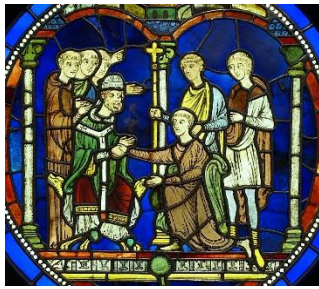


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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3 December 2023 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

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
Sun 3	First Sunday of Advent (B)
	Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees
9am	Deceased Members of the Sturla Family
11am	Fr Eamonn Whelan RIP
	<i>Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – All welcome.</i>
Mon 4	Feria of Advent (St John Damascene)
12noon	Ron & Doreen Wilson RIP
Tues 5	Feria of Advent (St John Almond)
9.30am	Geoffrey Russell RIP
11am	Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel
Wed 6	Feria of Advent (St Nicholas)
	NO MASS TODAY
Thurs 7	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor
10am	Thanksgiving – Shaun McCairn
Fri 8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, Solemnity
12noon	Dec'd Hunter / Ennis Family Members
6-6.30pm	Adoration & Advent Meditation
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
	<i>Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – All welcome.</i>

THE WORD OF GOD IN ADVENT

The new lectionary cycle for Sundays begins – we are now in **year B**, the year of the **Gospel of St Mark**. Weekday ferial Masses in Advent are proper to each day and the readings do not change from year to year.

THE WORD OF GOD: 1st Sunday of Advent (B), p17

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17;64:1.3-8

Resp Psalm 79: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Mark 13:33-37

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.

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, who has cancelled his visit to Dubai for COP28 for health reasons.

The weekly newsletter is on our website:

[Newsletters St Thomas of Canterbury Deal](https://stthomasdeal.org/newsletters)
(stthomasdeal.org)

Parish News



Register with the parish

[Register with The Parish \(stthomasdeal.org\)](https://stthomasdeal.org/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: long-life juice, squash, ketchup, tins of ham, small packets of sweets, macaroni cheese packets, plus any Christmas related food (but only those items containing no alcohol) Thank you kindly.

CHANGE OF SATURDAY EVENING MASS TIME: **5.30pm from this weekend. Confessions are 4.45-5.15pm.** 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. Please mention this to other parishioners.

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.

The Book of Remembrance is on the Lady Altar. You are invited to 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.

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.

ADVENT 2023 AT ST THOMAS'

THE MEANING OF ADVENT: Advent has a twofold character – a time of preparation for Christmas (the Birth of the Saviour) in which the First Coming of the Son of God is celebrated, and also a time when we look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is a time of expectant hope and joy. It is also a time when we reflect on the role of Mary, the Mother of God, in God's work of redemption.

Parish Advent Synod Meeting: took place on Saturday 2 December. Thank you to all who attended. There will be a short report in next week's newsletter.

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.**

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).

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.

Diocesan, National & International News

109th World Day of Prayer for Migrants & Refugees: in his Message for this day, Pope Francis says: *The synodal path that we have undertaken as a Church leads us to see in those who are most vulnerable – among whom are many migrants and refugees – special companions on our way, to be loved and cared for as brothers and sisters. Only by walking together will we be able to go far and reach the common goal of our journey.*

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. The COP28 summit takes place at the end of what is set to be the hottest year on record. Please see the posters in the porch for more information. Pope Francis is unable to attend because of ill health. Here is a Prayer for COP28:

*God of blessings,
the universe sings of your glory.
Deepen our gratitude for all you have made
and awaken in us a renewed commitment to care
for the earth and each other.*

*Inspire world leaders at COP28 with
openness to listen to those most affected by climate
change and with courage to act urgently and wisely,
so that our common home may be healed and restored
and all people, and all generations to come, may
delight in it. Amen.*

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 we bless the Advent Wreath this weekend, and light the first candle, we pray: **May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring salvation. May He come quickly and not delay!** A blessed week! fr Brian

