

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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8 December 2024 – 2nd Sunday of Advent

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

Mon 9 THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

OF OUR LADY

9.30am John Povey RIP

Tues 10 Our Lady of Loreto

9.30am Bishop John Hine RIP

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

7pm Advent Talk – Golf Road Community Centre

Wed 11 St Damasus, Pope – no Mass today

Thurs 12 Our Lady of Guadalupe

12noon Fr William John Bradley RIP (JP)

Fri 13 St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr

12noon Wellbeing of Catherine Fant

6-6.30pm Adoration, silent prayer & Advent
reflection

Sat 14 St John of the Cross, Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Fr William Hogg RIP

Sun 15 Dec 3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

GAUDETE SUNDAY

9am Good health of Joseph Dower

11am People of the parish

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.

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C), p36

1st reading: Baruch 5:1-9

Response Ps 126: What great deeds the Lord worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.

2nd Reading: Philippians 1:3-6.8-11

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 3:1-6

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, celebrated this year on 9 December, is important for our diocese. Our Blessed Lady, conceived without sin, is the principal patron of the Archdiocese of Southwark. Let us pray for Archbishop John, Bishops Paul and Philip, and all the parish, school and religious communities which make up the local Church in Southwark. Let us ask Our Lady's intercession for peace in our world: *May Our Lady, Queen of Palestine, protect all of her children, and may she inspire and guide world and religious leaders in their quest for peace, especially in this, her homeland, chosen by God. O Mary Immaculate, gracious Queen of Heaven and of Earth, behold us prostrate before thy exalted throne.*

Parish News

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'

Advent Carol Service: today Sunday 8 December 2024 at 5pm at St John's, St Richard's Road, followed by refreshments. Please do come along, if you can. It is important to celebrate Advent, and to pray with our neighbouring parish.

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 10 December 2024 7-8.30pm

All are welcome

The talk last Tuesday was very informative and thought provoking. An opportunity to dwell on the importance of Advent, to meet fellow parishioners and Christians from other churches.

Ben Bano, who is leading us in our Advent talks at Golf Road Community Centre, is stepping down as a regular Sunday 11am organist today 8 December. Our parish, and the wider community, owe a great deal to Ben. He is tireless in helping those in need. Our organists contribute hugely to our liturgy. It is important to sing at Mass. We have a great tradition of hymn singing. Perhaps we can sing other parts of the Mass, such as the Holy, holy, etc?

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 13 & 20 December.

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 Christmas Lunch: for a number of reasons the lunch has been postponed. It was very successful last year. However, we hope to have a pre-Lent 'Carnevale' celebration in its place.

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 new translation of the lectionary is now in use. Helpful resources (short video pieces) are available at: www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary-video-resources/

The leaflet *The New Lectionary Explained* is available in church by the newsletters.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill had its 2nd Reading in the House of Commons on 29 November 2024. It passed with a majority of 55. It now goes to the Committee Stage and will come back to the Commons in a number of months. 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. It is very important that we are alert to the seismic shift which will occur in our society if this Bill becomes law. We need to inform ourselves of the facts and issues. There are many online resources to help us, including: [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

Bishop John Hine's Funeral Mass is at the Cathedral on Tuesday 10 December at 2pm. Bishop Hine served for many years as the Area Bishop in Kent. May he rest in peace.

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.

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 forgo 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%20hunger%20crisis:(cafod.org.uk))

We meet John the Baptist in the Gospel this weekend. He proclaims 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.' John the Baptist is speaking to us. What about Confession this Advent? The liberating power of the Sacrament is Our Lord's gift to us. It is a wonderful experience to know and feel that we are loved and forgiven, and that we are able to forgive. A blessed week, fr Brian