

ST THOMAS À BECKET CHURCH

West Hill, Wandsworth

PARISH WELCOME PACK



2025



St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Monsignor Matthew Dickens

Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth

SW18 1NT

020 8874 1818

www.stthomasabecketwandsworth.org.uk

wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk



Parish Priest: Mgr Matthew Dickens

Parish Office Administrator: Ms Phoebe Wicks

Parish Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9:20am – 3pm

To check if you are in our Parish, please see the Parish Map and Boundaries on our website www.stthomasabecketwandsworth.org.uk

For church hall bookings, please email the Parish Office to request availability and pricing wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk

Follow our Facebook page for latest news and events
www.facebook.com/StThomasABecketWandsworth

Mass Times

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:30pm

Sunday Mass: 10:00am

Weekday Masses: Monday to Saturday 9:30am

Holy Days of Obligation: 7:00pm Vigil; 9:30am on the day.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Following the 9:30am Mass on Friday. Concludes with Benediction at 11:00am.

Grupo De Oración / Rosary & Devotions in Spanish: Wednesday 6:00pm

Confessions: Saturday 10:00am to 10:45am or by request. Please contact the Parish Office if you require the sacrament at other times.

Baptism & Marriage enquiries: Please introduce yourself to Mgr Matthew after Mass.

Welcome to St Thomas à Becket Church,



We are very happy you have joined our parish. We are a very diverse Catholic community, welcoming people from all over the world and from every walk of life. I hope you will settle happily here and feel very much part of our parish.

We hope this welcome pack helps you find out about all the ways you can become involved at St Thomas à Becket Church.



Firstly, please make sure you have completed our **Parish Registration Form**, either via the QR code or by one of the paper copies that can be collected from the church. Please either hand these back into the Parish Office or email a scanned copy to wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk

It is very much my hope and intention that every person who worships here feels welcomed and valued. Financial security is essential for our parish to continue to grow, and I would ask you to consider whether you can take out a standing order. This is the most effective way of the parish having a stable and reliable income. If you are a UK tax-payer, please also consider gift aiding your contribution so that the parish can claim back the tax that is due on your gift.

Whilst we believe that people are more important than buildings, we also recognise that it is our responsibility to maintain the beautiful Grade II Listed Church of St Thomas à Becket.

Mgr Matthew Dickens

Some History of Our Parish and Church

Designed by Edward Goldie (1856-1921), St Thomas à Becket Church is an impressive Victorian Gothic Grade II Listed Building that has stood on Wandsworth's West Hill since 1895. Our Parish began with the establishment of a Mission in 1841, when rooms above the George and Dragon Pub, then at the foot of West Hill, were used as a chapel. Outgrowing this, a small church, designed by Augustus Welby Pugin, was built in the centre of Wandsworth in 1847. Serving as a place of worship for over 40 years, before construction of our present church began in 1893.

Sacraments

A note about arranging sacraments: The sacraments are normally celebrated for those who are resident in the parish, or for those who worship regularly at St Thomas à Becket but live outside the parish boundaries. Please check the parish boundary map on the website to ascertain if you are resident in the parish. If you live outside St Thomas à Becket parish and do not regularly worship here, please contact your parish of residence to arrange sacraments.

Baptism: Baptisms are normally celebrated on Saturdays or Sundays at 12:30. If you wish to arrange the baptism of your child, please initially introduce yourself to Mgr Matthew after Mass. Arrangements can then be made for preparation and a date set for the baptism.

First Reconciliation & Holy Communion: A preparation programme for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion is run every year, starting in January. The programme is advertised from November and registration forms are available in the church. The programme is for children in school year 3 or above who are resident in the parish or who attend St Thomas à Becket regularly but live outside the parish boundaries. The First Holy Communion Mass is celebrated in June or July. A copy of the child's baptism certificate must be supplied with the registration form.

Confirmation: A preparation programme for Confirmation is run every year, starting in November. The programme is advertised from September and registration forms are available in the church. The programme is for young people in school year 8 or above who are resident in the parish or who attend St Thomas à Becket regularly but live outside the parish boundaries. The Confirmation Mass is usually celebrated in May. A copy of the candidate's baptism certificate must be supplied with the registration form.

