

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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18 February 2024 1st Sunday of Lent (B)

Sat 17 Feria of Lent

10am-1pm DBS checks – Becket Centre

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Charles Alexander Ennis RIP

Janette Betts RIP

Sun 18 1st Sunday of Lent (B)

2nd Collection: Clergy Support Fund

9am People of the Parish

11am Fr William Hogg RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

Mon 19 Feria of Lent

8.30am Keith Donaldson RIP

Tues 20 Feria of Lent

9.30am Joan Watts RIP

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 21 Feria of Lent – NO MASS TODAY

(Sts Peter Damian / Robert Southwell)

Thurs 22 The Chair of St Peter the Apostle, Feast

12noon Intentions of Elizabeth Ejoh & Family

Fri 23 Feria of Lent (St Polycarp)

CAFOD Family Fast Day

12noon Intentions of the Sisters of Mercy, Hull

7pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas

(6.30pm Ordination of Deacon Andrew Bishop, Dover)

Sat 24 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Christina Middleton RIP (1st anniversary)

Sun 25 2nd Sunday of Lent (B)

2nd collection – CAFOD Family Fast Day

9am Deceased members of the Ryan-Seed Family

11am People of the Parish

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

THE WORD OF GOD: 1st Sunday of Lent (B), p141

1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Response Ps 24: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1 Peter 3:18-22

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:12-15

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for February: For the terminally ill – We pray for the sick who are in the final stages of life, and for their families; may they always receive the necessary medical and human care, and the accompaniment they need.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth Tobin and for her family. Elizabeth's Funeral Mass is here on Monday, 4 March, followed by burial in Hamilton Road cemetery.

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound and all who have requested our prayers: Bernadette Baugh, Andrew Lock, Pauline Farmer, Josie O'Keeffe, Graham Edwards & Paul Dale. Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis and HM The King.

The weekly newsletter is on our website:

[Newsletters St Thomas of Canterbury Deal](https://stthomasdeal.org/Newsletters%20St%20Thomas%20of%20Canterbury%20Deal)
(stthomasdeal.org)

Clergy Support Fund 2nd collection this weekend 17/18 February: this annual collection enables our diocese to care for priests in their retirement, old age and at times of ill health. We have over 70 retired priests in our diocese, many of them needing care and provision for housing, etc, in their retirement. You can scan the QR code on the poster in the porch or give via www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/CSF. There will also be a box for the 2nd collection.

First Reconciliation (Confession) & First Holy Communion 2024: if your child is in school year 3 or above and you would like them to receive these sacraments this year please email (deal@rcaos.org.uk) the parish office without delay. You must live in the parish and/or attend Mass here. You must also have a Certificate of Baptism in a Catholic Church for your child. The deadline for emailing the parish is **22 February 2024**. A meeting will then take place for all who have emailed the parish. Please also ensure that you are registered with the parish – see next notice. We look forward to a joyful and faith-filled time of preparation for these sacraments with children, parents, catechists, schools and parish.

Many thanks for: £251.50 for the Crib Collection (shared equally between *Catholic Children's Society Southwark* and *Friends of the Holy Land*) and **£100** for the *Catholic Association for Racial Justice*. The **HCPT** cake contributions following the 9am Mass for the

last six weeks raised the magnificent sum of **£375**. Very many thanks from all going to Lourdes at Easter.



Register with The Parish (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. Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes. Thank you for co-operation and for those who have already shared their information with us.

The Parish Flower Team invites Flower Assistants to join the Team. This is to ensure that there are always a minimum of two people in church for the flowers. The Assistant is not responsible for the flower arranging. Please contact Margaret Andrews on 10304 379121.

The Big Lent Walk: thank you to all sponsors. Sponsor sheets are still available in the porch

Family Fast Day Friday 23 February 2024: please join in by eating simply and giving what you can. Collect a CAFOD envelope (in the porch) to Gift Aid your donation or give online: www.cafod.org.uk **Please post the CAFOD freepost envelope yourself.** A 2nd collection will take place on Sunday 25 February.

Praying the Gospel of Mark during Lent: based on **Meeting God in Mark** by Rowan Williams (SPCK). Individually, we can pray a few verses each day.

Here is Week 2: Monday to 2nd Sunday of Lent – Mon: Mk 2:18-28; Tues: Mk 3:1-12; Wed: Mk 3:13-35; Thurs: Mk 4:1-20; Fri: Mk 4:21-34; Sat: Mk 4:35-41. The following Reflection is given for the 2nd Sunday of Lent: Jesus was a controversial figure, and sometimes a confusing one. He plucked grain on the Sabbath, which was unlawful but not unprecedented. His own family said he was out of his mind and must have a demon. He told cryptic stories but wouldn't explain them, except to his disciples. He healed without even a touch and calmed a raging storm with a simple rebuke.

What is your reaction to these stories? Does it make a difference to you whether these events happened just as Mark says? What impression do these stories give you of Jesus, and how do you experience God through them? God, let me stand in awe of your power. Give me wonder that goes beyond fact and fiction. Amen.

Diocesan, National & International News

Deacon Andrew Bishop – please pray for Deacon Andrew as he prepares for his priestly ordination on Friday 23 February in Dover.

Cliffs of Sanctuary launch meeting at St Mary the Virgin Church Hall, Dover, this Tuesday 20 February,

5.30pm for 6pm. RSVP: patriciagrist1812@gmail.com jpoppestephens@gmail.com

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.

Synod – Moving Forward

Our two synod meetings in the months before Christmas were attended by around 50 people and were very fruitful. There is now a short synthesis of the outcomes of the two sessions, copies available at the back of church. At the heart of our meetings was prayer, centred on the Word of God, and beginning to discern what the Holy Spirit might be calling our parish to attend to. In summary, the parishioners who gathered felt the Spirit was inviting us to continue the listening, sharing and discerning, and to building on the fruits in three main areas:

1. Being a parish community which welcomes and cares:

- * Looking after one another, as a sign to others of our love.
- * Ensuring people have different ways to engage with parish life – there is no one way
- * Finding ways to keep sharing on Scripture and our faith and life, as a means of developing community
- * Using our buildings well, to build community

2. Being a parish community which prays & worships:

- * Nurturing our prayer through, for example, prayer groups, a spiritual book library
- * Opportunities for spiritual and sacramental formation
- * Developing initiatives to enrich the Mass going community

3. Being a parish community which reaches out:

- * Developing activities to have a greater presence in Deal
- * Finding ways to reach those who are isolated, lonely or living in poverty
- * Enabling the Church to be open more often

Our next Parish Synod Gatherings are on Monday 4 March (7-9pm) or Saturday 9 March (10am-12noon)

These meetings will give us the opportunity to continue placing the Word of God at the centre of our lives and planning concrete initiatives for 2024. At all times we want to be guided by the Holy Spirit and to do what is manageable in our busy lives. All are welcome. A blessed and holy week, fr Brian