

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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THIS NEWSLETTER COVERS TWO WEEKS

24 December 2023 4th Sunday of Advent (B)

Sat 23 Feria of Advent
11-12 Confessions
4.45-5.15 Confessions
5.30pm Aubrey & Hilda Watkins RIP

Sun 24 4th Sunday of Advent (B)
Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers
10am Bill Dix RIP

No refreshments today

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24 January

5.30pm Wellbeing of Julie Barwise
9.30pm Carols before ...
10pm **MASS DURING THE NIGHT**
People of the Parish

Mon 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
CHRISTMAS DAY

11am Tony, Mary & William Ashman RIP

Tues 26 St Stephen, Deacon, the first Martyr
(No Rosary today at Sacred Heart Chapel)

12noon Fr Francis Parkinson RIP

Wed 27 St John, Apostle & Evangelist

12noon Private Intention

Thurs 28 The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

12noon Mary Rose Richardson RIP

Fri 29 St Thomas of Canterbury

Parish Patronal Feast

12noon Mary Joseph Guerin RIP

(12.45pm Parish Christmas lunch)

Sat 30 Sixth day within the Octave

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Fr William Hogg RIP

Sun 31 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9am Anne McGachie RIP

11am People of the Parish

Thanksgiving for all the goodness given to the parish by parishioners

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

Mon 1 Jan Mary, the Holy Mother of God

The Octave day of the Nativity of the Lord

12noon God's blessing on all parishioners and our world in 2024

2pm Service at Seahaven NH, Kingsdown

Tues 2 Funeral Mass

11am Denis Lawrenson RIP

(No Rosary today at Sacred Heart Chapel)

Wed 3 Feria of Christmas

9.30am Sr Mary Ita OSU RIP

Thurs 4 The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese
No Mass today

Fri 5 Feria of Christmas

12noon John McDermott RIP

Sat 6 Feria of Christmas

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Margaret Davenport RIP

Sun 7 The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9am Ellen Maguire RIP

11am Terry Murphy RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

THE WORD OF GOD: 4th Sunday of Advent (B), p29

1st Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-5.8-12.14.16

Resp Ps 88: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

2nd Reading: Romans 16:25-27

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:26-38

CHRISTMAS MASSES – THE WORD OF GOD

Christmas Eve: 5.30pm & 10pm, p54

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Resp Ps 95: Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I bring you news of great joy:
today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord.
ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day: 11am, p61

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Resp Ps 97: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth.
ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (B), p70

1st Reading: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Resp Ps 104: He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 11:8.11-12.17-19

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets; but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. ALLELUIA!
GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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.

Parish News

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, Stephen and David. The Funeral Mass is on 2 January 2024 at 11am, followed by Barham Crematorium at 12.40pm. **Please also pray for the repose of the soul of John Patrick McDermott (Peggy Evans' brother)**. His Funeral Mass is in Liverpool on 5 January 2024.

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 & 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)
(stthomasdeal.org)



Register with the parish [Register with The Parish \(stthomasdeal.org\)](https://stthomasdeal.org) 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, tinned soup, custard. Very many thanks.

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 [Israeli-Palestinian conflict: How you can help \(cafod.org.uk\)](https://cafod.org.uk) or call 0303 303 3030 or scan the QR code in the porch. A GIFT TODAY will provide essentials like FOOD, WATER and BLANKETS.

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.

From the famous Christmas sermon of St Leo, the Great (Pope 440 to 461)

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all.

And so, at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: *Glory to God in the highest ... peace to people of good will* as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world.

Christian, remember your dignity ... now that you share in God's own nature.

May these days of the Christmas season bring many blessings to all of you, our parish and our world. Let the peace of Christ reign in our lives, Fr Brian

