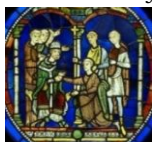


# St Thomas of Canterbury

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:

Peter Sykes [dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:dealsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

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

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) 15 February 2026

### Sat 14 Sts Cyril & Methodius, Bishops

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Ints of Archbishop Richard Moth

### Sun 15 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

#### Clergy Support Fund – 2<sup>nd</sup> collection

9am People of the Parish

11am Mary Nilen RIP

### Mon 16 Feria

9.30am Freida Roger RIP & George Sear RIP

### Tues 17 Feria – No Mass today

11am Rosary – Sacred Heart Chapel

### Wed 18 ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT begins

#### A day of fasting and abstinence

#### Blessing and distribution of ashes at both Masses

12noon Welfare of the Hunter Family

6.30pm People of the Parish for a good Lent

### Thurs 19 Feria of Lent

12noon Dec'd members of Mariya and Tijo's families

### Fri 20 Feria of Lent

12noon Fr Shaun Budden RIP

12.30pm Fasting lunch in the Becket Centre

6pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

### Sat 21 St Peter Damian / St Robert Southwell

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Pauline Wilson RIP

### Sun 22 First Sunday of Lent (A)

9am People of the Parish

11am Edward & Iris Russell RIP

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

## 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A), p594

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

Response Ps 119: Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD!

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secret of the kingdom to little children. ALLELUIA!

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:17-37

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

**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.

**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](#)

**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](#)

**Children's Liturgy** is on a break for the half-term and resumes on Sunday 1 March 2026. Many thanks to all involved in Children's Liturgy.

**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

**Praying with the Psalms: 3 minute devotions for Lent and Holy Week 2026**  
by Emily Mae Mentock.  
Available in the porch £3 per copy.

**Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday 18 February 2026. Masses, with the blessing and distribution of ashes, at 12noon and 6.30pm. It is a day of fasting and abstinence. In 2011 our Bishops re-instituted the traditional Friday Penance. Perhaps we can abstain from meat (or some other food if we do not eat meat) on Fridays as an individual and communal witness and in prayerful solidarity with those in our world who are suffering.**

**Here are some of the things we will be doing in the parish for Lent. All are welcome and please invite friends and fellow Christians:**

**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 Fasting 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, as we will do again this year.

**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. Please join in by eating simply and giving what you can. CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes are in the porch or go online to give: [www.cafod.org.uk](http://www.cafod.org.uk) **Please post the CAFOD freepost envelope yourself.**

**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](#)

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

**Lent Bible Study at St John's on Tuesdays during Lent 5.30pm to 6.15pm.** Start date is 24 February and end date is 24 March. All are very welcome.

#### **Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News**

**Clergy Support Fund Second Collection this weekend:** Supporting priests in their retirement is one way to show our appreciation for all they have given to the parish communities in which they served. Our prayers and financial contributions make supporting our clergy in retirement possible. Find out how to donate to the **Clergy Support Fund** at: [Clergy Support Fund: Archdiocese of Southwark](#) or scan the QR code in the porch. You can also donate via telephone (office hours Mon-Fri) **020 7960 2504**. There is also a link

on our contactless giving machines. Let us keep our Priests in our prayers, especially our retired priests.

**Please pray for Archbishop Richard Moth**, the new Archbishop of Westminster. Archbishop Moth was ordained as a priest of our diocese in July 1982. After serving in various roles in Southwark, he was Bishop of the Forces, then Bishop of Arundel & Brighton before moving to Westminster. Please pray, too, for **Cardinal Vincent Nichols**, as he retires as Archbishop Westminster.

**Pray the Romero Rosary at St George's Cathedral.** Join Archbishop John Wilson and the Cathedral clergy in praying the rosary **every Friday at 5pm** throughout Lent. Archbishop John will personally lead the devotion at the National Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral (SE1 6HR) on **Ash Wednesday (18th February) at 5pm**, and again on **Friday 6th and Friday 27th March**. On all other Fridays during Lent, the Cathedral clergy will lead the rosary, followed by the Stations of the Cross at 6pm. Let the rosary connect you to Our Lord this Lenten season. Find out more at: [www.rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/romerorosary)

**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.*

We welcome Mgr Philip Gilbert for the Masses this weekend. Fr Brian is in London officiating at a wedding. A very restful half-term to all our school and college communities.

A very blessed week, Fr Brian

