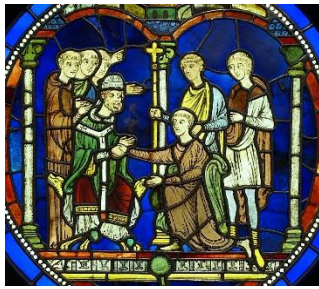


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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26 November 2023 CHRIST THE KING (A)

Sat 25 St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm Good health of Br Pnsiri Casiasnader OFM

**PLEASE NOTE: MASS TIME CHANGES TO 5.30pm
NEXT WEEK**

**Sun 26 OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE
UNIVERSE – WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY**

Last Sunday in the Church's Year

2nd collection for Catholic Youth Services

9am People of the Parish – Jackie O'Connor RIP

11am Peter Lecarpentier RIP

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

Mon 27 FERIA

12noon Thanksgiving for 65 years of marriage

Tues 28 FERIA

9.30am Holy Souls in November

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

**Wed 29 Sts Cuthbert Mayne & Comps, Martyrs
No Mass today**

Thurs 30 St Andrew, Apostle

12noon Sr Mary Dympna Nevin RIP

**Fri 1 Dec St Edmund Campion & Comps, Martyrs
9am** Maura Griffin RIP

6-6.30pm Exposition & Adoration

**Sat 2 The Blessed Virgin Mary
10am Parish Synod Meeting – Becket Centre
4.45-5.15pm** Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish – Geoffrey Russell RIP
PLEASE NOTE: MASS TIME IS 5.30pm

Sun 3 First Sunday of Advent (B)

9am Deceased Members of the Sturla Family

11am Fr Eamonn Whelan RIP

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

THE WORD OF GOD: CHRIST THE KING (A), p693

1st Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17

Resp Psalm 22(23): The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

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.

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

The weekly newsletter is on our website:

[Newsletters \(stthomasdeal.org\)](https://stthomasdeal.org/Newsletters)

Parish News

World Youth Sunday 2023 This Sunday 26th November is National Youth Sunday, and the retiring collection will be for the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which is re-launching several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please see our website tinyurl.com/scys1. Please also sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork to receive regular updates. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has produced further World Youth Sunday resources at worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023.



Thank you very much for the warm welcome given to Fr Noah Monday Mbadazzi last Sunday. Thank you, too, to Fr Noah and John and Carla Letts. In due course, *Missio* will let us know the amount raised.

Congratulations to Moira and Michael Sykes who celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary today 26th November.

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

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. **NEXT SATURDAY!**

November, the month of the Holy Souls, has a few days left. Holy Souls envelopes are available in the porch. **The Book of Remembrance** is on the Lady Altar: please fill in the names of loved ones who have died (with the year of death) on the appropriate page in the Book. Please keep to one line per person.

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) It is important that parents accompany their children during Junior Church. Please encourage families with young children to join us at the 9am Mass.

Handelian Society concerts: The Deal and Walmer Handelian Choral Society is giving a concert of Christmas music at St Mary's Church, Walmer, on 2nd December at 7.30pm. For any keen singers in the parish they are performing Elgar's setting of St John Henry Newman's Dream of Gerontius on 13th April 2024, rehearsing from January. Please see Richard Pond for further details.

ADVENT 2023 AT ST THOMAS'

Parish Advent Synod Meeting: Saturday 2 December 10am-1pm, Becket Centre

Following on from the very successful meetings in October, we will meet at the start of Advent, and the new Church Year, to continue listening to the Holy Spirit and each other. All are welcome as we pray and plan for the following which came from our October meetings: BUILDING COMMUNITY, PRAYER & SHARING FAITH, ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE, OUTREACH TO THE COMMUNITY, ECUMENISM, IMPORTANCE & CENTRALITY OF THE EUCHARIST. What a great gift it is to us that we are given the opportunity to share our faith! You are very welcome next Saturday in the Becket Centre at 10am when we continue listening to the Holy Spirit, to each other and planning for 2024.

Advent Reconciliation Service, Wednesday 13 December, at 7.30pm. An opportunity is given to us to gather and celebrate God's healing love and power in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, with the possibility of individual confessions.

Friday Evenings in Advent, 6-6.30pm: a quiet 30 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament with an Advent reflection.

Advent Prayer Resources are available. **The children in Junior Church** will have an Advent Calendar and Prayer book. Families can use these to deepen our children's awareness of the Advent season. **For adults**, there is **ADVENT EXTRA Your Journey to Christmas** in the porch (£2.50 per copy)

The meaning of Advent? Here is the Gospel for the 1st Sunday of Advent – **next Sunday: Jesus said to his**

disciples: Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad. He leaves home and places his servants in charge, each with his own work, and orders the gatekeeper to be on the watch. Watch, therefore; you do not know when the lord of the house is coming, whether in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning. May he not come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all: Watch! (Gospel of Mark 13:33-37). ADVENT VERBS: WATCH! BE ALERT!

CHRISTMAS LUNCH on St Thomas' Day, Friday 29 December at 12.45pm, following Mass at 12noon. The lunch is primarily for our senior citizens and those who are by themselves over the Christmas period. We have room for 30 guests. There is no charge. Donations on the day to defray costs will be gratefully received. Bookings close this weekend.

Diocesan, National & International News

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, has launched an **Israeli-Palestinian CRISIS APPEAL**. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 or scan the QR code in the porch. A GIFT TODAY will provide essentials like FOOD, WATER and BLANKETS.

Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, on the Israeli/Hamas war:

It takes courage today, even in our diocese and our communities, to maintain unity, to feel united to one another, even in the diversity of our opinions, sensitivities and visions. I want, and we want, to be part of this new order inaugurated by Christ. We want to ask God for that courage. We want to be victorious over the world, taking upon ourselves that same Cross, which is also ours, made of pain and love, of truth and fear, of injustice and gift, of cries and forgiveness.

(The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem is a Catholic diocese with Catholics in Cyprus, Jordan, Israel & Palestine.)

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.

As I write this, news comes of the temporary ceasefire in Gaza. May it become a permanent ceasefire! Advent will soon be with us. It is a season of expectation and hope – expectation of the Birth of the Saviour and the hope that the Prince of Peace will herald a new era of peace and justice in our lives as we await his Birth at Christmas. The words of Cardinal Pizzaballa above speak of 'this new order inaugurated by Christ'. Advent – barely three weeks this year – is a grace-filled time for all of us to open our hearts and minds, our lives, to 'this new order'. A blessed week! fr Brian

