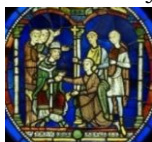


St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



Parish Priest: Canon Brian Coyle
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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

4th Sunday of Lent (A) 15 March 2026

Sat 14 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm People of the Parish – for all Mothers

Sun 15 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*

Mon 16 Feria of Lent

9.30am Leonard Lucas RIP

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

7pm Lent Reconciliation Service, St John's

Tues 17 St Patrick, Feast

9.30am Iris Connaughton RIP (1st anniversary)

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

5.30pm Lent Bible Course – St John's

Wed 18 St Cyril of Jerusalem – no Mass today

Thurs 19 St Joseph, Solemnity

12noon John D Haggis RIP

Fri 20 Feria of Lent

12noon Deceased members of Mariya and Tijo's families

12.30pm Fasting lunch – Becket Centre. Donations to
CAFOD

6pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

Sat 21 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions

5.30pm Intention of Peter Roger

Sun 22 Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

2nd collection for Poor Parishes in our diocese

9am People of the Parish

11am Jim and Mary McCoy RIP

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

4th Sunday of Lent, p127

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b.6-7.10-13a

Response Ps 23: The Lord is my shepherd; there is
nothing I shall want.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever
follows me will have the light of life.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

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. Maureen's Funeral Mass is here on Thursday 26 March 2026 at 11.30am, followed by Barham Crematorium at 1pm. **Please pray, too, for the repose of the soul of David Smith** who died on 9 March 2026, for Frances, his wife, and for their family.

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 and Paul Dale. Please continue to pray for the good health of HM The King.

Today is Laetare Sunday and Mothering Sunday and marks the half-way point in Lent. Today we rejoice in the salvation the Lord gives us as we continue on our Lenten journey. Laetare means 'rejoice' and comes from the entrance antiphon of today's Mass: Rejoice, Jerusalem (Isaiah 66). **We also rejoice and give thanks to God for our mothers.** We pray for all our mothers, living and dead, that they may be blessed beyond measure.

The Sacrament of Confession is a powerful source of forgiveness and healing. The joint Lent Penitential / Reconciliation Service at St John's, St Richard's Road, with individual confessions, is on **Monday 16 March 2026 at 7pm**

Booklets are available in the porch to explain and help with going to Confession.

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.**

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](#)

Archbishop John Sherrington of Liverpool, Lead Bishop for Life Issues at our Bishops' Conference, has issued a Lenten statement, encouraging us to pray for Parliamentarians and a culture of life: [Pray for parliamentarians and for a culture of life, says Archbishop in Lenten statement - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Bishop Philip Egan of Portsmouth has issued a statement after the recent vote in Jersey: [Assisted suicide is fundamentally dangerous, says Bishop after Jersey votes to make it law - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

Deal Community NHS First Responders are offering this **First Aid Training course:** **(for 20 participants)** 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.

This course is designed to give participants a greater understanding of how to support those who may fall seriously ill whilst waiting for paramedics to arrive. It does not provide participants with any formal certification. **Those interested should contact Edward Gaskin on 07787 666344 or edwardgaskin@live.com**

Parish Car Park Spring Clean: many thanks to all who helped in the clean up last Saturday.

Summary of Offertory Giving for February 2026:

Cash and bank total: £2,281.67, standing orders £4,776.41, Dona contactless £742.71, Total £7,800.79, of which £1,154.82 is Gift Aid. Included in the overall figure of £7,800.79, was £142.58 for the CAFOD Family Fast Day, £130.75 for CAFOD from the Lent Fasting Lunches, £62.50 for the Crib Collection, £212.44 for the Clergy support fund, £64 for the Lent books and £500 for the Building maintenance fund. Thank you all for your continued generosity!

MISSIO RED BOXES - Please bring your red boxes for emptying, if required. They can be left in the sacristy. There is also the free **Spring Magazine** at the back of the church for anyone to take home.

Lent 2026

As we move into the second half of Lent you are invited to:

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

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

Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays at 11am (Sacred Heart Chapel) and Fridays at 6pm (St Thomas).

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2025

MAUNDY THURSDAY: Mass of the Lord's Supper with washing of feet 7.30pm. Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm. GOOD FRIDAY: Children's Stations of the Cross 10am. Solemn Liturgy of the Passion 3pm. Stations of the Cross 7pm. HOLY SATURDAY: EASTER VIGIL 8pm EASTER SUNDAY: Masses at 9am and 11am with renewal of baptismal promises.

Please also see our website for further details: [Holy Week & Easter - St Thomas of Canterbury Catholic Church - Deal - Kent](#)

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21-28 August 2026

A pilgrimage is a great opportunity to refresh and renew our relationship with the Our Lord, with the help of Our Lady's prayers. It is a blessing to be able to accompany and to be inspired by other pilgrims, some of whom are sick, elderly or disabled. Details for booking travel and accommodation can be found at: [Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

Pilgrims are also asked to complete a form with details, including medical requirements (if any) at: [Catholic Association Join](#) For more information, please contact Canon Edward Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) or Deacon John Fogarty (johnfogarty@rcaos.org.uk) or Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk)

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.

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.

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 3 Listening and Fasting: Lent as a Time of Conversion cont'd ...

Fasting: ... in order to practise fasting in accordance with its evangelical character and avoid the temptation that leads to pride, it must be lived in faith and humility. It must be grounded in communion with the Lord, because "those who are unable to nourish themselves with the word of God do not fast properly" (Benedict XVI). As a visible sign of our inner commitment to turn away from sin and evil with the help of grace, fasting must also include other forms of self-denial aimed at helping us to acquire a more sober lifestyle, since "austerity alone makes the Christian life strong and authentic" (Paul VI.)

In this regard, I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor. Let us begin by disarming our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves. Instead, let us strive to measure our words and cultivate kindness and respect in our families, among our friends, at work, on social media, in political debates, in the media and in Christian communities. In this way, words of hatred will give way to words of hope and peace.

A Prayer for Mother's Day

Lord God, we give you thanks for the many gifts you have given us – the gift of life and the gift of those who love us. We thank you today for the gift of our mothers and grandmothers. We give thanks for our mothers and grandmothers who have died and for the unique way they have revealed your love to us. May all mothers celebrate a very special day today!



A blessed week, fr Brian