

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

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Frances Pond

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Sat 23 Sts John Wall & John Kemble, Martyrs

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 24 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9am Teresa Maciaszczyk RIP

11am Alexander Grant RIP

Mon 25 St Louis of France

12noon Intentions of Pat & Margaret Lane

Tues 26 Blessed Dominic Barberi

9.30am John Povey RIP

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 27 St Monica – no Mass today

Thurs 28 St Augustine of Hippo, Doctor

12noon Sr Marion RIP (JP)

Fri 29 The Passion of St John the Baptist

12noon Leslie Lucas RIP

Sat 30 Sts Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line & Margaret Ward, Martyrs

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Intentions of Sue Donaldson

Sun 31 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

9am People of the Parish

11am Tony Peace RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

21st Sunday (C), p920

1st reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Response Ps 117: Go into all the world and proclaim the good news.

2nd reading: Hebrews 12:5-7.11-13

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I am the way and the truth and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 13:22-30

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for August 2025, for mutual coexistence: Let us pray that those societies, where coexistence seems more difficult, do not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons.

Please pray for Elsie Tebbutt and Leo Tilbury recently baptised into the faith of the Church, and for their parents, godparents and families.

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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eve Morris whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here on 22 August 2025. **Please pray, too, for Ann O'Connor** who died recently at Ami Court Care Home, and 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, 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.

Blessed Carlo Acutis, soon to be canonised by Pope Leo XIV in Rome on 7 September 2025 with **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati**, features on Songs of Praise **today** Sunday 24 August 2025 at 1.15pm on BBC1.

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. Everyone is welcome to the Mass and reception in the Becket Centre. **There is still an opportunity to contribute to the cost of the plaque via the contactless machine or plate at the back of the church. Many thanks.**

Children's Liturgy: 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. Children's Liturgy at the 9am Sunday Mass resumes on **7 September**.

Deal Area foodbank requests: Tinned meats, 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.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill has passed all of its stages in the **House of Commons**. Scrutiny of the bill will begin in the **House of Lords** on **12 September 2025**. A similar Bill is also being debated in Scotland. **The Catholic Union** has [21 suggested points](#) 'to put in your own words in letters to your local newspaper, or newsletters of organisations which you belong to' or to our local MP: mike.tapp.mp@parliament.uk

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: 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.

March for Life, London, Saturday 6 September 2025. Mass at Westminster Cathedral 10.30am. Full details at WWW.MARCHFORLIFE.CO.UK

Mary's Meals serves nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest communities. The promise of a good meal attracts these hungry children into the classroom, giving them the energy to learn and hope for a better future. **Mary's Meal's** is already feeding more than 2.6 million children every school day. It costs £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year. **Paul Jarvis**, a parishioner, is walking the Augustine Cammino (Rochester Cathedral to St Augustine's, Ramsgate) from 1-7 September 2025 as part of the **Mary's Meals Jubilee Year of Hope Pilgrimage**. Thank you to all who have already sponsored Paul. If you would like to sponsor Paul, please see the sponsorship form in the porch.

The Rosary for Evangelisation: The Archbishop is keen that the Rosary is prayed in parishes for evangelisation, that is spreading the good news of the Gospel. As a parish family, we pray the Rosary every week on Tuesdays at 11am at Sacred Heart Chapel. Everyone is warmly invited to come along and pray the Rosary with fellow parishioners. Coffee is served afterwards and copies of *The Rosary for Evangelisation* are available.

Ride & Stride (Deal Heritage): Saturday 13 September 2025. St Thomas' & Sacred Heart Chapel will open during the day to welcome visitors to our churches. **Thank you to all who have signed up to welcome visitors to our church and chapel on 13 September.** **This is a great opportunity to introduce visitors to our church and talk about our Catholic Faith. The church will be open all day from just before 10am. It is a good opportunity to call in, light a candle and pray for peace in our world.**

Summary of Offertory Giving for July 2025: Cash and bank total: £6,536.49, standing orders £3,751.33, Dona contactless £632.10, Total £10,919.92, of which £980.49 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £10,919.92, was £4,434.82 donation for the sound system, £277.49 for Sea Sunday (Stella Maris) and £100 for the Buildings Maintenance Fund. **Thank you all for your continued generosity and special thanks to the donor who contributed so generously to pay for the upgraded sound system!**

A Planned Giving Drive takes place in our parish on the weekends of **11/12, 18/19, 25/26 October 2025**. These three weekends allow us a privileged moment to reflect on what our parish means to us, what needs to be done in the short and long terms, and how we can share our time, treasure and talents to ensure that our

parish continues to be a place of witness and outreach in Deal. It is OUR parish and OUR mission to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour of the world.

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED, a Catholic charity, needs your help in supporting those suffering in Gaza and the Holy Land. 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.

From the homily of Pope Leo XIV for Jubilee of Youth Mass 3 August 2024

There is a burning question in our hearts, a need for truth that we cannot ignore, which leads us to ask ourselves: what is true happiness? What is the true meaning of life? What can free us from being trapped in meaninglessness, boredom and mediocrity?

... you can grasp an important point: the fullness of our existence does not depend on what we store up or, as we heard in the Gospel, on what we possess (cf. Lk 12:13-21). Rather, fullness has to do with what we joyfully welcome and share (cf. Mt 10:8-10; Jn 6:1-13). Buying, hoarding and consuming are not enough. We need to lift our eyes, to look upwards, to the "things that are above" (Col 3:2), to realise that everything in the world has meaning only insofar as it serves to unite us to God and to our brothers and sisters in charity, helping us to grow in "compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience" (Col 3:12), forgiveness (cf. ibid., v. 13) and peace (cf. Jn 14:27), all in imitation of Christ (cf. Phil 2:5). And in this way we will grow in an ever deeper understanding of what it means that hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us (cf. Rom 5:5).

... Let us remain united to Jesus, let us remain in his friendship, always, cultivating it through prayer, adoration, Eucharistic Communion, frequent Confession, and generous charity, following the examples of Blessed Piergiorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis who will soon be declared saints. Aspire to great things, to holiness, wherever you are. Do not settle for less. You will then see the light of the Gospel growing every day, in you and around you.



All good wishes for this last full week of the summer holidays. Let us pray for all who have received examination results and for schools and colleges as they prepare for the new academic year. May they all be blessed in the great vocation of teaching and learning. A blessed week, fr Brian