

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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Parish Safeguarding Reps:
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5th Sunday of Lent (A) 22 March 2026

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

Mon 23 Feria of Lent

9.30am Intentions of the Wilson Family
12noon **No Greater Love** – Bible course, Becket Centre

Tues 24 Feria of Lent – no Mass today

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel
5.30pm Bible course – St John's, last session

Wed 25 The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity

6pm Peace in our world

Thurs 26 Feria of Lent

11.30am Funeral Mass: Maureen Sipek RIP
1pm Service at Barham Crematorium

Fri 27 Feria of Lent

12noon Maureen Sipek RIP
12.30pm Fasting lunch – Becket Centre.
Donations to CAFOD

6pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

Sat 28 Feria of Lent

4.45-5.15pm Confessions
5.30pm John Edward Andrews RIP

Clocks go forward one hour during the night

Sun 29 PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Both morning Masses begin in the Becket Centre

9am People of the Parish
11am Jim and Mary McCoy RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

5th Sunday of Lent, p133

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Response Ps 129: With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God

I am the Resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

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. 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.** David's Funeral Service (not Mass) is here at 11.30am on Thursday 16 April 2026, followed by Barham Crematorium at 1pm. Please also keep the families of Maureen and David in your prayers.

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. Please do let the parish know of anyone who is sick or housebound.

2nd Collection for Poor Parishes in our diocese, formerly the Needs of the Diocese collection, this weekend. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the parishes in the diocese struggling financially.

Deal's Warm Welcome: 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](https://www.bcos.org.uk)
Scotland rejects assisted dying and affirms human dignity: please go to www.bcos.org.uk to read the statement from Bishop John Keenan, President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Scotland, following the vote in the Scottish Parliament on 17 March 2026.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2026

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](https://www.bcos.org.uk)

Washing of Feet on Maundy Thursday: please do sign up on the list in the porch.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion 2026: please pray for our five children – Amanda, Henry, Georgia, JaneMary and William – and their families, together with all supporting them in the parish, as they set out on their preparation for these two great sacraments.

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

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.

The Easter Offering 2026: Priests in our diocese do not receive an annual salary. The weekly collection is for parish purposes and does not go to fr Brian. fr Brian's parish income comes from the Christmas & Easter offerings and stipends for Masses, Baptisms & Funerals. There are several ways you can make an Easter Offering: [1] By cash/cheque (cheques should be made payable to 'RCAS DEAL': please place your contribution in an Easter 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: Easter Offering.

Deanery, Diocesan, National & International News
New Archbishop of Canterbury: please pray for the Most Rev & Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally as she prepares for her Installation as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury in Canterbury Cathedral on Wednesday 25 March 2026, the Solemnity of the Annunciation.

SOUTHWARK DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: 21-28 August 2026

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.

Spring Pilgrimage to Canterbury

April 18th 10.30am from St Mary's Church, Chilham via St Mary's Church, Chartham, to Canterbury and finishing with evensong in the Cathedral. Contact: Eddie Gilmore at gileag@gmail.com
www.eddiegilmore.org

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

For the past 50 years Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering marriage enrichment retreats all around the world. Focused on couples who want to enrich their relationship and gain a deeper understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage, the retreat offers a unique experience. It's a chance to explore your relationship at a deeper, more intimate level, regardless of how long you have been together. Thousands of couples in the UK have benefited from a Marriage Encounter weekend retreat. The next retreat is 15th-17th May 2026 in Maidstone. Why not find out more at www.me.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.

Pope Leo's Message for Lent – Part 4

Finally, Lent emphasizes the communal aspect of listening to the word and fasting. The Bible itself underlines this dimension in multiple ways. For example, the Book of Nehemiah recounts how the people gathered to listen to the public reading of the Law, preparing to profess their faith and worship through fasting, so as to renew the covenant with God (cf. 9:1-3).

Likewise, our parishes, families, ecclesial groups and religious communities are called to undertake a shared journey during Lent, in which listening to the word of God, as well as to the cry of the poor and of the earth, becomes part of our community life, and fasting a foundation for sincere repentance. In this context, conversion refers not only to one's conscience, but also to the quality of our relationships and dialogue. It means allowing ourselves to be challenged by reality and recognizing what truly guides our desires — both within our ecclesial communities and as regards humanity's thirst for justice and reconciliation.

Dear friends, let us ask for the grace of a Lent that leads us to greater attentiveness to God and to the least among us. Let us ask for the strength that comes from the type of fasting that also extends to our use of language, so that hurtful words may diminish and give way to a greater space for the voice of others. Let us strive to make our communities places where the cry of those who suffer finds welcome, and listening opens paths towards liberation, making us ready and eager to contribute to building a civilization of love.

Crucifixes and statues are covered this weekend until the Easter Vigil – a reminder that we are ever closer to the great events of the Paschal Mystery: The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Our Lord.

A blessed week, fr Brian