Marriage: Please note that six months' notice of marriage is required by the Archdiocese of Southwark. If you are intending to marry (whether at St Thomas à Becket or elsewhere) please initially introduce yourself to Mgr Matthew after Mass. Arrangements can then be made for marriage preparation and the administration required. Couples must prepare for marriage in their parish of residence or in the parish where they regularly attend Mass. Please check the parish boundary map on the website to ascertain if you are resident in the parish.

Sacraments

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is the programme offered to those adults who are not Catholic but who wish to learn more about the Catholic faith and to consider if they would like to become Catholic. It is also open to adult baptised Catholics who have not received the sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation. There are weekly meetings beginning in October and running to the following Easter, when candidates are received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil. If you would like more information on the programme please contact Mgr Matthew in the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession): Confessions are heard in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel on Saturdays from 10:00 to 10:45, or by personal arrangement with Mgr Matthew.

The Anointing of the Sick: The Sacrament of the Sick is offered to those who are seriously sick. The Sacrament can be celebrated in the church or in the person's home. If a person is going into hospital, the sacrament can be celebrated before going into hospital; or by the hospital chaplain. If you or a relative is going into hospital please contact the hospital chaplaincy department to inform the Catholic chaplain.

Holy Communion at Home: Arrangements can be made for Holy Communion to be received at home for those who are unable to attend Mass. A team of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are commissioned by the Bishop to take Holy Communion to the sick. Please contact the parish office for more information.

For more information on the Sacraments, please see our website. If you have any queries regarding preparation for the sacraments, please contact the Parish Office.

Ministry

Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability

West Hill, Putney, London, SW15 3SW

020 8780 4500

www.rhn.org.uk

info@rhn.org.uk

Mass is celebrated at 3:15pm on the first Wednesday of the month for patients, their families and staff only. If you know a patient who would like to attend Mass, please contact the hospital chaplaincy so that arrangements can be made.

Pastoral Care & Visiting the Sick: If you are unwell or housebound, please contact the Parish Office to let us know so we can arrange visits. For those who are going into hospital, please contact the hospital Chaplaincy Team. Contact details can usually be found on their website, or please ask the staff.

Home Blessing: If you have recently moved house and would like your home blessed by Mgr Matthew, please contact the Parish Office to make a booking.

Ministries & Groups

Choir: We have a wonderful choir at St Thomas à Becket Church. If you have a talent for singing and would like to join the choir, please speak to the organist or choirmaster after the 10am Mass on Sunday.

Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion: We have a team of Readers & Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion that form the Rota for each week. Extraordinary Ministers distribute Holy Communion at Mass and take Holy Communion to the sick at home.

Children's Liturgy: Children's Liturgy is offered at the 10am Sunday Mass during school term time. Children are invited to join the Liturgy during the Mass. If you are interested in volunteering to help deliver the Children's Liturgy, please contact the Parish Office. Please note, the role requires a DBS from the Archdiocese of Southwark Safeguarding Office.

Altar Servers: Each year we welcome children who have made their First Holy Communion to join the Altar Servers. Training is provided. If you or your child would like to join the Altar Servers, please contact the Parish Office for more details and the registration form. A DBS from the Archdiocese of Southwark Safeguarding Office is required for Adult Servers.

Grupo De Oración En Español / Spanish Rosary & Devotions: Meeting once a week to pray the Holy Rosary in Spanish, share the Word of God, and spend time in prayer. Every Wednesday, 6:00pm to 7:00pm in the church.

Parish Bible Study Group: Meets 3:30pm – 5pm on the First Sunday of the Month. Please see our website for upcoming meetings & topics. To be added to the mailing list or for any enquiries, please contact James Dugdale. WandsworthWestHillBibleStudy@yahoo.com

Diocesan Services: The Archdiocese of Southwark regularly offer Masses at St George's Cathedral in Southwark, courses and events. Please check our Parish newsletter and for notices at the back of the church regularly for any upcoming events. www.rcaos.org.uk

Parish Council: A group of Parishioners who meet regularly with Mgr Matthew to discuss and support the spiritual and practical life of the parish community. Chair: Danny Lyons

Memorial Book

Once a year, we collect applications for names of your deceased loved ones to be entered into our memorial book. The memorial book is located in a glass cabinet at the entrance to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

Outreach

Wandsworth Foodbank: We collect food and other items for the Wandsworth Foodbank. Collection boxes can be found at the back of the church under the newsletter table (please place any food items in the boxes with lids). Regular updates of “Most Wanted” items are posted in our newsletter. More information can be found on the Wandsworth Foodbank website (<http://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk>) along with donation requests.

