

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle
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33rd Sunday (C) 16 November 2025

Sat 15 St Albert the Great, Bishop & Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 16 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time [C]

World Day of the Poor

9am Maureen & Emilio Valente RIP

11am Phil Hunter RIP

12.30pm Baptism: Noah Michael Hudd

3pm Blessing of Graves: Hamilton Road

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 17 St Hilda

9.30am Fr John Ryan RIP

Tues 18 Dedication of the Basilicas of Sts Peter/Paul

9.30am Int of Mary Felicity Hurling

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 19 Red Wednesday – No Mass today

Thurs 20 Feria

12noon Hazel Lucas RIP

Fri 21 The Presentation of the BVM

12noon Stephen Leslie RIP

Sat 22 St Cecilia, Virgin & Martyr

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Aidan Kelly RIP (CW)

Sun 23 SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING [C]

2nd collection for Catholic Youth Services

9am For young people

11am People of the Parish

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time [C], p969

1st reading: Malachi 4:1-2a

Response Ps 98: The Lord comes to judge the peoples with fairness.

2nd reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. Straighten up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.

ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for November 2025, for the prevention of suicide: Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts will find the support, care and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frans Nitzsche, who has died in Portugal. Please also pray for Corry, his wife, and for their children. Please also pray for the repose of the soul of **Aidan Kelly** and for Jane, his wife. Aidan's Funeral Mass was celebrated here this past week. May they rest in peace.

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.

November is the month of the Holy Souls. Why do we we pray for the faithful departed? The Church's teaching on Purgatory is one of great hope and encouragement: ***From the beginning the Church has honoured the memory of the dead and offered prayers in suffrage for them, above all the Eucharistic sacrifice, so that, thus purified, they may attain the beatific vision of God*** (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1032).

Cemetery Sunday today 16 November 2025: fr Brian will lead a short service in Hamilton Road Cemetery at 3pm and then bless the graves of parishioners. All welcome and please let others know of the blessing of graves.

The Book of Remembrance is on the Lady altar. If you wish, please enter the names of those who have gone before us in faith, together with the year of death. The name and year should be on one line, if possible. **Holy Souls envelopes** are still available in the porch and at the back of the church.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is now in the **House of Lords** for scrutiny. **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

There is very helpful guidance on writing to a Peer on our Bishops' website: [How to write to Peers in the House of Lords - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

MISSIO RED BOXES - please could all the red boxes be handed to fr Brian or left in the sacristy during November. This gives John Letts a chance to count and return them, and also to do the end of year accounts for Missio. The boxes do not need to be full. Thank you to all the holders of boxes for your donations over the past year.

Planned Giving Drive: please return completed forms (ministries/activities, Standing Orders and Gift Aid) at

your convenience. To all who have volunteered, we will contact you as soon as possible. It is very helpful if all Gift Aiders complete and return the GA form, even if you already gift aid and have a standing order. The diocese advises that this is the best way to ensure that all current gift aiders are UK tax payers. Thank you all very much for your generosity and all you do for the parish.

The Deal & Walmer Handelian Choral Society: St Cecilia's Day Concert on Saturday 22 November 2025 at 7.30pm, St George's Church, Deal CT14 6BA. Tickets £15 online at www.dwhsociety.co.uk or on the door.

Summary of Offertory Giving for October 2025: Cash and bank total: £2,419.17, standing orders £4,100.08, Dona contactless £936.21, Total £7,455.46, of which £1,047.82 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £7,455.46, was £480.71 for the CAFOD's Family Fast Day and £186.07 for the PACT Prisons' Week and £174.19 for World Mission Sunday. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

ADVENT 2025

Please make a note of these dates in your diary:

Tuesday 2 December 2025: In our **Advent** talk this year **Ben Bano** will explore the rich heritage of **Catholic Social Teaching** in a fragile world, starting from Leo XIII and 'Rerum Novarum' to the present day, including the latest Apostolic Exhortation **Dilexi te**, as well as insights from the writings of St Augustine. Pope Leo XIV is an Augustinian friar. Ben will give this very topical talk and discussion at **Golf Road Community Centre on Tuesday 2 December 2025 1.30-3pm.**

Advent Course: as part of our Advent preparation there will be 4 evenings of live-streamed presentations from Catholic speaker Mauro Iannicelli, which will be screened at Golf Road Community Centre. In these interactive sessions Mauro will take a detailed look at each of the 4 Advent Sunday gospels on the following Wednesday evenings between 6.45pm-8.15pm: 26 November and 3, 10 & 17 December. All welcome. For more information about Mauro and his ministry go to:

www.comeandsee.org

Weekend of 6/7 December 2025: a speaker from the **Forward Trust** will give a short talk at the end of all the weekend Masses about the work of the Trust. There will be a 2nd collection for its work. The **Forward Trust** helps many with addiction, mental health issues, homelessness and helping people gain employment. It is a non-denominational organisation and extends its outreach to anyone and everyone. Members of the Trust will also be available for an **Information Evening on Monday 8 September 2025 between 7-8pm in the Becket Centre** if you would like to discuss something in confidence or gain more information about the Forward Trust.

Tuesday 16 December 2025: Advent Reconciliation Service with individual confessions at 7pm at St Thomas'. This is a joint service with Mongeham & Sandwich parish.

CHRISTMAS 2025 - Mass times

Wednesday 24 December Christmas Eve: Masses at 5.30pm and 10pm (Carols at 9.30pm)

Thursday 25 December CHRISTMAS DAY
Mass at 11am

Monday 29 December, Solemnity of St Thomas of Canterbury Mass at 12noon, followed by Christmas lunch in the Becket Centre.

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

Next Sunday is the Solemnity of Christ the King and the last Sunday in the Church's year. It is also **National Youth Sunday** and a 2nd collection is taken for the Catholic Youth Services, to support youth work in the diocese and beyond, especially the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.

#RED WEDNESDAY 19 November 2025: Aid to the Church in Need hosts Mass at St George's Cathedral, London SE1 7HY at 6pm to highlight the plight of persecuted Christians throughout the world. This year the focus is on suffering young Christians: www.acnuk.org/redwednesday

CONVERSATION WITH REFUGEES: Stories of Courage, Hope & Resilience at Dover Boys Grammar School, Astor Avenue, Dover CT17 0DQ on **Wednesday 26 November 2025**. Refreshments 5.30-6pm, Event 6-7.30pm. Free Admission.

NOT ALONE: A New Bereavement Support Group From 5 November 2025 10-11.30am every Wednesday at One Church, Noah's Ark Road, Dover, CT17 0DD Please use entrance 'C'. **'Everyone at NOT ALONE has lost someone precious, so we understand. You are not alone.'** Flyers are available in the porch.

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).

Sudan: the situation is very grave for so many people.

If you are able to donate to help, please go to: caford.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis

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.

Pope Leo XIV, Message for the World Day of the Poor 2025

This is a rule of faith and the secret of hope: all this earth's goods, material realities, worldly pleasures, economic prosperity, however important, cannot bring happiness to our hearts. Wealth often disappoints and can lead to tragic situations of poverty - above all the poverty born of the failure to recognise our need for God and of the attempt to live without him. A saying of Saint Augustine comes to mind: "Let all your hope be in God: feel your need for him, and let him fill that need. Without him, whatever you possess will only make you all the more empty."



A blessed week, fr Brian