

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: Frances Pond
dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

5th Sunday of Easter

Sat 17 Feria of Easter

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 18 5th SUNDAY of EASTER (C)

Safeguarding Sunday

9am Pauline Farmer RIP (1st anniversary)

11am Johannah Higgins RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 19 St Dunstan

12noon Donald Bergin RIP

Tues 20 St Bernardine of Siena

Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse

9.30am for all who have been harmed by abuse

11am Stations of the Resurrection-Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 21 Feria of Easter – no Mass today

Thurs 22 St Rita of Cascia, Religious Funeral Mass

12noon Patricia McKenna RIP

Fri 23 Feria of Easter

12noon John Povey RIP

Sat 24 Feria of Easter

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 25 6th SUNDAY of EASTER (C)

9am Kay Paterson RIP

11am Thanksgiving – Lock family

(Father David Boundy RIP – 1st anniversary)

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for May 2025, for working conditions: Let us pray that through work, each person may find fulfilment, that families will be sustained in dignity, and that society becomes more human.

Please pray for Pope Leo XIV this Sunday as he formally begins his Petrine ministry with the Mass for the Beginning of the Pontificate in St Peter's Square. The words of today's Gospel are very appropriate: *A new commandment I give you, that you love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.* (John 13)

5th SUNDAY OF EASTER, p396

1st reading: Acts of the Apostles 14:21b-27

Response Ps 145: I bless your name for ever, my God and king.

2nd reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

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

ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 13:31-33a.34-35

Parish News:

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Patricia McKenna, who died on 25 April 2025. Her Funeral Mass is here on Thursday, 22 May 2025 at 12noon, followed by burial in Canterbury cemetery. Please pray, too, for her family.

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: Mary Collins, Mike Sykes, 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 HM The King.

Deal Area foodbank requests:

UHT Milk (all kinds), tins of meatballs, curry, mince, corned beef or ham, rice, noodles, packet pasta in sauce, toilet rolls, jam/peanut butter, shampoo, washing up liquid ketchup/brown sauce and mayonnaise, cat and dog food.

With many thanks.

Safeguarding Sunday 2025:

This Sunday 18 May is Safeguarding Sunday. Archbishop John Wilson has issued a pastoral letter. In his letter, the Archbishop says, 'Safeguarding is not the work of a few; it is a shared responsibility. Each of us, clergy, volunteers, parents, parishioners are called to remain vigilant, informed, and committed to the well-being of every member of our community'. You can find out more about Safeguarding Sunday, including the full pastoral letter, at rcaos.org.uk/safeguardingsunday25 or via the QR code.



The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter is on our website. Copies are also available in the porch, together with a very helpful Safeguarding Sunday flyer.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

Thank you to all parishioners for your prayers and for contacting Mike Tapp MP. This newsletter is prepared before the vote on 16 May 2025 is known. A further vote in the House of Commons takes place in June.

It is vital we make our views known to our MP mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk or House of Commons: London SW1A 0AA. Our Bishops' Conference website contains much useful information on this very sensitive issue: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

Archdiocesan Jubilee Celebration at Aylesford 7

June 2025: **COACH NOW FULL**

More details about the day on:

[aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubilee celebration](http://aec.rcaos.org.uk/jubilee%20celebration)

Please note: no 5.30pm Mass on Saturday 7 June

Parish Thanksgiving Picnic Sunday 22 June 2025

12noon-3pm: please save the date. This is an opportunity for us all to gather in the presbytery garden, before the summer holidays start, to give thanks to God for the generosity and goodness of all our parishioners and to share food with one another.

The Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions came to

Deal in 1870 and left in 2023. They contributed hugely to Catholic life in Deal and to the wider community, caring for orphans, visiting the sick and educating many generations of children. It is important that we mark their presence in Deal as a reminder to us and to future generations of all the Sisters gave to the community. There will be a Mass of Thanksgiving at St Thomas' on Monday 1 September 2025 at 12noon. Bishop Paul Hendricks will preside. After the Mass we will unveil a commemorative plaque to the Sisters, followed by a reception in the Becket Centre.

