

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

14 Blenheim Road, Deal, Kent CT14 7DB

01304 367496

Email: deal@rcaos.org.uk

Website: stthomasdeal.org

Parish Administrator: Clare Hoile

Parish Office hours: Thurs & Fri 9.30 – 12noon

Parish Safeguarding Rep 2: Frances Pond

dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

1 December 2024 – 1st Sunday of Advent

Sat 30 St Andrew, Apostle

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Marcia Fletcher RIP

Sun 1 Dec 1st Sunday of Advent (C)

9am People of the Parish

11am Anne McGachie RIP

Refreshments after 9am & 11am Masses today in the Becket Centre – All welcome

Mon 2 Feria of Advent

9.30am Henry Evan Cahill RIP

Tues 3 St Francis Xavier

Day of Prayer for Migrants

9.30am Fr Eamonn Whelan RIP

Fr Simeon DiStefano RIP (1st anniversary)

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

1.30-3pm Advent Talk at Golf Road Community Centre

Wed 4 St John Damascene – No Mass today

Thurs 5 St John Almond, Priest & Martyr

12noon John Francis McCarroll RIP

Fri 6 St Nicholas, Bishop

9.30am Fr William John Bradley RIP (CW)

Denis Lawrenson RIP (1st anniversary)

6-6.30pm Adoration, silent prayer & Advent reflection

Sat 7 St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 8 Dec 2nd Sunday of Advent (C)

9am Bridget & Patrick Connolly RIP

11am Wellbeing of Bernadette Baugh

Mary Mannings RIP

5pm Joint Advent Carol Service at St John's

Refreshments after 9am & 11am Masses today in the Becket Centre – All welcome

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December: For pilgrims of hope We pray that the forthcoming Jubilee may strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C), p33

1st reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16

Response Ps 25: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 21:25-28.34-36

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary is celebrated this year on 9 December 2024.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Maureen Collinson and Gerard Dodrill whose funeral services were celebrated in the past week. **Bishop John Hine's** Funeral Mass is at the Cathedral on 10 December at 2pm. May they all rest in peace. Amen. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Sick & housebound parishioners: Please keep in your prayers all who are sick and housebound, all who care for them, and all who have requested our prayers: John Hardy, June Bartels, Josie O'Keeffe, Graham Edwards, Maureen Sipek, Paul Dale and Jean Ellis. Please continue to pray for the good health of Pope Francis and HM The King.

Children's Liturgy at the Sunday 9am Mass: one parishioner has kindly volunteered to join the Children's Liturgy team. It would be good if we could have one or two more helpers. If you can, please email fr Brian deal@rcaos.org.uk or speak to the Children's Liturgy team after the 9am Mass.

ADVENT 2024 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.

ADVENT OF THE HEART: A CHRISTIAN REFLECTION ON HOPE

Voices from the Darkness: The Advent Reflections of Alfred Delp SJ and Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Venue: Golf Road Community Centre, Deal

Tuesday 3 December 2024 1.30-3pm OR

Tuesday 10 December 2024 7-8.30pm

All are welcome

Ben Bano, who has carried out a great deal of research on Delp, Bonhoeffer and others, will present the Advent reflections and there will be plenty of time for discussion and tea & coffee. Ben, in addition to his many other responsibilities, has been one of our organists for 30+ years. He is stepping down as a regular Sunday 11am organist on 8 December. We

will be able to thank Ben at the 11am Mass next Sunday, as well as enjoying and benefiting from his Advent reflections on Hope.

Advent Carol Service: Sunday 8 December 2024 at 5pm at St John's, St Richard's Road, followed by refreshments. **Colin Hartley**, Organist at St John's, writes: *Please join together at our joint service of carols for Advent (combining St Thomas, St John and St Andrews congregations). This is all part of our preparation for Christmas. There will be readings appropriate to Advent, hymns for the congregation on the Advent theme, and carols sung by our voluntary choir – for which they are already preparing. There will be refreshments afterwards: (at about 6 pm) hot drinks, wine and food.*

Advent Reconciliation Service, Tuesday 17 December, at 7pm. 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, on 6,13 & 20 December.

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 (£3 per copy).

Christmas Masses: Tuesday 24 December
Christmas Eve – Masses at 5.30pm and 10pm
(Carols from 9.30pm), Wednesday 25 December
CHRISTMAS DAY – Mass at 11am.
PLEASE NOTE NO MIDNIGHT MASS

The new translation of the Lectionary is in use from this weekend, 1st Sunday of Advent. Thanks to the generosity of the **Mary Riley Trust and all our parishioners**, we have new maroon Sunday missals, as well as the lectionaries for use at the ambo. Renewed thanks for your generosity. Let us take this opportunity of the new translation to hear the Word of God ever more deeply in our lives. Helpful resources are available at: www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary-video-resources/ The leaflet *The New Lectionary Explained* is available by the newsletters. Please do take a copy.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill had its 2nd Reading in the House of Commons on 29 November 2024. At the time of writing (29 November am) the vote had not taken place. Please continue to pray for our MPs, all who care for the terminally ill, and especially those who are terminally ill, their families and friends. Our Bishops' Conference website

contains much useful information on this very sensitive issue: www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide

The **Catholic Union** also has a very useful and respectful briefing document which answers in a sensitive manner the arguments advanced in favour of this legislation – see: www.catholicunion.org.uk

The **Anscombe Bioethics Centre** website has much useful and important information on why it is important to oppose the introduction of assisted dying in our country: www.bioethics.org.uk

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

The Jesuit Refugee Service UK (JRS UK) is the biggest Catholic refugee service in the UK. JRS UK is part of the wider JRS family, working in 50+ countries to accompany, serve and advocate for the rights of refugees and other forcibly displaced people. If you are able to support its Advent Appeal (to raise money for vital services including their hosting scheme and two houses, providing much needed shelter, safety and stability), please visit: www.jrsuk.net/advent-appeal-2024 and see poster in the porch.

Scam emails: the diocese has alerted all parishes to scam emails impersonating parish priests, often using a similar email name and masking the real email address. **Please report such emails as spam and let the parish office know.**

St Mary's Catholic Primary School, St Richard's Road, is seeking Foundation Governors. A foundation governor represents the Archbishop's vision of Catholic education and is vital in developing the Catholic ethos of the school. As such, s/he must be a practising Catholic. For more information about this important role in Catholic education, please contact the Headteacher Maria.Pullen@st-marys-deal.kcsp.org.uk or the Chair of Governors gawaters@btinternet.com Please also see the website of the diocesan education commission: www.rcaoseducation.org.uk The Headteacher will speak at the Saturday 5.30pm and Sunday 11am Masses this weekend.

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.

SUDAN – the situation is very grave. Can you help?
CAFOD's Sudan Crisis Appeal: [sudan.hunger.crisis:\(cafod.org.uk\)](http://sudan.hunger.crisis:(cafod.org.uk))

Let us pray that Advent 2024 will be a time of blessing and hope for all of us. A blessed week, fr
Brian