

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle

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Parish Office hours: Thurs & Fri 9.30 – 12noon

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15 December 2024 – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Sat 14 St John of the Cross, Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Fr William Hogg RIP

Sun 15 3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

GAUDETE SUNDAY – 2nd collection for Christmas
decorations

9am Good health of Joseph Dower

11am People of the parish

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

Mon 16 Feria of Advent

12noon Service of the Word & Holy Communion

Tues 17 Feria of Advent – O Wisdom

9.30am David Morris RIP

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

11am Deanery Meeting – St Paul's, Dover

7pm **Advent Reconciliation Service**

Wed 18 Feria of Advent – O Adonai

9.30am Wellbeing of Mary Clark (Rosary Group)

Thurs 19 Feria of Advent – O Jesse

12noon Mary Joseph Guerin RIP

Fri 20 Feria of Advent – O David

12noon Bernadette Peace RIP

6-6.30pm **Adoration, silent prayer & Advent reflection**

Sat 21 St Peter Canisius, Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Intentions of Aidan & Jane Kelly (Rosary Grp)

Sun 22 4th Sunday of Advent (C)

9am People of the Parish

11am Wellbeing of Irma Wood

*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.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C), p40

1st reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18a

Response Ps Isaiah 12: Shout aloud and sing praise,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

2nd Reading: Philippians 4:4-7

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! The Spirit of the Lord is upon
me, he has sent me to proclaim good news to the
poor. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:10-18

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Frost
who died on 5 December 2024, and for his family at
this time. Please pray, too, for the repose of the soul
of Father Wenna Henry Tiku, parish priest of Holy
Cross, Carshalton, who died on 11 December 2024.

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 has a
Christmas and New Year break after today, until
Sunday 12 January 2025. We owe a great debt of great
of gratitude to our dedicated Children's Liturgy
catechists and helpers for all they do to help our
children grow in their faith. All children are warmly
invited to come to the 5.30pm Mass on Christmas
Eve dressed as Nativity characters (Mary, Joseph,
Shepherd, Angel etc) for the Blessing of the Crib
and the placing of the Child Jesus in the crib.

ADVENT 2024 AT ST THOMAS'

Tuesday 17 December opens the second phase of the
Advent season when our focus shifts to the birth of
the Christ child in Bethlehem and we sing the great O
antiphons at Vespers, the evening prayer of the
Church. Today is Gaudete Sunday when we REJOICE
that the Lord is near. The rose candle on the Advent
wreath is lit. The church Christmas Tree is blessed at
all Masses and the lights turned on. The Crib is in the
Lady Chapel and blessed at evening & night Masses on
Christmas Eve. *Thank you to the staff at Maxted's Pet
Aquatic and Garden Shop* for insisting on donating the
straw for the Crib. The Crib collection this year is
shared between Southwark Catholic Children's
Society and Friends of the Holy Land.

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. A guide to 'Going to Confession' is
available at the service.

A great word of thanks to: [1] Ben Bano for his thought-provoking talks on Alfred Delp SJ and Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The links with Advent are very apparent. It is amazing how these two witnesses still have much to say to us eighty years after their executions. [2] Colin Hartley and the Joint Choir who led us in a very prayerful Advent Carol Service at St John's last Sunday. We have been helped to appreciate the importance of Advent as an indispensable preparation for Christmas – the Nativity of Our Lord.

Friday Evenings in Advent, 6-6.30pm: a quiet 30 minutes before the Blessed Sacrament with an Advent reflection: our final evening is 20 December.

There is a 2nd collection this weekend to help cover the costs of Christmas decorations. Many thanks for your generosity. *ADVENT EXTRA Your Journey to Christmas* – a few copies still 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

Deal Area **foodbank** requests: tinned meat for heating such as mince, hot dogs, meat balls and meat in sauce, tinned meat for eating cold such as ham, chicken, corned beef, pasta or curry sauce, rice pudding or custard, sponge puddings and jellies, spreads such as jam, marmalade, peanut butter, chocolate spread, small coffee jars or teabags, squash, chocolate, biscuits, nappies sizes 6&7, baby wipes, deodorant, shaving foam, cleaning products, washing powder/capsules (small bottles or boxes), washing-up liquid, toilet rolls. Please no fresh food as it cannot be distributed whilst still fresh. Many thanks.

Please [Register with the Parish: stthomasdeal.org](http://stthomasdeal.org)
Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes.

Summary of Offertory Giving November 2024: cash and bank total £2,815.92, standing orders £3,523.83, Dona contactless £450.92. Total £6,790.67, of which £903.42 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £6,790.67 was £170.50 for the Archbishop's Appeal, £153.03 for the Catholic Youth Services and a donation of £1,000. Many thanks for your generous giving.

The Christmas Offering 2024 Priests in our diocese do not receive an annual salary. The weekly collection is for parish purposes and does not go to fr Brian. fr Brian's parish income comes from the Christmas & Easter offerings and stipends for Masses, Baptisms & Funerals. Of all these, the collection taken at Christmas is usually the largest single amount. Your December Standing Orders do not go to fr Brian, so unless you make a specific payment at Christmas he

will not benefit. There are several ways you can make a Christmas Offering: [1] By cash/cheque (cheques should be made payable to 'Deal RCAS': please place your contribution in a Christmas Offering envelope (available at the back of the church), including your name and address if you wish to Gift Aid. The Gift Aid goes to the parish and not to fr Brian. The envelope can be dropped in to the offertory basket at Mass or posted through the presbytery door. [2] By using the card machine in the church. [3] By using the DONATE button on our website. [4] By bank transfer to NatWest: Account Name: RCAS Deal Account No: 09658378 Sort Code: 52-30-23 Reference: Christmas Offering

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill: the composition of the Committee of MPs to consider the Bill has been announced. Our prayers and efforts are needed to ensure that our MPs are aware of the concerns of so many people. Online resources to help inform us of the issues include: [1] Our Bishops: www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide [2] The Catholic Union, answering the arguments advanced in favour of the Bill: www.catholicunion.org.uk [3] The Anscombe Bioethics Centre: www.bioethics.org.uk In a compassionate and sensitive manner, it is vital we make the case against this legislation.

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.

Archbishop John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, has recorded a Christmas message:
<https://tinyurl.com/Christmasmessage2024>

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))

All good wishes to school and college communities as they end a busy term and look forward to the holidays. A blessed week, fr Brian