

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

Parish News

A GREAT THANK YOU TO ALL PARISHIONERS FOR ALL THE JOY, ENTHUSIASM AND HARD WORK TO ENSURE CHRISTMAS WENT SO WELL IN OUR PARISH. So many people were involved in so many ways: preparing, decorating, celebrating and tidying up. Thank you to all involved in the Christmas Masses: very full congregations in a prayerful, joyful and hopeful spirit.

Thank you, too, to all who made our parish Christmas lunch on 29 December such a happy and convivial occasion. Thank you to all our guests, volunteers and the SVP for gifts for our guests. A special thank you goes to Hugh Irvine, our chef.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerard McQuillan. The Funeral Mass for Gerard is here on Friday 9 January 2026 at 2.30pm, followed by Barham Crematorium at 4pm. Please keep his family in your prayers. **Our prayers also asked for Sr Mary Stanislaus and Sr Edith, Sisters of Our Lady of the Missions, who have died.** Their Funeral Mass is in Sturry on 7 January 2026, followed immediately by burial in Deal Cemetery at approximately 12.30pm.

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](#)

Children's Liturgy returns at the 9am Mass on Sunday 11 January 2026. Thank you to all the children at the 5.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve dressed as Nativity characters and to those who read the Bidding prayers so beautifully.

A big thank you to the Children's Liturgy Team for their hard work and dedication.

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.

2nd Sunday after the Nativity (A) 4 January 2026

Sat 3 Feria of Christmas

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Jean Ellis RIP

Sun 4 2nd Sunday after the Nativity

9am Maxime Gibbons RIP

11am People of the Parish

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 5 Feria of Christmas

9.30am Dec'd members of Mariya & Tijo's families

Tues 6 The Epiphany, Holyday of Obligation

12noon Frans Nitzsche RIP (DW)

6.30pm Intentions of Mary Collins

The end of the Jubilee Year of Hope

Wed 7 Feria of Christmas – no Mass today

Thurs 8 Feria of Christmas

12noon Terry Noel Murphy RIP

Fri 9 Funeral Mass

2.30pm Gerard McQuillan RIP

4pm Barham Crematorium

Sat 10 Feria of Christmas

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm John Patrick Lohan RIP

Sun 11 The Baptism of the Lord

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

2nd Sunday after the Nativity, p82

1st reading: Sirach 24:1-2.8-12

Response Ps 147: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6.15-18

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA. Glory to you, O Christ, proclaimed among the nations. Glory to you, O Christ, believed in throughout the world. ALLELUIA!
GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

The Epiphany of the Lord, p86

1st reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Response Ps 72: All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3:2-3a.5-6

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship the Lord. ALLELUIA!
GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1-12

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.

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.

Altar Cloths: very many thanks to a parishioner who has kindly donated new altar cloths for the two altars in the sanctuary. These are badly needed as the current altar cloths have seen decades of service.

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

Archbishop John Wilson's Christmas Message 2025

The Archbishop says, *The beautiful truth of Christmas is that because of God in Christ we are never lost. God chose to be near us, to stay close to us always, to draw us to himself, always. In his endless mercy, the Lord Jesus chose to love us, so we could know and believe that "God is love" (1 John 4:16). In turn, all the Lord Jesus asks of us is to not be afraid and to say yes to him, to draw close to him, to love him.* The full message is available here:

[Christmas means God in Christ Jesus loves you: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)

The Christmas Offering 2025: the cash/cheque collection on Christmas Eve/Day came to £2502.70 and online giving came to £1395. Very many thanks for your generosity. The Christmas Offering will remain open until Sunday 11 January 2026 – the Baptism of the Lord and the end of the Christmas season. Priests in our diocese do not receive an annual salary. Fr Brian's parish income comes from the Christmas & Easter offerings and stipends for Masses, Baptisms & Funerals. Of all these, the collection taken at Christmas is usually the largest single amount. Your December Standing Orders do not go to Fr Brian, so unless you make a specific payment at Christmas he will not benefit. There are several ways you can make a Christmas Offering: [1] By cash/cheque (cheques should be made payable to 'RCAS Deal': please place your contribution in a Christmas Offering envelope (available at the back of the church), including your name and address if you wish to Gift Aid. The Gift Aid goes to the parish and not to Fr Brian. The envelope can be dropped in to the offertory basket at Mass or posted through the presbytery door. [2] By using the card machine in the church. [3] By using the DONATE button on our website. [4] By bank transfer to NatWest: Account Name: RCAS Deal Account No: 09658378 Sort Code: 52-30-23 Reference: Christmas Offering

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News

Congratulations to Archbishop-elect Richard Moth on his appointment by Pope Leo as the next Archbishop of Westminster. Archbishop-elect Moth was ordained as a priest of our diocese and for many years was private secretary / vicar general to Archbishop Bowen and Archbishop McDonald. He was Bishop of the Forces and is Bishop of Arundel & Brighton. His installation as Archbishop of Westminster is on 14 February 2026.

Congratulations, too, to Bishop-elect Gerard Bradley on his appointment by Pope Leo as an Auxiliary Bishop in our diocese. Bishop-elect Bradley is a priest of our diocese. He is currently the Episcopal Vicar for the

South West area of the diocese. Bishop-elect Bradley's episcopal ordination is at St George's Cathedral on 2 February 2026. Let us pray for Archbishop-elect Moth and Bishop-elect Bradley, and for **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** as he steps down as Archbishop of Westminster.

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:

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.

An Epiphany Blessing for 2026: 20+C+M+B+26

The letters have two meanings. The names of the Magi are Caspar, Melchior & Balthasar. CMB also denotes Christus mansionem benedicat (Latin for 'May Christ bless this house'). May Christ bless us, our parish and homes, and our world in 2026 with peace and goodwill towards all.

May Christ bless all our school & college communities as a new term starts.

Thank you all for your Christmas cards and gifts, all of which are very much appreciated. Many blessings, Fr Brian.

