

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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21 April 2024 – 4th Sunday of Easter (B)

Sat 20 Feria of Easter

4.45-5.15 Confessions

5.30pm Driscelia Skinner RIP

Bernard Gerald Harvey RIP

Sun 21 4th Sunday of Easter (B) – The Good Shepherd

World Day of Prayer for Vocations – 2nd collection

9am People of the Parish - Vocations

11am Isabelle D'Cruz RIP, Family & Friends

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome.

Mon 22 Feria of Easter

9.30am Intentions of Sylvia & Mark O'Meara

Tue 23 St George, Martyr, Patron of England

9.30am Marjorie & Bernard Bushe-Caryesford RIP

11am Stations of Light – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 24 Feria of Easter – No Mass today

Thurs 25 St Mark, Feast

12noon Eleanor Tate-Roger RIP

Fri 26 Feria of Easter (Our Lady of Good Counsel)

12noon Deceased members of the Link Families

Sat 27 Feria of Easter

4.45-5.15 Confessions

5.30pm Megan Rembridge RIP

Sun 28 5th Sunday of Easter (B)

2nd collection – Upkeep of St George's Cathedral

9am Michael O'Grady RIP

11am People of the Parish

12.30pm Baptism: Luca Kenton

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre –

All welcome.

4th SUNDAY of EASTER (B), p341

1st reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12

Response Ps 117: The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone.

2nd reading: 1 John 3:1-2

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 10:11-18

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for April: For the role of women – We pray for the dignity and worth of women to be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Collins, the mother of Grainne Parsons, Headteacher of St Edmund's Catholic School in Dover. The Funeral Mass is at 11am on Friday 3 May 2024 at St Paul's, Dover, followed by the burial at St James' Cemetery at 1.30pm. Please keep all the family in your prayers.

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'Keefe, 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](http://Newsletters.StThomasofCanterburyDeal.stthomasdeal.org)
stthomasdeal.org

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion 2024: please pray for the children as they start their preparation to receive these two great Sacraments. There is a preliminary session today Sunday 21 April.

We say goodbye to the Pallan family who are returning to India. Thank you, Vishal, Vindhya, Aman and Amanda, for all you have given to the parish. May God bless you and we hope to see you again at St Thomas'.

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 \(stthomasdeal.org\)](http://RegisterwithTheParish.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.

Save the date: fr Brian celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on Saturday 29 June 2024. There will be Mass at 12noon on 29 June and no 5.30pm Mass. On Sunday 30 June there are Masses at 9am and 11am, followed by a parish picnic, to celebrate the anniversary, in the presbytery garden from 1-3pm. All parishioners are invited: please bring food, beverages, rugs and garden furniture, and pray for good weather!

Contactless Giving: we now have a contactless giving facility in the Lady Chapel (located there for better Wi-Fi connection). It is very easy to give via card – instructions are also available. Please do Gift Aid when you give for the first time: you will be asked for details only once. Subsequently, and using the same card, your donation will be automatically Gift Aided. Gift Aid is really important – and also via Standing Orders – as it increases your giving to the parish by 25%. We also now have a donate facility on our website [Dona \(mydona.com\)](https://mydona.com) With many thanks.

Diocesan, National & International News

Priest Training Fund Second Collection 21st April

The priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church, from the time of Jesus until today. Good Shepherd Sunday is the day we pray for vocations, for our priests, and take up the Priest Training Fund second collection. This fund pays for the formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. After ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, chaplaincies, prisons and in service to the needy, throughout South London, Kent and Surrey. We are blessed to have 5 men in formation for the Priesthood for our Archdiocese. However, it costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian. They study for 6 years before being ordained a Catholic priest. We therefore rely on your generous support and prayers. Please support our priests of the future with a gift today. Thank you!

Donate Online: www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF

Or Scan QR Code in porch / contactless in Lady Chapel
Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: **020 7960 2504**
Cash collection in the usual way. Very many thanks.

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.

HOPE & HEALING FOR CHRISTIANS IN THE HOLY LAND:

In Gaza, over 800 Christians are sheltering in churches. Every day involves fear, prayers and one piece of bread to eat. International aid can't reach them. In Bethlehem, 80% of Christians have lost their income as tourism has collapsed. *Friends of the Holy Land* ask for your help:

www.friendsoftheholylnd.org.uk/hope

01926 512980 or use the QR code in the porch.

