

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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This newsletter covers 2 weeks: 22 & 29 December

22 December 2024 – 4th Sunday of Advent

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)

Day of Prayer for Expectant Mothers

9am People of the Parish

11am Wellbeing of Irma Wood

Refreshments after 9am & 11am Masses today in the

Becket Centre – All welcome

Mon 23 Feria of Advent

9.30am Ints of all sick and housebound parishioners

Tues 24 Feria of Advent – No morning Mass

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve – Tuesday 24 December

5.30pm People of the Parish

[in Rome at 7pm: Opening of the Holy Year Door]

9.30pm Carols before ...

10pm Mass during the Night

Geoffrey & John Collins RIP

PLEASE NOTE: NO MIDNIGHT MASS

Wed 25 THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

11am Tony, Mary & William Ashman RIP

Terence Noel Murphy RIP

Thurs 26 St Stephen Deacon, the first Martyr

12noon Moira & Ernest Lock RIP

Fri 27 St John, Apostle & Evangelist

12noon Intentions of Mary Collins

Sat 28 The Holy Innocents

10am For the sanctity of life

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 29 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

9am Deceased members of Mariya & Tijo's families

11am Intentions of Sue Wainwright (80th Birthday)

Refreshments after 9am & 11am Masses today in the

Becket Centre – All welcome

Mon 30 Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

12noon Fr James Moore RIP

Tues 31 7th Day within the Octave of Christmas

New Year's Eve

12noon Thanksgiving & Gratitude to all parishioners

(no Rosary today at Sacred Heart Chapel)

Wed 1 Jan MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

The Octave Day of Christmas & New Year's Day

12noon God's blessing of peace in our lives and world

Thurs 2 Sts Basil & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops

12noon Margaret & Stephen Onaze RIP

Fri 3 Feria of Christmas

9am Sr Patricia Jordan RIP

Sat 4 The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Joseph Davenport RIP

Sun 5 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9am People of the Parish

11am Hugh & Kathleen Doherty RIP

Refreshments after 9am & 11am Masses today in the

Becket Centre – All welcome

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for January 2025:

For the right to an education: Let us pray for migrants, refugees and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, will always be respected.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C), p44

1st reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Response Ps 80: Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be according to your word. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-45

CHRISTMAS EVE: 5.30pm & 10pm, p53

1st reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Response Ps 96: Today a Saviour has been born to us; who is Christ the Lord.

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I bring you good news of great joy: for unto us is born this day a Saviour, Christ the

Lord. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-14

CHRISTMAS MASS DURING THE DAY, p60

1st reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Response Ps 98: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! A hallowed day has shone upon us. Come, O nations, and adore the Lord; for today a great light has come down to earth. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

THE HOLY FAMILY, p74

1st reading: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Response Ps 84: Blessed are they who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Open our hearts, O Lord, that we may pay attention to the words of your Son.

ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

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. The Funeral Service is at St Thomas' on 10 January 2025 at 12noon, followed by burial at Deal cemetery.

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.

CHRISTMAS 2024 at ST THOMAS'

A warm welcome to all returning to Deal for Christmas and the New Year and to all visitors. You are all very welcome and thank you for joining us to celebrate the great feast of the Nativity.

Children's Liturgy: 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.

The Crib (in the Lady Chapel), is blessed at the 5.30pm and 10pm Masses on Christmas Eve. The Crib will stay in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February 2025. The Crib collection is shared between the FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND & THE CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY. Please take a moment after Mass to pray at the Crib for peace and the protection of all human life, especially the most vulnerable in our world.

Christmas cards – please check at the back of the church. There may be one for you.

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.

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**

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>

There is a Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop next 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)

Thank you to so many who are working so hard to ensure we celebrate the Birth of Christ with faith, hope and joy. We are all very grateful.

And so, at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest ...peace to people of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. Christian, remember your dignity ... now that you share in God's own nature. (from the Christmas sermon of Pope St Leo, the Great, Pope 440-461)

A very holy and happy Christmas to all.