We look forward to welcoming the Sisters to Deal in September. We have a 2nd collection today to defray the cost (£2,200) of the plaque and its installation. This is a joint project with St John's (Mongeham & Sandwich parish) and ourselves. Both parishes will share the cost of the plaque, etc. **A link is available on our card machine, the Donate button on the website and the plate at the back of the church. The reference is: 'Sisters' Plaque'.**

Summary of Offertory Giving for April 2025: Cash and bank total: £5,671.17, standing orders £3,770.08, Dona contactless £2,189.55, Total £11,630.80, of which £1,345.69.18 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £11,630.80, was a legacy of £500, £3,375.55 for the Easter Collection (excluding gift aid of £372.68), £622.24 for the CAFOD Myanmar appeal, £551.46 for Holy places, £194.68 for St George's Cathedral, a further £432.65 for CAFOD from the Lenten lunches and a Mass intention of £12.50. We never take your generosity for granted, particularly with the number of second collections during this time. Thanks also to the many people who generously give their time to our parish especially during the busy Easter period. Thank you all!

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

To prepare for the Day for Life 15 June 2025: we are invited to join in prayer through the Novena for Life. This will run up to the Feast of the Visitation, between the 23 -31 May. Prayers for each day can be found on the Day for Life page of the [Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales' website](http://CatholicBishopsConferenceofEnglandandWales.org.uk) and also: <https://prayerforlife.ie/>

DOVER: A Place of Sanctuary & Hope Sunday 15 June 2025 2-4pm at St Mary's Church Hall, Canon St, Dover, CT16 1BY. We are invited to celebrate our refugees and the communities which have supported them. All welcome and free entry. Please see poster in the porch and flyers.

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.

Mgr Philip Gilbert is with us for Mass this Saturday 17 May - fr Brian is in London for a wedding.

A Prayer for our new Pope Leo XIV

O God, who chose your servant Leo XIV, as successor to the Apostle Peter as Shepherd of the whole flock, look favourably on the prayers of your people and grant that, as Vicar of Christ on earth, he may confirm his brothers and sisters and that the whole Church may be in communion with him in the bond of unity, love and peace, so that in You, the Shepherd of souls, all may know the truth and share in eternal life.

Statement from Archbishop John Wilson on the Election of Pope Leo XIV, 266th Successor of Peter

With deep joy and thanksgiving, we welcome the election of Pope Leo XIV as the 266th Successor of Peter and 267th Pope of the Catholic Church. Let us rejoice and give glory to God for the gift of our new Holy Father.

In Pope Leo XIV, we receive the Successor of Peter, called by the Holy Spirit to shepherd the Church universal. Just as the Risen Lord entrusted St Peter with the care of his flock, so now Pope Leo is charged with this sacred task: to love the Lord Jesus with all his heart, and to tend his sheep with humility, courage, and faith.

The Petrine ministry is one of service, rooted not in power, but in the person of Christ. The authority of the Holy Father is given by the Lord Jesus Himself, not to point to himself, but to lead us ever closer to the face of Christ. In a world marked by uncertainty and division, Pope Leo is called to be a sign of unity and a herald of hope — guiding us to the truth of the Gospel, and to the peace that only Christ can give.

Now more than ever, we need to fix our gaze on the Lord Jesus. It is by placing him at the centre of our lives that we find the strength to meet life's challenges, and the peace our hearts long for. Pope Leo stands among us as a servant of that hope, reminding us that our salvation lies in Christ alone.

I invite each one of you to look to our new Holy Father with the obedience of faith and affection. Let us listen to his voice as he leads us in fidelity to Christ and the mission of his Church. Like him, may we be renewed in our own commitment to love the Lord Jesus above all things, and to care for one another with the tenderness of the Gospel.

Please join me in praying for Pope Leo XIV, asking the Lord to bless him abundantly. And let us thank God for this great gift to the Church and to the world.



The Lord has truly Risen. Alleluia! Alleluia!

May we all be blessed this Easter season, fr Brian

