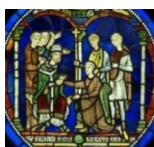


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle
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Email: deal@rcaos.org.uk

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Parish Administrator: Clare Hoile

Parish Office hours: Thurs & Fri 9.30 – 12noon

Parish Safeguarding Reps:

Peter Sykes dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Frances Pond dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

CHRIST THE KING 23 November 2025

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]

World Youth Sunday

2nd collection for Southwark Catholic Youth Service

9am For young people

11am People of the Parish

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket

Centre – all welcome

Mon 24 St Andrew Dung-Lac & Comps, Martyrs

12noon Frans Nitzsche RIP

Tues 25 St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin & Martyr

9.30am Hilda & Aubrey Watkins RIP

(Pat Donaghy RIP – 1st anniversary)

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 26 Feria – No Mass today

6.45pm Advent Course 1, Golf Road Comm Centre

Thurs 27 Feria – No Mass today

Fri 28 Feria

12noon Dec'd members of Mariya & Tijo's families

Sat 29 St Cuthbert Mayne & Comps, Martyrs

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish – Jean Ellis RIP

Sun 30 1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

9am Marcia Fletcher RIP

11am Peter Lecarpentier RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket

Centre – all welcome

Solemnity of Christ the King [C], p973

1st reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3

Response Ps 122: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

2nd Reading: Colossians 1:12-20

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David! ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Luke 23:35-43

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 souls of Frans Nitzsche and Jean Ellis. Frans died in Portugal. Please also pray for Corry, his wife, and for their children. **Jean** has died aged 101. Please also pray for Sue, her daughter, and the wider family. Funeral arrangements for Frans and Jean are yet to be finalised.

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.

Congratulations to Noah Michael Hudd who was baptised into the faith of the Church last Sunday, to his parents, Sophie and Matthew, and to Eliza, his sister, and his family and godparents.

World Youth Sunday is today 23 November 2025.

There is a 2nd collection to support the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which provides a wide range of opportunities for youth and young adults across the Archdiocese. For more information visit

www.tinyurl.com/scys1 or join the Southwark Catholic

Youth Network for regular updates at

www.tinyurl.com/scysnetwork More information about

World Youth Sunday is available from the Catholic

Youth Ministry Federation: www.wys.cymfed.org.uk

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](#)

CHRISTMAS LUNCH: St Thomas' Day, Monday 29 December at 12:45pm, following Mass at 12noon.

The lunch is primarily for our senior citizens and those who are by themselves over the Christmas period. We have room for 40 guests. There is no charge. Donations on the day to defray costs will be gratefully received. We need to know numbers asap. Volunteers needed to help with setting up, clearing up and serving lunch in the Becket Centre. Volunteers also needed for transport. Hugh Irvine has very kindly agreed to prepare the lunch and source the food.

Please sign up now if you would like to attend as a guest or help as a volunteer, either using the sign-up sheet in the porch or via email: deal@rcaos.org.uk

Ben Bano is organising a pre Christmas collection for the hundreds of migrants who are stuck in Calais in appalling conditions as winter sets in. The items most needed are men's coats and jackets in good condition

sizes small and medium. Toiletries also welcome, as well as sleeping bags. If you can help please contact Ben on **07887 651117** or email him on benbano@aol.com to arrange collection.

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. Very many thanks.

Planned Giving Drive October 2025: Thank you all very much for your generosity and all you do for the parish. If you have completed forms, please place them in the box in the porch. Many thanks.

ADVENT 2025

Advent reflection 1: Advent means more than preparing for Christmas. It starts each new liturgical year for the Christian, a period of waiting and expectancy. The joyful season of Advent (observed for at least 1500 years) starts in late November or early December and leads us into Christmas in a four weeks' season of preparation. Advent resets the clock and calendars for Christians – we move into another cycle of prayer, liturgy and scripture. Autumn ends, winter begins. Advent calls us to a new beginning.

Christians live in the 'in between' period of their salvation, between the two comings of Christ: [1] when the Son of God, Jesus Christ, was born in Bethlehem, giving us the chance to receive Him in the flesh – celebrated in the final nine days of Advent from 17 December; [2] when Christ will come again to take his Bride, the Church, at the end of time – celebrated in the first part of Advent.

This is the heart and tension of Advent, waiting expectantly, in joy and hope, since the Risen Christ will be revealed to everyone on the last day. The coming of Christ at the end of time, and His judgment, is the ultimate expression of His love and mercy. Advent is a time to fix our eyes on Bethlehem and heaven.

Praying with the Psalms is a booklet with 3-minute devotions for each day of Advent & Christmas 2025. This is a very helpful guide for daily prayer during these days. Copies available in the porch - £3 per copy.

Advent Course: this Wednesday, November 26th, will be the first of 4 evenings of live-streamed presentations from Catholic speaker Mauro Iannicelli, to be screened at the **Golf Road Community Centre**. In these interactive sessions Mauro will provide a detailed examination of the forthcoming Sunday Gospel. The meetings will take place between 6.45pm-8:15pm. The 1st Sunday Advent Gospel is **Matthew 24:37-44**. You might find it helpful to read the Gospel (or even better, to read the whole chapter), prior to the presentation. All are welcome. For more information about Mauro and his ministry www.comeandsee.org

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.**

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)

PLEASE NOTE: NO MIDNIGHT MASS

**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

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.

A message from St Edmund's Catholic School, Dover
www.st-edmunds.com

Support your local Catholic secondary school! **St Edmund's are looking for new school governors to join our team!** Are you a practising Catholic with common sense?! Could you work well as part of a supportive team? Do you care about the life-chances of our young people? Are you worried you may not have the right experience for the role? *Then we need you!* You'll commit to six two-hour meetings a year (Wednesdays, 5.30-7.30pm) and be invited into school to get to know our community better. To find out more contact Sally Vickers at the school (svickers@st-edmunds.com, tel 01304 201551). It's rewarding, sometimes challenging and makes a difference to young lives!

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:
cafod.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.



As we end the Church's year, we look forward to Advent, a season of hope, joy and expectation. An ending is also the beginning of something new.

A blessed week, fr Brian