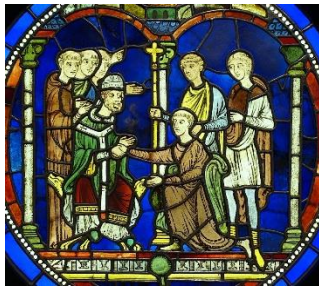


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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10 December 2023 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

Sat 9 St Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 10 Second Sunday of Advent (B)

9am John Povey RIP

11am Wellbeing of Bernadette Hunter

12.30pm Baptism: Alfred Harvey Kenton

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

Mon 11 Feria of Advent (St Damasus)

12noon Liam-James Martin RIP

Tues 12 Feria of Advent (Our Lady of Guadalupe)

9.30am Wellbeing of Mary Collins

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

(1130am Deanery Meeting – Folkestone)

Wed 13 St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

7.30pm Advent Reconciliation Service

Thurs 14 St John of the Cross, Doctor

12noon Wellbeing of Lara Jane Hughes

Fri 15 Feria of Advent

12noon Wellbeing of Graham Edwards

6-6.30pm Adoration & Advent Reflection

Sat 16 Feria of Advent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Mgr Brendan Devlin RIP

Sun 17 Third Sunday of Advent (B)

Gaudete Sunday

9am People of the Parish

11am Michael Connolly RIP

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

THE WORD OF GOD: 2nd Sunday of Advent (B), p21

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5.9-11

Resp Psalm 84: Let us, O Lord, your mercy and give us
your saving help.

2nd Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the
salvation of God. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:1-8

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December: For people with disabilities We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of society's attention, and that institutions may offer inclusive programmes which value their active participation.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Denis Lawrenson, who died on 6 December. Please also pray for Ruth, his wife, and their children, David and Stephen.

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound and all who have requested our prayers, especially Graham Edwards, 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 St Thomas of Canterbury Deal](https://stthomasdeal.org/Newsletters%20St%20Thomas%20of%20Canterbury%20Deal)
(stthomasdeal.org)

Deanery News

St Paul's Catholic Church, Dover, urgently asks our help in objecting to a proposed contraflow road system which will adversely impact on the parish. DEADLINE FOR OBJECTING IS 12 NOON ON MONDAY 11 DECEMBER. The links are below. Natalie Elphicke MP has set up an on-line Community Petition which is very simple to sign:

St Paul's website: [Save St Paul's Petition \(office.com\)](https://www.stpaulsdover.org.uk/save-st-pauls-petition-office.com)

Further information on St Paul's website:

[Newsletters & Information – Parish of the Good Shepherd](#)

Link to the KCC Consultation:

[Pencester Road, Dover - Proposed Northbound Bus Contraflow | Let's talk Kent](#)

Parish News



Register with the parish [Register with The Parish](https://stthomasdeal.org/parish-register) ([stthomasdeal.org](https://stthomasdeal.org/parish-register)) Our Parish Register needs continually updating to ensure that it is reliable and current. Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years you are now kindly asked to register your details on our new database, powered by ChurchSuite. The information you give will help us to support you and the parish as a whole, as well as maintaining an ongoing census of St Thomas' Parish. Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes. It will not be shared with third parties. When you enter your details, you will be asked to read the Southwark Diocesan Privacy Statement. Thank you for co-operation and for those who have already shared their information with us.

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

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion 2024: we hope to have a parents' meeting in the early new year – the date to be announced in the near future. It is crucial that parents, as the first educators of their children, are at the forefront of the preparation of their children for the sacraments.

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.

ADVENT 2023 AT ST THOMAS'

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. **This will be a joint service with St John's parish and Fr Matthew Madewa will be with us.** The Service will be led by Fr Giovanni Prandini, Assistant Priest at St Thomas', Canterbury.

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

The church Christmas Tree will be blessed at all Masses next weekend – *Gaudete Sunday* – and the lights turned on. The **Crib** will be in the Lady Chapel and blessed at evening & night Masses on Christmas Eve. There is a collection basket at the rear of the church to help cover the costs of Christmas decorations. Many thanks for your generosity.

ADVENT EXTRA Your Journey to Christmas in the porch (£2.50 per copy).

Parish Advent Synod Meeting: took place on Saturday 2 December. It was very encouraging that 25 parishioners attended for 3 hours of prayer, discernment and discussion. We hope to have a follow up meeting in the early new year. Danny Curtin, who led the morning, will work with fr Brian in producing a report which will be put on the parish website. It is important that we continue on this 'synodal pathway' as a parish – listening to the Word of God and each other – and decide on certain initiatives for 2024.

CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS TIMES: Saturday 23 December (4th Sunday of Advent) 5.30pm; Sunday morning 24 December (4th Sunday of Advent) 10am; Sunday afternoon 24 December Christmas Eve Vigil Mass 5.30 pm; Mass during the Night 10pm (Carols

from 9.30pm); Christmas Day, Monday 25 December, 11am. **PLEASE NOTE: NO MIDNIGHT MASS**

CHRISTMAS LUNCH on St Thomas' Day, Friday 29 December at 12.45pm, following Mass at 12noon.

DEAL COMMUNITY CAROL FUN with local schoolchildren and the Salvation Army Brass Band: Wednesday 13 December – Stockdale Gardens (6-7.15pm) & Cowdray Square (7.30-8.45pm).

DEAL WARM WELCOME Churches and Community Groups offer warmth, refreshment and friendship during these cold months to all. Full details of times and places in the porch.

The Christmas Offering 2023 Priests in our diocese do not receive an annual salary. The weekly collection is for parish purposes and does not go to fr Brian. fr Brian's parish income comes from the Christmas & Easter offerings and stipends for Masses, Baptisms & Funerals. Of all these, the offertory collections taken during the Christmas Masses are usually the largest single amount. Please note that your December Standing Orders do not go to fr Brian, so unless you make a specific payment at Christmas he will not benefit. There are several ways you can make a Christmas Offering: • By cash/cheque (cheques should be made payable to 'Deal RCAS': please place your contribution in a **Christmas Offering envelope** (available at the back of the church), including your name and address if you wish to Gift Aid. The envelope can be dropped in to the offertory basket at Mass or posted through the presbytery door. Gift Aid envelope users can use their numbered 'Christmas Offering' envelope. • By bank transfer to NatWest: Account Name: RCAS Deal Account No: 09658378 Sort Code: 52-30-23 **Reference: Christmas Offering**

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.

COP28 From 30 November to 12 December world leaders will meet in Dubai to continue discussions about tackling climate change. Let us continue to pray for the care of God's creation.

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.

We meet John the Baptist in the gospel this week: **A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.** The healing power of the Lord is truly wonderful to experience in our lives. A blessed Advent and a blessed week! fr Brian