From time to time, we host guest speakers and appeals for local, national and international charities. More information can be found in our newsletters on our website and at the back of the church.

How to help...

Hospitality Team: Occasionally we need assistance with catering for events at our church. The Hospitality Team help by –

- Shopping for, collecting and delivering food for events;
- Setting up receptions, fundraising events and meetings;
- Serving food and drinks
- Tidying up and packing away after the event.

If you would like to meet new people and help out, please contact the Parish Office to join the team.

Welcome & Coffee Team: Every Sunday some of our Parishioners welcome people to the 10am Mass before serving coffee, tea and biscuits after Mass in the Parish Hall. If you would like to join the rota or can help occasionally, please contact the Parish Office.

Flower Arrangements Team: Our beautiful floral arrangements in the church are all created by our talented Flower Arrangements Team. The flowers are arranged each week except during Lent and the month of August. Volunteers purchase the flowers and

greenery themselves from either the New Covent flower market or from any supermarket or their own gardens or from anywhere else you can source them. Costs are refunded by the Parish. The flowers can be arranged either in bowls with oasis or in vases which are supplied by the church on a Friday or Saturday morning. It is completely informal and you can create your own style and learn as you go along. Just enjoy the lovely experience. If you would like to join the Flower Arrangements Team, contact the Parish Office.

Fundraising Sales: Throughout the year, we host church fundraising sales in the Narthex, at the back of the church, after the Vigil Mass on Saturday (5:30pm) and the 10am Sunday Mass. Sales include

- Cakes and Baked Goods for Mothers' and Fathers' Days, Valentine's Day, Easter and Christmas
- A Spring Plant sale
- Handmade Craft Sale

We always require donations for the sales. Please bring any items to the back of the church before Mass on Saturday or Sunday. If you would like to help run the sales, please contact the Parish Office. We appreciate your generous support of these important fundraising events.

Maintenance Team: Meeting 11am-1pm on the 2nd Saturday of the Month, the Maintenance Team take care of our church site and tackle any works that need attention. Meeting updates are posted in the newsletter and we are always looking for new team members. Just show up at the designated time if you would like to join or contact the Parish Office for more information.

Social Groups & Events

Weekly Baby & Toddlers Group (0-4 years): The Little Pilgrims Play & Pray meet every Monday during school term time (except bank holidays). An opportunity to join other parents of babies and toddlers, share parenting experience, pray together and for children to play. Expectant parents also very welcome. The group meet at 10am – 11:30am in the Parish Hall following the 9:30am weekday Mass on Monday. Parents and children are very welcome to attend the mass before the group meet.



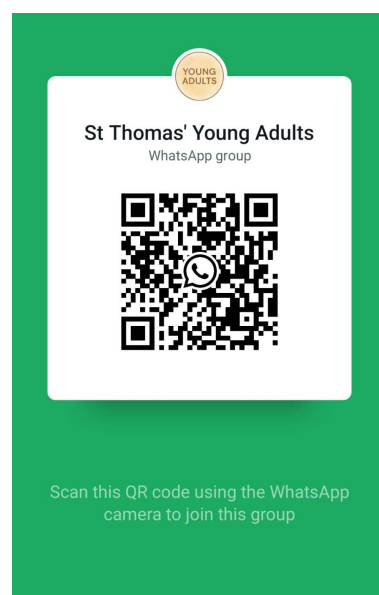
Weekly Knit and Natter Group: Meeting Thursday at 10am (following the 9:30am weekday mass) in the Rice Room, the group come together to share or learn new skills, have a chat and create handmade items for worthy causes. Just turn up if you would like to join.

Monthly Film Club: On the last Friday of the month, the Film Club meet to watch a film and enjoy some food together. Past films included The Blindside, Conclave, What's Up Doc and You've Got Mail. Meeting 11:30am in the Parish Hall (enter via the double glass doors on Santos Road). (No Film Club in August)

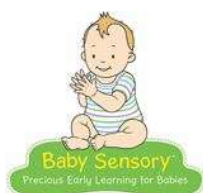
Young Adults' Group: Recently re-launched, the group is open to anyone aged 18–39 and meets roughly every 6 weeks for a variety of social events including pub lunches! Use the QR code to join the group WhatsApp and be in the know for any upcoming events.

