



St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Monsignor Matthew Dickens
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Parish Office: Mon 10am-11am, Tues 9am-3pm,
Thurs 9am-3pm, Fri 9am-2pm



FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

9 MARCH 2025

“Jesus was led by the Spirit in the wilderness and tempted by the devil”

Mass Times

- Sat 8 Feria**
NO 09:30 MASS OR CONFESSIONS
12:30 Rite of Election, St George’s Cathedral
17:30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the Parish
- Sun 9 First Sunday of Lent**
10:00 Jane Elizabeth Snowden RIP
12:30 Baptism Louis Sebastian Fitchett
16:30 Stations of the Cross
- Mon 10 Feria**
09:30 Elizabeth Alice Smith RIP
- Tues 11 Feria**
09:30 Anthony Chidozie Tagibo (Ezeugo) RIP
- Weds 12 Feria**
09:30 Michael Ewing RIP
- Thurs 13 Feria**
NO 09:30 MASS
12:00 Requiem Mass Michael Reynolds RIP
- Fri 14 Feria**
09:30 Father Henry Tikku-Wenna RIP
Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
CAFOD Fast Day
- Sat 15 Feria**
09:30 Despina Azzo RIP
12:00 Confirmation Candidates’ Reconciliation Service
17:30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the Parish
- Sun 16 Second Sunday of Lent**
10:00 Rose Flynn RIP
16:30 Stations of the Cross

Confessions: Saturday 10.15-10.45

Baptisms & Marriages:

Please contact the Parish Priest



Temptation of Christ on the Mount, Duccio, di Buoninsegna, d. 1319

The sacred season of Lent has begun again: a time that is truly blessed by God and given to us so that we may be renewed in faith and in fidelity to Jesus Christ. The challenge set before us in the coming weeks is to be honest before God, to draw close to him in prayer, to reach out to those who need our help and to resolve to remove from our lives all that is not of God. We take up the challenge of Lent not in our own strength but in the strength of God himself. As God led the people of Israel out from slavery in Egypt to the freedom of the Promised Land, so he leads us out from slavery to sin to freedom of life with Christ. Even now we look to the great joy of Easter when we will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead, but in order to participate fully in the greatest act of God’s redeeming love, we must prepare ourselves by prayer, penance and acts of charity. **Mgr Matthew**

Sunday Readings: Year C

Weekday Readings: Year 1

SECOND COLLECTION

8 – 9 MAR – ORGAN FUND

For the previous restoration and maintenance of our Willis Pipe Organ.

NEXT WEEK'S SECOND COLLECTION

15 – 16 MAR – CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY

Be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. CAFOD supports communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

CAFOD Lent Fast Day falls on Friday 14 March. This weekend we welcome Fergus Conmee who will speak to us about this year's CAFOD appeal.

LITTLE PILGRIMS PLAY & PRAY

Group for parents and toddlers (0-4 years) **meets every Monday during school term-time** (not bank holidays) 10-11:30am in the parish hall.



CONFIRMATION 2024-2025

Next class Sunday 9 March at 11:00 in the presbytery

Confirmations candidates' Reconciliation Service

Saturday 15 March at 12:00 in the church

Confirmation Mass practice Sunday 16 March 11:00 in the church

Confirmation Mass Saturday 22 March

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

(RCIA) 2024 – 2025

Next meeting Wednesday 12 March, 19:00 in the Presbytery.

Please pray for the nine adult candidates of our parish who will receive the Sacraments at the Easter Vigil and will become full members of the Catholic Church.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

Next children's class: Sat 8 March 16:00 in the Parish Hall.

Next Parents & carers' meeting: Fri 14 Mar 19:00

First Holy Communion Mass: Sun 6 July 2025 12:00

JUBILEE CELEBRATION DAY AT THE FRIARS, AYLESFORD 7 JUNE 2025

UPDATE! A coach will be provided by the deanery. £20 return per person. Pickup location TBC, but will be near St Thomas' where a coach can safely stop for the group to board. RSVP essential to Parish Office by Friday 21 March.

Led by Archbishop John Wilson, a day of prayer, reflection, celebration, and fun - activities for children & adults. This is the pinnacle event of the 2025 Jubilee in the Archdiocese of Southwark. There will be a walking pilgrimage from St George's Cathedral in Southwark to The Friars (2-6 June). Free event. You can find out more at rcaos.org.uk/jubilee2025 or see poster at the back of the church.

Keeping Lent

The season of Lent is a blessed time for us to return to Christ, to confess our sins and to renew our life of faith. Every Sunday afternoon in Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross at 16:30.

Mgr Matthew's 'Steps of Pain, Steps of Hope', his meditations on the Stations of the Cross, is available for purchase at £5 per copy, all money goes to parish funds. The book is beautifully illustrated with pictures of the Stations in St Thomas' church.



Lent Bible Reading



Join us as we read and reflect on the Holy Week narrative from St Luke's Gospel.

Reflections will be guided by the writings of Pope Benedict XVI.

3.30pm every Sunday of Lent (starting **16 March**)

Becket House, adjoining the church on Santos Road

Facilitated by James Dugdale; all are welcome!

No sign-up or pre-reading needed.

HELP NEEDED!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JOIN OUR HOSPITALITY TEAM

Occasionally we need assistance with catering for events at our church. Can you help?

- Shop for, collect and deliver food.
- Set up for receptions, fundraising events, meetings, etc.
- Serve food and drinks.
- Tidy up.

CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY.

JOIN OUR NEW KNIT & NATTER GROUP!

Learn how to knit and help us make garments for babies and children in need.

Meeting every Thursday after Mass 10am in the Parish Hall

Just turn up or contact the parish office for more information.



LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

Parish Collection	£607
Parish Dona	£283
Standing Orders	£601
Organ Fund Collection	£154
Organ Fund Dona	£19

THANK YOU

8 - 9 March

R Welcome & Coffee: C. Miranda, P. Figueiredo

Readers: SAT: E. Falcone, S. & R. Jay

SUN: A. Burnett & T. Greetham

T 15 - 16 March

A Welcome and Coffee: E. Falcone, A. Oliva

Readers: SAT: M. Slade, L. Slade

SUN: L. Brown, L. Northeast

CHURCH MAINTENANCE TEAM: Meet 11am-1pm on the 2nd Saturday of the Month.

Next meeting: **12 APRIL. JOIN US!**

DIARY DATES AT-A-GLANCE:

13 Mar 10am, Knit & Natter, Parish Hall

14 Mar CAFOD Family Fast Day

16 Mar 3:30pm, Lent Bible Reading, Becket House

20 Mar 10am, Knit & Natter, Parish Hall

23 Mar 3:30pm, Lent Bible Reading, Becket House

27 Mar 10am, Knit & Natter, Parish Hall