

St Thomas of Canterbury

Archdiocese of Southwark CIO

Registered Incorporated Charity Number 1173050



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PALM SUNDAY 29 March 2026

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 Peter Grimshaw RIP

Refreshments after both Masses in the Becket Centre – all welcome

Mon 30 Monday of Holy Week

9.30 am Special Intention (JP)

12noon **Bible course *No Greater Love – The Resurrection***

Tues 31 Tuesday of Holy Week

9.30am Donna McArthur RIP

10-10.30am Confessions

11am Stations of the Cross – Sacred Heart Chapel

Wed 1 April Wednesday of Holy Week

11.30am Chrism Mass – Cathedral

Thurs 2 MAUNDY THURSDAY

THE SACRED PASCHAL TRIDUUM

7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

With the washing of feet

For all who serve and care for others

Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm

Fri 3 GOOD FRIDAY

10am Children's Stations of the Cross

11-11.30am Confessions

3pm SOLEMN LITURGY OF THE PASSION

Collection for the Holy Places

6-6.45pm Confessions

7pm Stations of the Cross – St Thomas'

Sat 4 HOLY SATURDAY

11-12noon Confessions

8pm THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL

People of our parish

(Mgr Canon John O'Toole RIP – 1st anniversary 3 April)

Sun 5 EASTER SUNDAY

9am Dr Isabelle D'Cruz RIP

11am Leonard Lucas RIP

Renewal of Baptismal Promises at both Masses

No refreshments after Easter Sunday Masses

JOINING IN THE READING OF THE PASSION on Palm Sunday and Good Friday: all parishioners are encouraged to join in – wherever it says **S** please join in as members of the congregation.

PALM SUNDAY (C), p184

Blessing of the Palms: Matthew 21:1-11, p185

1st reading: Isaiah 50:4-7, p193

Response Ps 21: My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST, KING OF ETERNAL GLORY!

GOSPEL: The Passion: Matthew 27:11-54 (short form at 5.30pm and 9am, p201). Matthew 26:14-27:66 (11am, p195)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, p221

Washing of Feet: please do sign on the volunteer sheet available in the porch. A few places still available.

GOOD FRIDAY, p228

Collection for the Holy Places

THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL, p251. Please note the three readings for the Vigil are: Genesis 1:1-2:2 (p261); Exodus 14:15-15:1 (p267); Ezekiel 36:16-17,18-28 (p275). All three readings are followed by sung responsorial psalms and proper prayers.

After the Gloria there is the Epistle reading (Romans 6:3-11, p278) followed by the triple sung alleluia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 28:1-10 (p279)

EASTER SUNDAY, p291

1st reading: Acts of the Apostles 10:34.37-43

Response Ps 117: This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice in it and be glad.

2nd reading: Colossians 3:1-4

SEQUENCE – to be said by all from missals

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed; let us therefore celebrate the festival in the Lord. **ALLELUIA!**

GOSPEL: John 20:1-9

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 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 pray, too, for **Maureen Sipek**, whose Funeral Mass was celebrated here last Thursday. Our prayers are also asked for **Thomas Bramwell** who has died. Please keep their families in your prayers during these days.

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.

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](#)

Archbishop John Wilson of Southwark has issued a statement following the House of Lords' decision to keep clause 208 in the Crime and Policing Bill. The clause decriminalises abortion up to birth in some circumstances. Read the full statement at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/archbishop-wilson-unborn-child-ignored-and-silenced-after-vote-to-decriminalise-abortion/>

Holy Hour for the Sanctity of Life: our Bishops have asked all parishes to have a Holy Hour for the sanctity of life on **Sunday 19 April 2026 between 4.30-5.30pm.**

Mission Red Boxes: thank you to everyone who has dropped off their Red Missio Box. £220 has been banked. Your box can be reclaimed from the back of the church. Spare boxes are available in the repository for anyone who would like to start saving their spare change. Please write your name underneath. Thanks go to John Letts, our Missio Organiser.

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.

Children's Liturgy takes an Easter break after today and resumes on Sunday 26 April 2026. **There is a special Children's Stations of the Cross in the church on Good Friday at 10am.** Please do join in. Many thanks to all who make our Children's Liturgy possible.

Lent Activities: a grateful word of thanks on behalf of all parishioners to those who arranged the Bible Study Course and the Fasting Lunches. The final Bible study session is on Monday 30 April at 12noon in the Becket Centre. Details of the amount raised for CAFOD at the fasting Lunches will be given in due course. Thanks, too, to all who were able to pray the Stations of the Cross (this week, too, on Tuesday and Good Friday).

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

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

From the Diocesan Marriage & Family Life Team Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, 11 July 2026, at St George's Cathedral

If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year, please let us know as soon as possible, **and no later than the middle of May**, providing the following details: your names in the format John and Mary Smith, your home address, your parish, and the anniversary you are celebrating, so you can receive an invitation from the Archbishop for the renewal of vows during Mass. Spaces are limited. Contact us at mflkent@rcaos.org.uk As the title of your email, please write your parish location - DEAL.

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

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.

A reflection for Palm Sunday

So it is ourselves that we must spread under Christ's feet, not coats or lifeless branches or shoots of trees, matter which wastes away and delights the eyes only for a few brief hours. But we have clothed ourselves with Christ's grace, or with the whole Christ – 'for as many of you as were baptised into Christ have put on Christ' – so let us spread ourselves like coats under his feet.

(St Andrew of Crete, 8th century bishop)

These days of Holy Week, and especially the Sacred Paschal Triduum, invite us to deepen our faith in the Lord of Life. How important this is in today's world.



A blessed Holy Week, fr Brian