Annual Social Events include:

- Celebration of Parish Life Talent Showcase
- The Autumn Quiz and Games Night
- Christmas Carols Service followed by mulled wine and mince pies



Baby Sensory Classes (external classes) (babysensory.com/Richmond)



Every Wednesday, Baby Sensory Wandsworth offer 3 classes in our Parish Hall for Babies from Birth to 13 Months (from 10:10 AM until 2:00 PM). “Join us for wonderful, expert-led sessions designed to support your baby’s development in their precious first year. Each class is filled with music, sensory play, bonding time, and joyful moments for parents/caregivers and their little ones.”

Contact Alexandra, the class leader, to claim an exclusive offer for our parishioners. 07466481945 or richmond@babysensory.co.uk

Parish School



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Wandsworth

Head Teacher: Miss Emma Cashier

Chair of Governors: Mrs Jo Jones

90 Oakhill Road. Putney, London SW15 2QD

020 8874 1888

stjosephs.wandsworth.sch.uk

info@stjosephs.wandsworth.sch.uk

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is the parish school of St Thomas à Becket Church, just around the corner on Oakhill Road.

We are a small, one form entry school with a welcoming feel, where every child is known, valued, and encouraged to grow in faith, character, and learning. Christ is at the heart of all we do, and our School Attitudes—inspired by the Beatitudes—guide children to make positive choices and develop a strong moral compass.

Our community is diverse, with over 30 languages spoken, and our rich curriculum reflects this. From languages and enquiry-based learning to music, sport, and the arts, our children thrive academically and creatively.

Leadership is central to school life: from pupil council and eco projects to roles as digital leaders or Head Boy/Girl, every child has the chance to serve and inspire.

Recently judged Outstanding in the section 48 RE Inspection, St Joseph's combines high standards with a joyful, family atmosphere. The inspector commented, "The school's very strong Catholic identity permeates all aspects of the learning environment of the school."

Contact the school office to join one of the weekly tours, run every Thursday at 11am.

Hall Hire

We are very lucky to have the wonderful Corry Hall in the crypt beneath the church. With a fully equipped kitchen, disabled access and a large space for hosting gatherings, the Parish Hall is the perfect venue for your next event. For pricing and availability inquiries, please contact the Parish Office.

**OUR HALL IS
AVAILABLE FOR HIRE**

**Ideal for clubs, societies,
children's birthday parties,
community classes and more.**

- 40 seated / 60 standing
- Tables & Chairs
- WiFi
- TV & Speakers
- Kitchen
- Disabled access and toilet
- Baby changing facilities

*Regular or
single
bookings
welcome.*

Contact the Parish Office for Pricing and Availability

Donations to the Church & Gift Aid

Our Church has a rich history as the spiritual centre in the lives of many. As Stewards responsible for the gifts received from God, we must look after our beautiful church & pass it on to future generations in excellent condition.

As with any household, our Parish has to:

- Cover day-to-day running costs.
- Pay for building costs & repairs.
- Support Parish Programmes and Projects.
- Save a % of our income for emergency repairs & future projects.

There are many ways you can donate to St Thomas à Becket Church -



Standing Order: We encourage standing orders as the recommended method of donating to the church as it gives us confidence to know what the Parish can expect to receive each month. Standing orders can be set up through your online banking which is the quickest and easiest method. You can amend or cancel your standing order at any time. You will need our bank details, which you can find in the attached standing order form. Alternatively, you can complete this form (<https://tinyurl.com/rk26afu7>) and take it into your bank.



Gift Aid: Our church benefits greatly from Gift Aid. Gift Aid allows us to reclaim tax on donations made by UK Taxpayers. We can claim back 25p for every £1 you donate from HMRC.

To register for Gift Aid, select from the options below –

- A Parish Gift Aid Declaration can be made online at <http://forms.rcaos.org.uk/giftaid>
 - *When completing the form, please select “Wandsworth – St Thomas à Becket” from the “Parish Details” dropdown menu. Then select the email addresses listed under “Parish Email” and “Gift Aid Coordinator”*
- Visit our website or contact the Parish Office for a copy of our Gift Aid form for you to sign and submit.
- Use the Dona machines at the back of the Church when making your offertory donations by card and sign up for Gift Aid at the same time. The machine will remember your Gift Aid declaration next time you use it to donate.
- Fill in and return the attached form to the Parish Office.

