



St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Monsignor Matthew Dickens
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Parish Office: Mon 10am-2pm, Wed 10am-5pm, Fri 10am-5pm



CHRISTMAS DAY AND FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

25 - 26 December 2021

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us

Mass Times

- Sat 25th The Nativity of the Lord**
10:00 Christmas Day mass
Ann O'Shea RIP
Nb no 17:30 Mass
- Sun 26th Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, Feast**
10:00 People of the Parish
15:00 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Benediction
- Mon 27th St John, Apostle and Evangelist, Feast**
09:30 Ann Thornton RIP
- Tues 28th The Holy Innocents, Martyrs, Feast**
09:30 Irene Vincent RIP
- Weds 29th St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop & Martyr, Feast**
Parish patronal feast with veneration of the relics of St Thomas
09:30 Jane Downey RIP
- Thurs 30th Sixth day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**
09:30 Laurie Reilly RIP
- Fri 31st Seventh day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord**
09:30 Allan Jay RIP
- Sat 1st Mary, the Holy Mother of God, Solemnity**
09:30
17.30 Vigil Mass of Sunday
People of the Parish
- Sun 2nd Second Sunday after the Nativity**
10:00 Mary Poynter Thanksgiving
12:00 Baptism
15:00 Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Benediction



Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Son of God, takes human flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary through the power of the Holy Spirit and is born for us in the stable at Bethlehem. This is the wonder of God's love for mankind and the fulfilment of God's promise of salvation. God became man in Jesus Christ so that man should be reconciled with God. What does the birth of Jesus mean for us and for our world? It means that God has revealed *who he is* in Jesus Christ. Everything that Jesus said and did reveals absolutely the nature of God. And Jesus reveals that God is absolute love. The Church proclaims again the Christmas message of peace and joy for our world: 'Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy ... today a Saviour has been born to you: he is Christ the Lord.'

I wish you all a very joyful and blessed Christmas. Thank you for your kindness to me in my first few months at St Thomas a Becket church, and my first Christmas here. May God fill our homes with his love and his joy this Christmastide. **Mgr Matthew**

Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-10.45

Sunday Readings: Year B **Weekday Readings:** Year 1

This Week's Liturgy Group: John

Next Week's Liturgy Group: Matthew

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the Parish Priest

You must wear a face mask while in Church unless medically exempt

COVID-19 GUIDANCE

The Bishops' Conference issues the following advice in regard to the Omicron covid-19 variant: People displaying symptoms of covid-19 should stay at home and not travel to church or participate in person. Hand sanitiser should be used by those attending church (available in the church porch). People must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth unless medically exempt (now mandatory). Good ventilation maintained in the building. People are encouraged to receive the vaccine and booster jabs. Those visiting the sick or housebound should take regular lateral flow tests (free from NHS). **Please check the link:**

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>

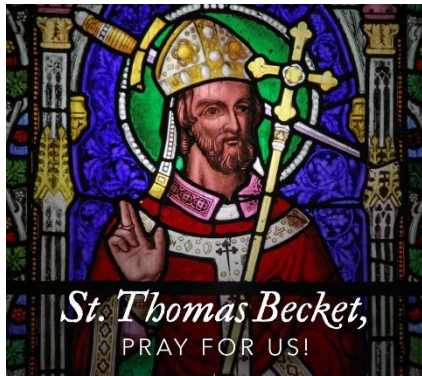
Please, do everything you can to ensure the safety of the congregation. Thank you.

Coffee after Sunday 10:00am Mass

Regrettably with rising Covid-19 infections we are suspending coffee after the 10:00am Mass until further notice. My thanks to all the team who have provided refreshments over the last few months, and I hope we can resume before too long. *Mgr Matthew*

THE CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

will now be taken in the New Year



Parish Patronal Feast Day

The feast of **St Thomas a Becket** falls on Wednesday 29th December.

We are remarkably fortunate to have two relics of the great Archbishop of

Canterbury who was murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170. Please make a special effort to come to Mass (9:30am) to pray for our parish and ask the intercession of St Thomas for all our intentions. The relics will be exposed for veneration.



Christmas Crib

As usual at this Season, all gifts at the Crib are given to the Catholic Children's Society.

Please support this work as generously as you can. You can find envelopes at the back of the church or you can scan the bar code that you find on the crib. Thank You!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2022

Parents of children in school year 3 or above are invited to register their child for first reconciliation and first holy communion preparation 2022. Application forms available in the church or on the parish website.

Parents' meeting on Friday 18 February at 19:00; classes begin Saturday 19 February at 16:00. All dates are given on the application form.

First Communion Mass will be at 12 noon on Sunday 26th June. Closing date for application forms 4 February 2022

THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC?

Are you thinking of becoming a Catholic? Or are you a baptised Catholic but have not received the sacrament of confirmation? If you are interested please come to an informal meeting in the presbytery on Saturday 8th January at 11:00am to find out more about preparation leading to reception into the Catholic Church (including confirmation) at Easter 2022.

South London Refugee Association

Please give the following items in January:

Men's toiletries, Lentils, Tinned beans/pulses.

Please place items in the SLRS collection box in the entrance porch to the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Christmas Offerings

Please find attached an envelope for your Christmas Offering for the Clergy. They are also available at the back of the Church. The envelopes can be used on Christmas Day and on Sunday 26th December (or any time if you are going away). Thank you for your generosity. *Mgr Matthew*

Last Week's Finances

Parish Collection £340.51, Bankers Orders £384

Organ Fund £141.61 (Unless otherwise stated, the second collection is for the Organ Fund)

Rotas

Readers: SAT: N. Nolan, M. Slade **N/W** M. Slade. **SUN:** A. Stacey, A.K. Blanes **N/W** G. Fayers, T. Brown

Maintenance Team: 11am Sat 8th January

