

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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10th March 2024 4th Sunday of Lent (B)

Sat 9 Feria of Lent (St Frances of Rome)

10am Parish Synod Meeting – Becket Centre

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Augustine & Kathleen Rawson RIP

Sun 10 4th Sunday of Lent (B) – Laetare Sunday

Mothering Sunday

9am People of the Parish – especially our Mothers

11am Fr William Henry Wonnacott & Family RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

Mon 11 Feria of Lent

12noon Maura Griffin RIP

Tues 12 Feria of Lent

9.30am John Povey RIP

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 13 Feria of Lent

Anniversary of the Election of Pope Francis in 2013

1230pm Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Thurs 14 Feria of Lent – No Mass today

Fri 15 Feria of Lent

1230pm Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Sat 16 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Leonard Lucas RIP

Sun 17 5th Sunday of Lent (B) – (St Patrick)

2nd Collection for Poor Parishes

9am People of the Parish – Fr William Hogg RIP

11am Francis & Johanna Higgins RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome

THE WORD OF GOD: 4th Sunday of Lent (B), p154

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16.19-23

Response Ps 136: O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL
GLORY! God loved the world so much that he gave his
only Son; everyone who believes in him has eternal
life. PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL
GLORY!

GOSPEL: John 3:14-21

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March: For new martyrs – We pray for those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world; may their courage and missionary zeal permeate the Church.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Elizabeth Tobin, whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here last Monday, and for her family. May she rest in peace.

Sick & housebound parishioners: please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound and all who have requested our prayers: June Bartels, Bernadette Baugh, Bernadette Hunter, Andrew Lock, Pauline Farmer, Josie O'Keeffe, Graham Edwards, Maureen Sipek & 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)
(stthomasdeal.org)

Today is Laetare Sunday and Mothering Sunday and marks the half-way point in Lent. Today we rejoice in the salvation the Lord gives us as we continue on our Lenten journey. *Laetare* means 'rejoice' and comes from the entrance antiphon of today's Mass: *Rejoice, Jerusalem* (Isaiah 66). We also rejoice and gives thanks to God for our mothers. **We pray for all our mothers, living and dead, that they may be blessed beyond measure.**

St John's and St Andrews, Sandwich, are having a Lenten Service of hymns, anthems and readings at **5pm today Sunday 10 March at St John's, St Richard's Road**. All very welcome.

2nd Collection for Poor Parishes next Sunday: formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the poorer parishes in the diocese.

Deal Area foodbank: [Deal Area Foodbank | Helping Local People in Crisis](#) The items currently needed are long-life fruit juice, UHT milk, packet sauces, ketchup, biscuits, tinned vegetables, tinned fruits, custard and tinned soups. With 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.

[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. 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.

Safeguarding in our parish: renewed thanks to all who attended the recent meeting. Just a reminder: when you receive your Enhanced clearance please register with the Update Service. This will enable you easily to renew your Enhanced clearance in 3 years' time.

Red boxes / Missio: please return **red boxes** (with name on the underside of the box) to the church (they can be left in the sacristy). If more convenient, please contact John Letts (*Missio* parish organiser) on 07964 189256 to arrange collection. Copies of the *Missio Spring 2024* magazine are available free at the back of the church.

Mobile phones in church: you are kindly requested to switch off phones in church. If it is absolutely necessary to have access to your phone, please ensure your phone is on silent. Thank you for your understanding.

Mass Intention envelopes are at the back of the church: Please write down the intention (for example, someone who has died), date & time preferred, contact name **and number**, and include any offering (Mass stipend) you wish to give. **If you know the dates of Masses you wish to request (even some months in advance), please do not delay.**

Lent in the Parish

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 5: Monday to 5th Sunday of Lent – Mon: 10:17-34; Tues: Mk 10:35-52; Wed: Mk 11:1-11; Thurs: Mk 11:12-33; Fri: 12:1-17; Sat: Mk 12:18-37. The following Reflection is given for the 5th Sunday of Lent: Some people dismiss Lent as a depressing time of unnecessary, self-imposed suffering. Reflect on your own experience of self-denial and also on struggles people endure by sheer accident or misfortune. Consider these things in the light of Jesus' teachings about the blessedness of those who are not rich, who have left home and family to follow Him, and who take on the role of servant to others.

Do your ideas of who is blessed in the world align with Jesus? How do these teachings challenge you to live differently, not just during Lent but throughout the year?

God, help me to see my own struggles and those of others through your eyes. Transform my desire for success and satisfaction into a desire to please you. Amen.

The Big Lent Walk: sponsor forms are available in the porch. The aim is to complete 200km during Lent. All proceeds go to Cafod. Fr Brian has so far completed 130 km since Ash Wednesday.

Lent Penitential Service at St John's, St Richard's Road, Monday of Holy Week, 25 March at 7pm. The Advent Penitential Service was at St Thomas' and Fr Matthew and parishioners from St John's joined us. They now invite us to join them for the Lent service.

PALM SUNDAY and the beginning of HOLY WEEK is Sunday 24 March 2024: Palms will be blessed at all weekend Masses. Please bring along any greenery for the procession at the 9am and 11am Masses. Weather permitting, these Masses will start in the Becket Centre.

Diocesan, National & International News

Caritas Southwark celebrates its **1 Year Anniversary on 16 March 2024**. The event will begin with a Mass at St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm with Archbishop John Wilson and continues thereafter at the Amigo Hall with Talks and Discussions on the "Journey so far" and the "Way forward".

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER IN THE LAKE DISTRICT? Castlerigg Manor (Diocese of Lancaster Retreat Centre) are looking for a Programme Leader to join their youth ministry team. The work involves working on retreats in the heart of the Lake District, and occasionally working on outreach visits around the area. The post is residential and comes with a salary package in the range of £26-28k, made up of paid salary, accommodation, food etc. Would suit somebody with youth ministry experience, perhaps recently graduated. Interested – jack@castleriggmanor.co.uk

Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes, including Southwark: 23-30 August 2024. Register your interest: www.catholicassociation.co.uk **Ask anything** (from pilgrims on Zoom): 16 March 2024 11am: www.catholicassociation.co.uk/askanything

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

Very many thanks to all who attended our meetings this past week. It is very encouraging and heartening to witness such love and concern for our parish and outreach in Deal and beyond. We will collate all that we discussed and report back to the parish after Easter. It is very important that we continue to listen to the Holy Spirit and to each other in prayer, **and** to move from prayer, listening and discussion to action.

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Lord God, we give you thanks for the many gifts you have given us – the gift of life and the gift of those who love us. We thank you today for the gift of our mothers and grandmothers. We give thanks for our mothers and grandmothers who have died and for the unique way they have revealed your love to us. May all mothers celebrate a very special day today!

A blessed week ahead, fr Brian

