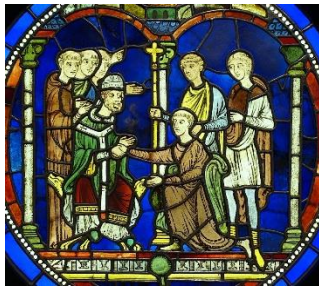


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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5 November 2023 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sat 4 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.*

Mon 6 Feria

12noon Wellbeing of Joseph Dower

**Tues 7 Dedication of the Cathedral Church of
St George, Feast**

9.30am Ints of Maureen & Joseph Gallagher

11am Rosary- Sacred Heart Chapel

**Wed 8 St Willibrord, Bishop
No Mass today**

Thurs 9 Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast

12noon Ints of Celia & Jimmy Walsh & Family

Fri 10 St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor

12noon Deceased members of the Mallon Family

6-6.30pm Exposition & Adoration of the Bl. Sacrament

Sat 11 St Martin of Tours, Bishop

5.45-6.15pm Confessions

6.30pm People of the Parish

**Sun 12 Nov 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Remembrance Sunday**

Archbishop's Appeal – 2nd collection

9am Welfare of Chiara Vaccarone

11am Peace & all victims of war & violence

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

THE WORD OF GOD: 31st Sunday (A), p680

1st Reading: Malachi 1:14-2:2.8-10

Resp Psalm 130: Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9.13

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Speak, Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 23:1-12

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 David Lawrenson, Eve Morris, Paul Dale & Deacon Andrew Bishop. Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis.

The Archbishop's Appeal 2nd collection – next weekend – funds three important areas of diocesan life: Youth & Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action, and Clergy Care & Formation.

The weekly newsletter is on our website:

<https://stthomasdeal.org/>

Parish News

Congratulations and the assurance of our prayers to Thea Joyce Lowicz- Brady who was Baptised here last Saturday, to her parents, Olivia and Aidan, and to her godparents and family.

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, on Monday 6 November 2023. Please keep Sr Kathleen, Sr Anna and Sr Rose Ann in your prayers as they move to their convent in Sturry. The Sisters have been a marvellous presence in Deal for 153 years, reaching out in various ministries to the people of Deal, not least in our parish. The words of St Paul in today's 2nd reading seem particularly apt: *Another reason why we constantly thank God for you is that as soon as you heard the message that we brought to you as God's message, you accepted it for what it really is, God's message and not some human thinking; and it is still a living power among you who believe it.* Sisters, thank you! It is now for us to keep alive the mission of Euphrasie Barbier and the Sisters in the years to come.

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Why do we pray for the faithful departed? The Church's teaching on Purgatory is one of great hope and encouragement: *From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice,*

so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1032). **Holy Souls envelopes** are available in the porch. Please place the names of those you wish to be prayed for in November and place in the envelope. Please give to fr Brian and all names will be on the altar in November for all Masses. It is wonderful that Heaven and Earth are united in the Eucharistic sacrifice.

Cemetery Sunday 19 November 2023: fr Brian will lead a short service in Hamilton Road Cemetery at 3pm and then bless the graves of parishioners.

Fr Noah Monday Mbadazzi, a Mill Hill Missionary priest, is visiting our parish on 18/19 November to make an appeal on behalf of **Missio**. **Missio** (Red boxes) continues the vital work of the Association of the Propagation of the Faith (APF) and other Pontifical Mission Societies in mission countries. Donations to **Missio** keep health clinics and schools open, train tomorrow's Sisters and Priests and create a vibrant Catholic culture for the future.

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) returns today Sunday 5 November. It is important that parents accompany their children during Junior Church. 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.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH on St Thomas' Day, Friday 29 December at 1245pm, 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 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. **Please sign up now if you would like to attend as a guest or help as a volunteer. We need to know numbers by the end of the month. There is a sign-up sheet in the porch.**

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.

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.

It is a poignant moment as we bid farewell to the Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions. 153 years of faithful service in Deal! Perhaps we can reflect and pray for the mission of the Church in Deal and earnestly seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the parish community of St Thomas of Canterbury. All that is asked of us is that we are faithful disciples, as those who have gone before in faith us were faithful. A blessed week, fr Brian

