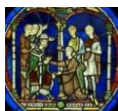


St Thomas of Canterbury

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 Reps:

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This newsletter covers two weeks

The Baptism of the Lord 11 January 2026

Sat 10 Feria of Christmas

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm John Patrick Lohan RIP

Sun 11 The Baptism of the Lord (A)

9am People of the Parish

11am William, Mary & Tony Ashman RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

The end of the Christmas season

Mon 12 St Aelred of Rievaulx

12noon Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Tues 13 St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 14 Feria

12noon Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Thurs 15 Feria – No Mass today

Fri 16 Feria

12noon Service of the Word with Holy Communion

Sat 17 St Anthony, Abbot

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 18 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Peace Sunday: Prayer for Peace on earth –

2nd collection for Pax Christi

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity starts

9am Thanksgiving (JP)

11am Mary Cullen RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 19 St Wulstan, Bishop

9.30am Good health of Marie O'Callaghan

Tues 20 St Fabian / St Sebastian

11am Ecumenical Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 21 St Agnes, Virgin & Martyr – no Mass today

Thurs 22 St Vincent, Deacon & Martyr

12noon John Riley RIP

Fri 23 Feria

12noon Intentions of Helen Barylo

Sat 24 St Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Driscelia Skinner RIP

Sun 25 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sunday of the Word of God – Readers' Renewal of Commitment

9am Seamus & Gertrude Mallon RIP

11am People of the Parish – for the unity of Christians

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

The Baptism of the Lord (A), p90

1st reading: Isaiah 42:1-4.6-7

Response Ps 29: The LORD will bless his people with peace.

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my beloved Son; listen to him.' ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:13-17

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), p578

1st reading: Isaiah 49:3.5-6

Response Ps 40: Behold, I have come, Lord, to do your will.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! The Word became flesh and dwelt among us; to all who did receive him, he gave the authority to become children of God. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: John 1:29-34

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for January 2026, for prayer with the Word of God: Let us pray that praying with the Word of God may be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us build a more fraternal and missionary church.

Parish News

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Gerard McQuillan** whose Funeral Mass was here on 9 January 2026. Our prayers also asked for **Sr Mary Stanislaus** and **Sr Edith**, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, whose Funeral Mass was on 7 January 2026. Please keep their families in your prayers. Please pray, too, for **Fr James Hay**, a retired priest of our diocese, who died recently.

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.

Deal's Warm Welcome: During these wintry conditions 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 on Mill Hill from 9am to 1pm

Tuesdays: Trinity Church 12.30pm to 3pm and Deal Pantry (in Deal Welfare Club, Cowdray Square) from 2pm to 4pm

Wednesdays: St Andrew's on West Street from 9am to 11am, Deal Pantry from 12pm to 2pm and St George's in the High Street from 12.30pm to 2pm.

Octave of Prayer for the Unity of Christians 18-25 January 2026 - Ecumenical Rosary at Sacred Heart Chapel on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 11am – during the Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity, followed by refreshments.

Next Sunday 18 January 2026 is Peace Sunday in England & Wales. On 1 January the worldwide Catholic Church marks the World Day of Peace, instituted by

Pope St Paul VI in 1967. Our bishops designate the 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time as Peace Sunday. In his 'Message for the 59th World Day of Peace, Pope Leo calls for an 'unarmed and disarming' peace around the world. There is a 2nd collection for Pax Christi, the international Catholic organisation working for peace throughout the world: www.paxchristi.org.uk The Pope's 2026 Message for Peace can be found at www.humandevlopment.va

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 Forward Trust has written to thank the parish: *Thank you so much for choosing to support The Forward Trust through your fundraising efforts! We're thrilled to let you know that £790.50 was raised – and we couldn't be more grateful.*

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](#)

The Crib (in the Lady Chapel) will stay in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2 February 2025. 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.

Sunday 25 January 2026 is the Sunday of the Word of God: On 30 September 2019, the memorial of St. Jerome, Pope Francis announced that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would be celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. All Readers (Proclaimers of the Word of God) are invited to renew their commitment at whichever weekend Mass they attend. Sheets with the renewal of commitment will be available at the altar.

Summary of Offertory Giving for December 2025: Cash and bank total: £5,205.17, standing orders £5,583.50, Dona contactless £2,802.01, Total £13,590.68, of which £1,798.43 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £13,590.68, was £5,323.83 for the Christmas Offering (this includes 25% of December's standing orders, £1,125, in accordance with policy of the diocese), £348.98 for The Forward Trust, £298.53 for the Crib Collection, £151.17 for Christmas flowers, £100 for heating costs and £200 for the Sisters' Plaque. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

The Christmas Offering 2025: please see above for the up to date figure. Very many thanks for your generosity. The Christmas Offering remains open until Sunday 11 January 2026 – the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas season.

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.

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

Ambassadors for Christ: A Catholic apologetics resource. The Archdiocese of Southwark has launched an exciting apologetics project to provide evidence-based answers to questions such as "Is Jesus God?" or "Does prayer work?". Ambassadors for Christ is designed to equip you with a deeper understanding of your faith, so you can confidently answer questions and be a joyful witness to Jesus and his Church. Every Monday, a new video will be posted on YouTube, along with a worksheet to enable parishes, schools, youth groups, families and individuals to use them as part of their faith formation. To watch the videos and take part in this exciting project, please visit: rcaos.org.uk/ambassadorsforchrist.

Called to Bear Fruit consultation response published December 2025:

The Archbishop and the Called to Bear Fruit Team thank the thousands of people who took part in the Called to Bear Fruit consultation.

We are grateful to you all for sharing so openly your hopes for the life of the Church in our Archdiocese. The consultation response, which includes 15 actions points for renewal, is available at: [CTBF Consultation Report OCT 25](#) and hard copies will be sent to every parish.

The consultation revealed a burning desire within our parishes to be missionary and evangelising disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, who work together to help people encounter His love. So, as we move forward on the next steps together, let's build up the Body of Christ in Southwark with faith and confidence, becoming ever more a community of missionary disciples filled with joy and hope for the future.

As an Archdiocese, we will continue to discern the process of renewal, and further updates will be provided in due course.

Hard copies of the Report 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: [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:

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.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered: 'This is my Beloved Son; listen to him.'

As we come to the end of the Christmas season and celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, let us listen to the Son of God, the Incarnate Word of God, for guidance, peace and healing in our lives and in our world.

A very blessed week, fr Brian.