For any Gift Aid queries, please contact our Gift Aid Coordinator at wandsworthwesthillgac@rcaos.org.uk or contact the Parish Office.

Offertory & Second Collections: Offertory and Second Collections can be made in church during the cash collection or by card using the Dona Machines at the back of the church. Simply follow the onscreen prompts and tap your card.



PayPal: Donations without Gift Aid can be made quickly and easily by PayPal at <https://tinyurl.com/yuwyxwwb>

Legacy: A gift in your Will to the Church is a wonderful way to support St Thomas à Becket. For more information, please visit the following page on the RCAOS website – www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/leave-a-legacy

Organ Fund: We regularly collect donations for the Organ Fund. This is for previous restoration and ongoing maintenance of our Willis Pipe Organ. Donations made to the Organ Fund can be Gift Aided.

Thank you for your generosity.

S a f e g u a r d i n g

In line with the Catholic Church of England and Wales, the Archdiocese of Southwark is committed to safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. We recognise that the welfare of children, young people and Adults at Risk is paramount and that they have the right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

The Safeguarding team aims to support and assist all members of our community regarding any safeguarding matter raised.

A new Parish Safeguarding Representative (PSR) is in the process of appointment. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any safeguarding concerns, or the Diocesan Safeguarding Office (safeguardingoffice@rcaos.com or phone 020 7261 1606)

N e w P a r i s h i o n e r s C h e c k l i s t

- ☐ Make sure you have completed and returned your Parish Registration Form.
- ☐ Introduce yourself to Mgr Matthew following Mass. He will be delighted to meet you.
- ☐ Explore ways you can become involved in life at St Thomas à Becket Church.
- ☐ Consider setting up a Standing Order &/or making a Gift Aid Declaration to St Thomas à Becket Church.

“God loves us, God loves you all, and evil shall not prevail. We are in God’s hands. Therefore, without fear, united, hand in hand with God and with one another, let us go forward.” Pope Leo XIV



We look forward to welcoming you into our parish at St Thomas à Becket Church.

St. Thomas a Becket Catholic Church, Wandsworth West Hill

Parish Planned Giving and Gift Aid Form



Registered Charity No. 1173050

Please return this completed form to the parish office for the attention of the Gift Aid Coordinator Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth, London SW18 1NT or email wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk

Title		First Name	
Surname			
Address			
		Postcode	
Telephone			
Email			

☐ I wish to Gift Aid my donations *giftaid it*

I would like the Archdiocese of Southwark to treat all qualifying donations I make today, and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years, until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid donations. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income tax and or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed Date

By giving us your telephone number or email, you consent to being contacted via this method.

I would like to support the work and mission of my parish by:

☐ Standing Order (Banker's Order): £ every Month ☐ Quarter ☐ Year ☐

Please complete the form below to **start a new standing order or update an existing standing order** to the parish.

OR TICK ☐ to indicate you have set up a regular payment yourself via online banking using the **Payee Details** below.

I would like to set up a regular gift Please complete the Banker's Order in pen and return the hard copy to parish office

Banker's Order Form

To the Manager of Bank/ Building Society

Please set up the following Standing Order and debit my/our account accordingly

Account Details

Name (s) of Account Holder(s):

Account Number: Sort Code:

Payee Details

Please pay the: National Westminster Bank Account Number: **25170244** Sort Code: **602228**

For the credit of: **RCAS WANDSWORTH**

Payment Details

I would like to make a payment of: £ every Month ☐ Quarter ☐ Year ☐

1st payment (please allow 30 working days) (DD/MM/YYYY): / / 20

Thereafter make payments on the day until further notice. Payments will be made until you cancel this instruction.

Note to Bank: This Standing Order is to REPLACE any existing Standing Order to the above bank account.

Please print the donor's SURNAME, FIRST NAME on the bank statement payment reference.

Confirmation

Title First Name Surname

Signature Date / / 20

Your Privacy: Your personal details and donations will be stored securely on the Archdiocese of Southwark's database. We comply with data protection regulation and the Fundraising Regulator's code of practice. We will never sell your data to third parties. We will use your details to administer your gifts, occasionally send you news on the work of the Church and give you the opportunity to support appeals. We only share information with external organisations working on our behalf or when required by law (e.g. to claim Gift Aid). You can read the full privacy policy on: www.rcaos.org.uk/diocese/policies

Parish Office Use: Parish Code:

GAD number:

Folio number:

