

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle
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Parish Administrator: Clare Hoile

Parish Office hours: Thurs & Fri 9.30 – 12noon

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16th Sunday in Ordinary Time [C]

Sat 19 St John Plessington, Priest & Martyr
12.30pm Ordination to the Priesthood of Deacon
Stephen Trafford – at the Cathedral

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Marjorie Halldron RIP (1st anniversary)

Sun 20 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9am People of the Parish

11am Fr Martin O'Connor RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 21 St Lawrence of Brindisi, Priest & Doctor

10am Leavers' Mass at St Mary's Primary School

St Richard's Road. ALL WELCOME

Tues 22 St Mary Magdalene, Feast

9.30am Thanksgiving (MA)

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

1pm Leavers' Assembly – St Mary's Primary School

Wed 23 St Bridget of Sweden – No Mass today

Thurs 24 St Sharbel Makhluf, Priest

12noon Canon Gerard Flynn RIP

Fri 25 St James, Apostle

9.30am Deceased members of Tijo & Mariya's family

7pm Archbishop John Wilson – 30th anniversary of

Ordination to the Priesthood – at the Cathedral

Sat 26 Sts Joachim & Anne, Parents of the BVM

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Brian James Reed RIP

Sun 27 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9am People of the Parish

11am John O'Keeffe RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

16th Sunday [C], p899

1st reading: Genesis 18:1-10a

Response Ps 15: O Lord, who may abide in your tent?

2nd reading: Colossians 1:24-28

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Blessed are those who hold fast to the word of God in an honest and good heart, and

bear fruit with patience. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 10:38-42

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for July 2025, for formation in discernment: let us pray that we learn how to discern, how to choose the right paths in life, and

how to reject everything which leads us away from Christ and the Gospel.

Parish News:

HOT WEATHER It is important during this very hot weather for all of us to keep properly hydrated. Bottled water can be found in the porch if needed.

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, 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.

A warm welcome to all visitors to Deal this summer and to those returning home for the holidays. Thank you for being with us for Mass and we wish you all a very restful stay in Deal. A couple visiting Deal recently joined us for Mass on two Sundays. They wrote to me: **the parishioners made us feel most welcome.** Many thanks for your kindness.

Children's Liturgy takes a well-earned rest from next Sunday until the new school year, starting again on **7 September**. Thank you to all involved in this very important part of the Sunday 9am Mass, Adele, Clare and Lucy. The young children benefit greatly and it is always interesting to hear what they have to say on their return to church. **If you would like to help with Children's Liturgy please contact Clare Hoile in the parish office.** Gospel activity sheets are available for the children at the 9am Mass throughout the summer weeks at the back of the church.

Deal Area foodbank requests: Tinned meat, curry, mince, corned beef or ham, fruit squash, cooking oil, shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, custard, tinned vegetables, tinned fruit and sponge puddings. With very many thanks.

Congratulations to Mrs Karen Riddell on her appointment as substantive Headteacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary School from September 2025. Mrs Riddell is currently Acting Headteacher. We wish her and the school community well in the vital vocation of Catholic education. Our good wishes and thanks go, too, to Mrs Maria Pullen for her dedication to the school. **All parishioners are invited to the school for the Leavers' Mass on Monday 21 July 2025 at 10am.**

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill & the Crime & Policing Bill

Much useful background information can be found on the Right to Life website: www.righttolife.org.uk and our Bishops' Conference website:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

Please continue to inform our MP of our serious concerns about these Bills:

mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk or House of Commons:
London SW1A 0AA.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has launched a campaign: JOIN THE FIGHTBACK to campaign against the proposed legislation to decriminalise abortion up to birth and to legalise assisted suicide. If you would like to join the campaign, please fill out one of the cards at the back of the church, place a stamp on the card and post it. SPUC will then send you information.

Please pray for Deacon Stephen Trafford on his Ordination to the Priesthood on 19 July 2025 and for his ministry as a priest in our diocese. Mgr Philip Gilbert is with us for the Saturday 5.30pm Mass as fr Brian is at the Ordination at the Cathedral. Mgr Gilbert is also here for Masses on 26/27 July when fr Brian is away.

Help needed - fr Brian seeks help in the Sacristy Preparing for Mass, clearing up, etc. It would be ideal if we could form a team of sacristy helpers. If you can help, weekdays or weekends, please see fr Brian. Many thanks to those who have volunteered. **We need a few more volunteers so that weekends and weekdays are covered.** With many thanks.

Friday 8 August 2025 is the anniversary of the dedication of our church in 1928. Mass is at 12noon. The anniversary of the dedication is an important moment in the life of the parish for it speaks not only of the significance of the church building as the house of God, but also our dedication as the church – the People of God. **This year also marks the 140th anniversary of the building of the church in 1885.**

Monday 1 September 2025 Mass at 12noon to give thanks to God for the Sisters of the Congregation of Our Lady of the Missions who left Deal in 2023. A commemorative plaque will be blessed and unveiled. We look forward to welcoming a good number of the Sisters to Deal. Bishop Paul Hendricks will preside at Mass. The Deputy Mayor of Deal will represent the town and council. Everyone is welcome to the Mass and reception in the Becket Centre.

Ride & Stride (Deal Heritage): this annual event is on Saturday 13 September 2025. St Thomas' & Sacred Heart Chapel will open during the day to welcome visitors to our churches. **We will need volunteers to help on the day. A list for volunteers to help at St Thomas is in the porch. Two volunteers are needed per hourly slot.** A separate list is available at Sacred Heart Chapel.

A Planned Giving Drive will take place in our parish on the weekends of **11/12, 18/19, 25/26 October 2025.** This is an opportunity to look at how we want to move forward as a parish, building on all we have received from those who have gone before us, and pledging our time, treasure and talents for the present and the future.

Summary of Offertory Giving for June 2025: Cash and bank total: £3,088.17, standing orders £3,895.08, Dona contactless £789.21, Total £7,772.46, of which

£1,032.05 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £7,772.46, is £183.23 for the Day for Life, £106.20 for Communications Sunday, £270.45 for Peter's Pence, £4.92 for the Sisters Plaque and £505 for the Buildings maintenance fund. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

Weekday Masses in September fr Brian will be away during September. If you are happy for him to celebrate a weekday Mass for your intention while he is away, please let him know via the Mass intention envelope.

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

A lifechanging opportunity! Do you desire to know Jesus more intimately? The Archbishop's

Certificate (ArchCert) is a two-year online course for all in Southwark and beyond who wish to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy.

The course will commence on 18 October 2025 and the cost will be £400 per year. The full cost of the course, payable over 2 years is £800. In addition, registration must be completed in advance and there is a non-refundable registration fee of £50. Further details can be found : <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert> Please see fr Brian if you are interested in this.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London, is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent, on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more information.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED, a Catholic charity, supporting Christians who are persecuted, oppressed or in pastoral need, writes: *Right now, the faithful in the Holy Land are struggling to keep the faith alive in the birthplace of Christianity. As the crisis continues, so many of the faithful in the Holy Land are relying on us for urgent aid, so we ask for your help. Together, we can shine the light of Christ's love in dark places of despair.* You can donate via: www.acnuk.org/holyland-donate or call 0345 646 0110 (quote Holy Land).

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.



A restful summer break to all parishioners. Thank you for all you give to the parish and wider community in so many ways.

A blessed week, fr Brian