

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 Reps:

Peter Sykes dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

Frances Pond dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A), 30 November 2025

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

Mon 1 Dec St Edmund Campion, Ralph Sherwin

& Alexander Briant, Martyrs

12noon Fr John Horn RIP

Tues 2 Feria

9.30am Geoffrey Russell RIP

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

1.30pm Advent Talk, Golf Road Comm Centre

Wed 3 St Francis Xavier – No Mass today

6.45pm Advent Course 2 – Golf Road Comm Centre

Thurs 4 St John Damascene

12noon Fr Eamonn Whelan RIP

Fri 5 St John Almond, Martyr

12noon Int of Peter Logue

Sat 6 St Nicholas, Bishop

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 7 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

2nd collection for the Forward Trust

9am Mary Mannings RIP

11am Intentions of Nick Middleton (90th birthday)

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

1st Sunday of Advent (A), p1

1st reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

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

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14a

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. Show us, O LORD, your mercy and grant us your salvation. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 24:37-44

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for December 2025, for Christians in areas of conflict: Let us pray for Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, to be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Frans Nitzsche and Jean Ellis. The Funeral Mass for Frans is here on Monday 15 December at 10.30am, followed by burial in Rye, E Sussex. Please also pray for Corry, his wife, and for their family. The Funeral Mass for Jean is here on Thursday 11 December at 1.15pm, followed by Barham Crematorium. Please also pray for Sue, her daughter, and the wider 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 and Paul Dale. Please continue to pray for the good health of HM The King.

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.

ADVENT 2025

Advent reflection 2:

Joy is restrained during Advent. The vestments are purple to reflect sobriety but not sadness. There is no Gloria on the Sundays of Advent. Such restraint only enhances the happy outburst of joyful white and gold at Christmas. Advent has just 4 Sundays and the Scriptures are dominated by three figures: the prophet ISAIAH promising light to dispel darkness; ST JOHN

THE BAPTIST calling us to prepare a way for the Lord; MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD, accepting the Incarnation of the Messiah in her flesh. By the night of 24 December we are ready for THE LIGHT OF GOD coming into the world's darkness.

The Advent Wreath and Candles and the Advent Calendar enhance the sense of **waiting**, counting the days. The five candles of the wreath mark the progress of Advent by lighting a new candle on each of the 4 Sundays and on Christmas Day itself. **Advent calendars are available for all our children this weekend.**

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.

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: the first Advent Talk, a live-streamed presentation from Catholic speaker Mauro Iannicelli, was very well attended and received. **The next meeting**, using the same format, will take place between 6.45pm and 8pm on **Wednesday 3rd December** at Golf Road Community Centre. Please come along to find out what great depth there is in Scripture and as support for our Advent journey. The Gospel reading is **Matthew 3:1-12**. All are very welcome. Please pass on this invitation to those who would like to attend. For more information about Mauro and his ministry: www.comeandsee.org

Next weekend 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 December 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)
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

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!

Community Connect Club is run on behalf of the Rotary Club of Ripple & Sutton. It is aimed at all who are on their own and would enjoy a monthly social event. The next lunch is on Wednesday 3 December 2025 at The Courtyard – a 2 course Christmas lunch with a welcome drink and singer. Approx £25 per head. All welcome. More details available from Matthew Lawrence: 07999 511999 / matt@mdl-group.com

Neurodiversity and our Faith research: the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a Caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, we want to hear from you. Your experiences will help us to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to fill in our short surveys look here:
www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/

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.



Let us be alert this Advent to the coming of the Lord – at Christmas, at the end of time, at the moment of our death, and in the everyday experiences of our lives.

You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect (Matthew 24).



A blessed week, fr Brian