

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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This newsletter covers two weeks

2nd Sunday of Lent (A) 1 March 2026

Sat 28 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Fr Philip McGuinness, Fr Robert Jones,
Housekeeper Rose RIP

Sun 1 March Second Sunday of Lent (A)

2nd collection – CAFOD Family Fast Day

9am Kate Lenny & Family / People of the Parish

11am Brian & Christina Middleton RIP

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

Mon 2 Feria of Lent

11.30am Service of the Word and Holy Communion

12noon **No Greater Love** – Bible Course, Becket Centre

Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided

Tues 3 Feria of Lent – no Mass today

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

5.30pm Lent Bible Course – St John's

Wed 4 St Casimir

12noon Service of the Word and Holy Communion

Thurs 5 Feria of Lent – no Mass today

Fri 6 Feria of Lent, Women's World Day of Prayer

12noon Wellbeing of Margaret Thomas

12.30pm Fasting lunch – Becket Centre. Donations to
CAFOD

6pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

Sat 7 Sts Felicity & Perpetua, Martyrs

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Kathleen Rawson & Augustine Rawson RIP
(Canon John Devane RIP)

Sun 8 March Third Sunday of Lent (A)

9am Silvio Valente RIP

11am People of the Parish

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

Mon 9 St Frances of Rome, Religious

9.30am Intentions of Philippa Kenton

12noon **No Greater Love** – Bible Course, Becket Centre

Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided

Tues 10 Feria of Lent

9.30am Fr John Buckley RIP

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

5.30pm Lent Bible Course – St John's

Wed 11 Feria of Lent – no Mass today

Thurs 12 Feria of Lent

12noon Fr Robert Jones, Fr Philip McGuinness,
housekeeper Rose RIP

Fri 13 Feria of Lent

12noon Joan Ryan-Seed RIP

12.30pm Fasting lunch – Becket Centre. Donations to
CAFOD

6pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

Sat 14 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish

Sun 15 March Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)

Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday

9am Maureen Sipek RIP

11am Francis & Johanna Higgins RIP

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

2nd Sunday of Lent, p117

1st Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

Response Ps 33: May your merciful love be upon us, as
we hope in you, O LORD.

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8b-10

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

3rd Sunday of Lent, p121

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Response Ps 95: O that today you would listen to his
voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2.5-8

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world; give me
living water, so that I am not be thirsty.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

**Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March 2026, for
disarmament and peace:** Let us pray for nations to
move towards effective disarmament, particularly
nuclear disarmament and for world leaders to choose
the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.

Parish News

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen
Sipek who died on 21 February 2026 and for her
family.** Funeral arrangements have yet to be finalised.

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 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: **please see the poster in the porch for
locations and times of opening.**

**CAFOD Family Fast Day was Friday 27 February
2026:** There is a 2nd collection this weekend for CAFOD.

Family Fast Day envelopes are in the porch or go online to give: www.cafod.org.uk Please post the CAFOD freepost envelope yourself.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is still in the **House of Lords** for scrutiny. **This is a very crucial time as the end of the Parliamentary session nears. 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](#)**

First Aid Training for our Parish: Deal Community NHS First Responders are offering the following two separate **First Aid Training courses:**

Course 1 (for 6 delegates) A 2½ hour Training Course in *Emergency Life Support including CPR and AED training*. Venue - Elizabeth House, Walmer, Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 2pm. Parish to cover costs.

Course 2: (for 20 delegates) A 1½ hour *Training Course in CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) and AED (Automated External Defibrillator)*. Venue - Becket Centre on Wednesday 8 April 2026 at 2pm. There is no charge for this training.

These courses are designed to give delegates a greater understanding of how to support those who may fall seriously ill whilst waiting for paramedics to arrive. They do not provide delegates with any formal certification. **Those interested should contact Edward Gaskin on 07787 666344 or edwardgaskin@live.com**

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. With many thanks.

Parish Car Park Spring Clean and general tidy-up: if you can, please come along with bags and tools for a general tidy-up of our car park, on Saturday 7 March 10am-12noon.

Lent 2026

Bible Lenten course **No Greater Love continues on Mondays during Lent at 12 noon**

Why did Christ die for us? What his sacrifice accomplished, and how his Passion reveals God's immeasurable and unconditional love. Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee provided.

Lenten Fasting Lunches on Fridays at 12.30pm following the 12noon Mass. Donations will go to **CAFOD**.

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).

Joint Lent Penitential / Reconciliation Service at St John's, St Richard's Road, with individual confessions, on Monday 16 March 2026 at 7pm

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News Lent Retreat Day

Lenten Retreat: Saturday 28 March 2026, 1pm - 4.30pm, St John the Evangelist, Mongeham, CT14 9LD. Led by Rev. Dr. Barry Barton, (07715 546938 barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk) Parish Deacon, Parish of the Good Shepherd, Dover and Aylesham.

Theme: A reflection on 5 key events in the life of Peter the apostle and their relevance to everyone's Lenten journey to Good Friday, Easter Sunday and beyond.
Structure: 1pm Lunch, 1.30pm Session 1: Peter's Call to faith and Denial of Jesus. Refreshments. Session 2: Peter's call to ministry, great escape and martyrdom in Rome. 4.30pm Finish. Please bring with you your lunch. Free tea and coffee will be provided. If possible, please bring with you a Catholic bible or copy of the New Testament.

Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral every Friday at 5pm throughout Lent. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero on **Friday 6th** and **Friday 27th March**. Find out more at: [Romero Rosary: Archdiocese of Southwark](#)

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.

Pope Leo's Message for Lent – Part 2 Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion cont'd ...

Fasting: If Lent is a time for listening, *fasting* is a concrete way to prepare ourselves to receive the word of God. Abstaining from food is an ancient ascetic practice that is essential on the path of conversion. Precisely because it involves the body, fasting makes it easier to recognize what we "hunger" for and what we deem necessary for our sustenance. Moreover, it helps us to identify and order our "appetites," keeping our hunger and thirst for justice alive and freeing us from complacency. Thus, it teaches us to pray and act responsibly towards our neighbor.

With spiritual insight, Saint Augustine helps us to understand the tension between the present moment and the future fulfilment that characterizes this custody of the heart. He observes that: "In the course of earthly life, it is incumbent upon men and women to hunger and thirst for justice, but to be satisfied belongs to the next life. Angels are satisfied with this bread, this food. The human race, on the other hand, hungers for it; we are all drawn to it in our desire. This reaching out in desire expands the soul and increases its capacity." (Augustine, *The Usefulness of Fasting*, 1.1) Understood in this way, fasting not only permits us to govern our desire, purifying it and making it freer, but also to expand it, so that it is directed towards God and doing good.

A very blessed week, fr Brian



LENT
Pray + Fast + Give