Journeying Together in Deal

Lent Synod Meetings – From discernment to action

Throughout our parish synodal process we have been discerning what the Holy Spirit is saying to us. The two sessions in Autumn 2023 identified three areas as priorities. 40 parishioners came together during two further synod meetings in Lent 2024 to discern 3-4 ideas for action in each of the areas. A full summary is available on the website with some hard copies at the back of Church. Examples include:

Being a parish community, which welcomes and cares:

- Develop a parish '**welcome ministry group**' with a wide focus including families and young people
- Establish a '**parish support group**'

Being a parish community, which prays and worships:

- Begin **house groups** and other small groups across the parish.

Being a parish community, which reaches out:

- Explore how to re-establish the **SVP** (or a project with a similar mission for social care)
- Launch an accessible **programme of formation for Catholic Action**

During the Lent meetings we also considered how to get organised for our parish mission. We will form a **Parish Synodal Team**. In the first instance fr Brian will invite people to consider joining the group. This will not be an exclusive group but a group at the service of the wider parish community. We will also need many people to support the group in developing the initiatives. Everybody is welcome to participate. In particular we need people in the following areas. Please consider if you can take part in any of the following (and let fr Brian know):

- Being part of house groups/small groups for prayer and reflection
- Developing a welcome ministry/social group
- Developing a pastoral care team and/or SVP
- Outreach to local community

The Synod Prayer

(a prayer for our vocation to Christian discipleship individually and as the Church in Deal)

We stand before you, Holy Spirit.

**With you alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.**

**Let us find in you our unity
so that we may journey together.**

**All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

**THE LORD IS TRULY RISEN, ALLELUIA,
ALLELUIA!**

Let us pray on this Good Shepherd Sunday for vocations.

May we all share in the new life offered by the Risen Christ. A very blessed Eastertide to all, fr Brian

JOURNEYING TOGETHER IN DEAL

Lent 2024 Synod Meetings – From discernment to action

Throughout our parish synodal process we have based our meetings on prayer, the Word of God, and discerning how the direction of the Holy Spirit is guiding us. The two sessions in Autumn 2023 identified three areas as priorities:

- **Being a parish community, which welcomes and cares**
- **Being a parish community, which prays and worships**
- **Being a parish community, which reaches out**

40 parishioners came together in two meetings in Lent 2024, to discern further ideas for action in each of the three areas:

Being a parish community, which welcomes and cares:

- Develop a parish '**welcome ministry group**', with a wide focus, not simply on welcoming people into Church on a Sunday, but also looking to the **social life** of the parish (e.g. events, regular activities) and developing a culture of welcome for particular groups, including young people and families, and the growing Indian community in the parish.
- Establishing a '**pastoral care team**' and/or a renewed **SVP group** could play a central role in developing a culture of welcome and care (see also 'reaching out' below).
- Establish a '**parish support group**', providing an opportunity in a group setting for people to seek solidarity, support and accompaniment (including counselling and therapeutic support).

Being a parish community, which prays and worships:

- Begin opportunities for people to join **house groups** and other small groups across the parish. These groups will have good supporting material and formation. We will enable a variety of groups (e.g. book club models, Lenten/advent groups) which can help nurture prayer and faith across the parish. In time these groups may develop into opportunities for house Masses and other activities.
- **Weekday morning prayer** before weekday Mass.
- Develop a **spiritual lending library**

Being a parish community, which reaches out:

- Explore how to re-establish the **SVP** (or a project with a similar mission for social care), including developing initiatives to reach the **isolated/housebound** and people in residential care homes

- Increase our parish commitment to address **food poverty** (e.g. the Deal Food bank)
- Launch an accessible **programme of formation for Catholic Action**, supporting parishioners to consider how to link the Church's 'social teaching' with the needs of our local community and the wider world
- Develop **ecumenical links** and use the **Church buildings** to reach out to the local community – beginning with an organ recital.

Practical steps:

During the meetings we also considered how to get organised for our parish mission. We noted that communication will be key, as will using a range of means of engaging with people. We also agreed that we should form a group to take this forward. We will therefore begin to form a **Parish Synodal Team** to continue this planning and begin the action. This group will remain centred on the synodal way – listening & prayerful discernment. In the first instance fr Brian will invite people to consider joining the group. We will then consider hosting full parish meetings to give direction and support to the group. It will not be an exclusive group or one which will in any way create a hierarchy in the parish. In fact, the opposite – the group will be at service to the wider parish community. We will also need many people to support the group in developing the initiatives. Everybody is welcome to participate. In particular, as we begin some of the initiatives we need people in the following areas. Please consider if you can take part in any of the following (and let fr Brian know):

- Being part of house groups/small groups for prayer and reflection
- Developing a welcome ministry/social group
- Developing a pastoral team and/or SVP
- Outreach to local community