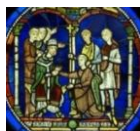


# St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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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](mailto:dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
Frances Pond [dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:dealsg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 1 February 2026

### Sat 31 St John Bosco

4.45-5.15pm Confessions  
5.30pm People of the Parish

### Sun 1 Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

#### 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for the Bethlehem Nativity Group Racial Justice Sunday

9am Fionnula Hartigan RIP  
11am Intentions of Noreen & Lou Holmes

**Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket  
Centre – all welcome**

### Mon 2 The Presentation of the Lord – no Mass today

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Gerard Bradley  
as Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark – at the Cathedral

### Tues 3 St Laurence of Canterbury, St Blaise, Bishops

9.30am Mike Abbott RIP  
Blessing of candles at the start of Mass  
Blessing of throats at the end of Mass

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

### Wed 4 Feria – no Mass today

### Thurs 5 St Agatha, Virgin & Martyr

12noon David Singleton RIP

### Fri 6 St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs

12noon Joe Lenny RIP  
(Michael Conroy RIP – 1<sup>st</sup> anniversary)

### Sat 7 Blessed Virgin Mary

4.45-5.15pm Confessions  
5.30pm People of the Parish

### Sun 8 Feb 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

#### Day for Victims of Trafficking

9am Tim Wright RIP  
11am Peter Logue RIP

**Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket  
Centre – all welcome**

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), p586

1<sup>st</sup> reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Response Ps 146: Blessed at the poor in spirit; for  
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Rejoice and be glad, for your  
reward is great in heaven. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1-12a

**Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February 2026, for  
children with incurable diseases:** Let us pray for  
children suffering from incurable diseases and their

families to receive the necessary medical care and  
support they need, never losing strength and hope.

## Parish News

**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: Marie  
O'Callaghan, 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.

**Deal's Warm Welcome:** During the winter months, do  
remember Deal's Warm Welcome Scheme where you  
can get a welcome and refreshments for yourself and  
your family and friends, as well as anyone else who  
could benefit:

**Mondays:** St Richard's Church (Mill Hill) -  
**9am to 1pm**

**Tuesdays:** Trinity Church (Union Road) - **12.30pm to  
3pm** and Deal Pantry (Deal Welfare Club, Cowdray  
Square) - **2pm to 4pm**

**Wednesdays:** St Andrew's (West Street) - **9am to  
11am**, Deal Pantry 12pm to 2pm and St George's in  
the High Street **12.30pm to 2pm**

**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.

**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](mailto: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](#)

**Another Life issue which demands our prayer and  
attention:** in 2023, a staggering **277,970** abortions  
took place in England and Wales – the highest number  
since the Abortion Act was introduced in 1967, and an  
11% increase on the previous year. The statistics show  
rising abortion rates across nearly all age groups,  
including teenagers and women over 35. A comment  
from *LIFE*: *This suggests that abortion is no longer only  
a response to crisis, but a default solution for  
pregnancies that are unexpected or challenging. These  
are more than numbers; they reveal a shift in how  
pregnancy and motherhood is viewed in society and  
show that abortion is becoming a routine outcome of  
pregnancy in the UK.* For more information and how we  
can help, go to: <https://getinvolved.lifecharity.org.uk>

**The Bethlehem Nativity Group/Holy Land Group is  
with us this weekend** to talk briefly about the Holy  
Land and sell religious articles made from olive wood, to  
help and support the poor Christian families in the Holy  
Land. Any help you can give to them will be deeply  
appreciated.

**The Crib** (in the Lady Chapel) will stay in place until  
the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February  
2026. The Crib collection is shared between the  
FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND & THE CATHOLIC  
CHILDREN'S SOCIETY SOUTHWARK CRISIS FUND.  
Please take a moment after Mass to pray at the Crib for  
peace and the protection of all human life, especially  
the most vulnerable in our world.

**This is the last Sunday the Crib will be in place.**

**Racial Justice Sunday is 1 February 2026 - today.** As the Bethlehem Nativity Group is with us this weekend the 2<sup>nd</sup> collection is for their work. The parish will send a contribution to CARJ, the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese.

**Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-elect Gerard Bradley on 2 February 2026:** I regret that there will not be Mass here on this day (the Presentation of the Lord) as I have to be at the Cathedral. If you have candles you would like blessed – usually blessed on 2 February – these will be blessed at Mass on **3 February** with the church candles. We also have the blessing of throats at the end of Mass that day. Please keep Bishop-elect Bradley in your prayers as he prepares for his episcopal ordination.

**First Reconciliation (Confession) & First Holy Communion 2026:** if your child is in Year 3 or above and you would like them to receive these sacraments this year please email the parish office: [deal@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:deal@rcaos.org.uk) You must live in the parish and/or attend Mass here. You must also have a **Certificate of Baptism** in a Catholic Church for your child. The deadline for emailing the parish is **27 February 2026.** A meeting will take place for all who have registered for this year's programme. **Please also ensure that you have registered with the parish via our website at: [Register with the Parish - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church - Deal - Kent](#)**

**All parishioners: please [Register with The Parish - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church - Deal - Kent](#)** Your information will only be accessed by authorised parish office staff for administrative purposes. It is very important to have up-to-date contact details.

## Lent 2026

**Ash Wednesday is 18 February 2026 – just over two weeks away. It's not too early to start thinking about how we want to share in the season of LENT this year. Lent always points to Easter. PRAYER, FASTING and ALMSGIVING are central to Lent. Here are some of the things we will be doing in the parish:**

**Bible Lenten course on Mondays** Authored and presented by Dr Edward Sri, *No Greater Love*, filmed in the Holy Land, will bring clarity and depth to Christ's Passion through Scripture, historical context, and further insights. Other well known Catholic presenters, including Fr Mike Smith and Jeff Cavins, will help parishioners better understand why Christ died for us, what his sacrifice accomplished, and how his Passion reveals God's immeasurable and unconditional love. **There are 5 sessions to this course which will be shown at the Becket Centre. Commencing Monday 23rd February 12 noon.** Bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided.

**Lenten Lunches on Fridays following the 12noon Mass.** Donations will go to CAFOD. This initiative proved very popular last year and we also welcomed members of other churches in Deal.

**Children's Liturgy** The children will be making a Lenten promise and exploring Pope Leo's message of 'courage and tenderness' during the season of Lent.

**Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays at 11am (Sacred Heart Chapel) and Fridays at 6pm (St Thomas).** The Stations are an excellent devotional prayer to help us in our appreciation of the season of Lent as a preparation for Easter.

**Weekday Mass** can be a time of great prayer and a moment to be with God in a special way. Why not commit, if you can, to join in a weekday Mass during Lent?

**CAFOD Family Fast Day is Friday 27 February 2026:** There is a 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for this on the weekend of 28 February / 1 March 2026.

**CAFOD'S Big Lent Walk:** walk anytime, anywhere, for 40 days and raise funds for life-saving water. For more information, see the poster in the porch or go to: [The Big Lent Walk 2026](#)

## Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

**National Marriage Week** is 7-14 February 2026. Let us pray for all married and engaged couples as we reflect on the central role that marriage and family life play in our Church and in wider society. More information can be found on the website of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales: [Marriage Week - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

**Diocesan Marriage and Family Life Team: Building a Better Marriage 2026 - a one-day event in different deaneries 9am - 4.30pm.** It's a day where couples can **privately** explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to be married. The one-day course is for married couples (whether married for one year, 60 years or anywhere in between). It seeks to help husbands and wives to make their marriages better and to improve their communication skills. There is no group sharing and private information remains private to each couple. **Booking is essential.** The date for our deanery in 2026 is **June 13 Hythe (Dover Deanery).** Please contact Carole on: [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk)

**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: [Donate to an ACN project](#) 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: [Sudan Crisis Appeal](#)

## 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.*

I am not very technically minded and my computer skills are fairly limited. I've been reading a lot about AI recently. I have to say I don't use it myself. A technophobe's reaction, perhaps. The Holy See issued a document on AI last year which may be of interest. It's called *Antiqua et nova* (Ancient and new). It can be found at: [www.vatican.va/antiquaetnova](http://www.vatican.va/antiquaetnova)

A very blessed week, fr Brian