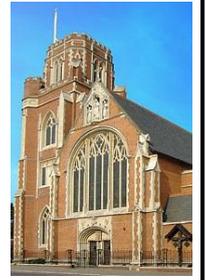




St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
 Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth SW18 1NT
 020 8874 1818 07788 415200
 www.stthomasabecketchurch.co.uk
 wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk
 Parish Office: 9.00-17.00 Wednesday & Friday



Christmas Day

25th December 2020

The Virgin will conceive and bear a son and they will call him Emmanuel

Mass Times

24th Thu	Christmas Eve	18.00 22.00 Anne Thornton +
25th Fri	The Nativity of the Lord	10.00 People of the Parish
26th Sat	Saint Stephen	12.00 May Sheridan + 17.30 John Grenham +
27th Sun	The Holy Family of Jesus Mary and Joseph	10.00 Anthony Dowden
28th Mon	The Holy Innocents	9.30 Irene Vincent +
29th Tue	St Thomas of Canterbury	9.30 Ann McCluskey +
30th Wed	Sixth Day of the Octave of Christmas	9.30 Simon Chesher +
31st Thu	Seventh Day of the Octave of Christmas	9.30 Peter Greevy +
1st Fri	Mary, the Mother of God	12.00 Lolita Delos Santos Thanksgiving
2nd Sat	SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	9.00 Pdraig Gregg +
3rd Sun	Second Sunday after the Nativity	10.00 Patrick Sigamani +

Confessions:

By Appointment

Sunday Readings: Year B **Weekday Readings:** Year 1
Cycle of Prayer, Advent & Christmas:

Openness to the Word of God, Migrants and Refugees,
Expectant Mothers

Next Week's Liturgy Group: John

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the Parish Priest

**Please wear a face mask
while in Church**



Adoration of the Shepherds, Guido Reni 1640

What the Holy Family Shows us at Christmas

Christmas is for many of us, a time when families get together. We remember friends especially those who are no longer with us and those family and friends who live far away.

Sometimes this brings great joy as we catch up on news. Sometimes it's hard going and we need patience in tolerating familiar bad habits, coping with old hurts and negotiating unrealistic expectations.

Many will be glad when Christmas is over. Nevertheless, there is a deeper point to our family gathering. We instinctively recognise the importance of the bond of flesh and blood.

We know that, in a family, we irrevocably belong to each other, no matter the distances that may separate us, or the rows we have lived through. We still look to our family for recognition, acceptance and love even when that hope is unfulfilled.

So when you see the crib this Christmas, don't see in it an image of a vanishing world of father, mother and child. See, rather, a reminder of the truth about our human nature and a source of new encouragement and determination for us all.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

New Rotas

Please pick up the new rotas at the back of the Church. Only Readers and Flowers arranging for the time being.

Christmas Blessing

May the Blessings of Christmas be with you,
May the Christ Child light your way,
May God's holy angels guide you,
And keep you safe each day.

**The magic of Christmas
is not in the presents,
but in His presence**

Christmas Collection for the Clergy

Due to the exceptional circumstances this year the Archbishop has decided that the Christmas collection for the clergy will be spread over the period from Christmas Eve to the Epiphany. Which effectively means Christmas Day, the Feast of the Holy Family and the Second Sunday after the Nativity. Thanks for your kind generosity.

St Mark's Gospel

We have begun the liturgical season of Advent and so commenced a new ecclesiastical year. In the Sunday liturgy we now switch from St Matthew's Gospel to St Mark's Gospel which is occasionally supplemented by the Gospel of St John.

Copies of St Mark's Gospel are available at the back of the Church at £3.50 each. It is the shortest of the Gospels and you can comfortably read it in a couple of hours. Please take a copy.

Year of St Joseph

The Pope has proclaimed a Year of St Joseph running from 8th December 2020 to 8th December 2021. It is in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the declaration of St Joseph as patron of the Universal Church.

**If Christ were to be born
in a thousand stables,
it would be to no avail
if he were not born in our hearts**

Exhibition at the British Museum

The postponed exhibition on St Thomas à Becket at the British Museum will now take place from 22nd April to 22nd August 2021.

Forthcoming Dates

Feast of St Thomas à Becket.....29th December
Confirmation..... 12.00 2nd May
First Communion 12.00 9th May

Feast of St Thomas à Becket

It has been difficult to arrange the Feast of St Thomas à Becket this year due to the Coronavirus so we have decided to postpone it to the New Year. Archbishop John Wilson has agreed to celebrate the mass and preach. We are now awaiting a date from him.



Radio Maria

Father Alex recently recorded an interview with Radio Maria on the subject of the Feast of St Thomas à Becket. It will be broadcast on 29th December. radiomariaengland.uk

First Holy Communion & Confirmation 2021

Forms are available at the back of the Church for candidates to register for First Holy Communion and Confirmation in 2021. Please return them as soon as possible. Classes begin in the New Year.

Organ Repairs

You can see photos of our organ repair work at [facebook.com/Henry Willis Organs](https://www.facebook.com/HenryWillisOrgans). There are several entries so scroll down the page and you will see what bad a condition it was in.

**Love came down at Christmas;
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Stars and angels gave the sign**

Christina Rossetti

BC – AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

UA Fanthorpe