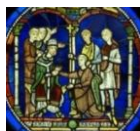


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 25 January 2026

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)

Octave Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

2nd collection for St George's Cathedral

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

Mon 26 Sts Timothy & Titus, Bishops

9.30am Howard and Mark Ellis RIP

Tues 27 St Angela Merici – Holocaust Memorial Day

9.30am Intentions of the Back Family

Intentions of the Ursuline Sisters

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

11am Holocaust Memorial Service – St George's

Wed 28 St Thomas Aquinas – no Mass today

Thurs 29 Feria

9.30am Barry Mayo RIP

Fri 30 Feria – no Mass today

Sat 31 St John Bosco

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 1 Feb 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

**2nd 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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), p582

1st reading: Isaiah 9:1b-4

Response Ps 27: The LORD is my light and my salvation.

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13.17

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom and healed every affliction among the people. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:12-23

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

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

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](#)

Today 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 are available at the altar. Many thanks to our Readers for exercising this Ministry in our parish.

The Octave of Prayer for the Unity of Christians ends today. The Ecumenical Rosary for Unity on 20 January was a very joyful occasion. It was good to welcome members of other Christian churches in Deal to Sacred Heart Chapel.

Holocaust Memorial Day is Tuesday 27 January 2026 At 11am a service will be held at the Memorial Stone in the grounds of St George's, Deal. All are welcome to attend. The theme for this year's Holocaust Memorial Day is 'Building Bridges'.

The Bethlehem Nativity Group/Holy Land Group will visit us **next weekend** to talk briefly about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of 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 full week the Crib will be in place.

Racial Justice Sunday is 1 February 2026. As the Bethlehem Nativity Group is with us next weekend the 2nd collection is for their work. The parish will send a contribution to CARJ, the Catholic Association for Racial Justice. Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass for Racial Justice Sunday at St George's Cathedral on Sunday 1 February 2026 at 10am. Racial Justice Sunday is a time for the Church to pray, reflect and take action against racism, while celebrating the diversity of our Archdiocese. Everyone is invited to take part, and those who wish may wear national or cultural dress as a sign of unity and pride.

White Flower Appeal: the parish has sent a contribution to the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) for the annual White Flower Appeal.

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.

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 three 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:

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.

Bible course on Mondays at 12noon in the Becket Centre. The more familiar we are with the Word of God, above all in prayer, the more Christ is truly present in our lives. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6pm. 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 2nd 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: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk>

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

St George's Cathedral 2nd collection this Sunday
St George's Cathedral is the Mother Church of the Archdiocese of Southwark. For many Catholics living and working across London and the South East of England, St George's is the mother church of our diocese. The Cathedral is entirely reliant upon the generosity of its parishioners, volunteers and all in the Archdiocese of Southwark to keep its doors open. It does not receive Vatican or government funding, nor does it have any endowment. Your support can enable the Cathedral to remain open daily to those seeking a place of peace, prayer and worship. Please give via the plate, contactless machine, QR code on the poster in the porch, or online: www.rcaos.org.uk/Cathedral Many thanks.

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.

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.

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.

This weekend our Readers renew their commitment. Thank you to everyone who exercises a MINISTRY in our parish, in church, in the parish and in the community. We are given the great privilege of witnessing to Christ's love and mercy. A very blessed week, fr Brian