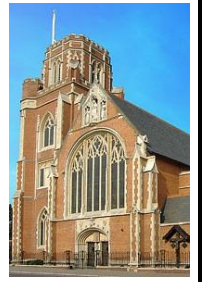


St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth SW18 1NT
020 8874 1818 07788 415200
www.stthomasabecketchurch.co.uk
becket.westhill@btinternet.com
Parish Office: 9.30-14.30 Monday to Friday



Fourth Sunday of Advent

24th December 2017

Rejoice so highly favoured, the Lord is with you

Mass Times

23rd Sat Feria

9.30 *Doris & Bruce Edgcumbe +*
17.30 (Vigil Mass) *Margaret McAllister +*

24th Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent

10.00 *Barney & Marcella Devlin +*
15.00 (Royal Hospital) *People of the Parish*
18.00 First Mass of Christmas (Children)
23.30 Carols and Midnight Mass
Anne Thornton +

25th Mon The Nativity of the Lord

10.00 *Anne Monahan +*

26th Tue St Stephen

12.00

27th Wed St John

9.30

28th Thu The Holy Innocents

9.30 *The Devlin Family*

29th Fri St Thomas à Becket

9.30
19.00

30th Sat Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

9.30 *Michael Lamb +*
17.30 (Vigil Mass) *John Hanly +*

31st Sun The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

10.00 *Margaret McAllister +*
15.00 (Royal Hospital) *People of the Parish*



The Annunciation, Fra Angelico - 1438-1445

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent moves up a step this week as we come much nearer to our celebration of the birth of Christ. In fact, we are as near to Christmas as it is possible to get. Today's Gospel is that of the Annunciation. We are told how the Angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she was to give birth to Jesus.

This is a most astonishing thing for anyone to hear; but Mary realises that this is the work of God and gives her assent in the famous phrase, 'I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me.'

We look to Mary with great admiration as she cooperates with God's plan for the world. We take her as our model and try to emulate her as well as we can in the circumstances of our own life. We try to discern God's will for us and to go along with his wishes rather than try to impose our own will on whatever situation confronts us.

This is a good attitude to adopt and is particularly relevant at this time of year as we approach Christmas. Let us always strive to do the will of God and to put his wishes at the forefront of our lives.

Father Alex

Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-11.00 and at call

Sunday Readings: Year B **Weekday Readings:** Year 2

This Sunday's Readings: Page 90 in Mass Book

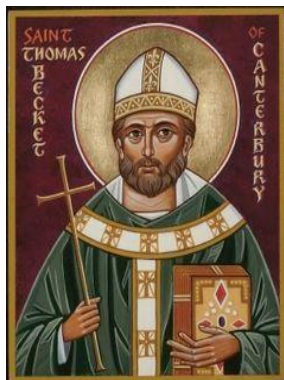
Cycle of Prayer Autumn: The Harvest, Fruits of Human Work, Reverent Use of Creation, Students & Teachers, Spread of the Gospel, Justice & Peace, Prisoners & their Families, Victims of War, Young People

Next Week's Liturgy Group: John

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the Parish Priest

Feast of St Thomas à Becket

The feast of Saint Thomas à Becket takes place on Friday 29th December. We will be celebrating a solemn mass that evening at 19.00 to mark our patronal feast. Father Christopher Basden will be the special preacher. Refreshments afterwards in the Corry Hall.



**Kneel before Jesus
and you can stand before anyone**

Christmas Crib

All gifts at the Crib are given to the Catholic Children's Society. Please support this work as generously as you can.

Christmas Offerings

These are the gift of the Parish Family to the Parish Priest. The Christmas and Easter Offerings form the bulk of his income. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. The envelopes can be used on Christmas Day (or before or after if you are going away). Thank you for your generosity and I assure you and your families of a warm remembrance in my prayers at Christmas and throughout the year.

Father Alex

A Christmas Prayer

Let the just rejoice,
for their Justifier is born.

Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their Saviour is born.

Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.

Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.

Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.

Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.

St Augustine of Hippo

**Perhaps the best Christmas decoration
is being wreathed in smiles**

Upcoming Dates

Feast of St Thomas à Becket..19.00 29th December
Wandsworth Deanery Meeting..... 13th February
Marriage Preparation Course..... 24th February

Children's Mass



18.00 on Christmas Eve
Children can dress up
as Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, etc

Eucharistic Congress

A Eucharistic Congress will be held in Liverpool, 7-9 September 2018. It will promote an awareness of the central place of the Eucharist in the life and mission of the Church. Each Parish is invited to send two representatives so if anyone is interested in going could they make themselves known to Fr Alex.

Parent and Toddler Group

Our Parent and Toddler Group reopens on Monday 8th January 10.00-12.00.

CAFOD

CAFOD are looking for volunteers to help in their work for social justice. They are looking for people who can do public speaking or are good at encouraging others to volunteer. See notice at the back of the Church.

St Stephen's Day

Please note mass on St Stephen's Day is at 12.00.

**We're all much more than we seem
We're all much more than we dream**

Last Week's Finances

Parish Collection £351, Bankers Orders £384

Upcoming Second Collections

7th January: SPUC White Flower Appeal, 14th January: Church Maintenance Fund

New Rotas

The new rotas are ready and available at the back of the church. Thank you very much for your service to the parish. If you are unable to help on any particular day please swap with someone else.

Rotas

Sunday Welcome & Coffee: M Harrison

L Northeast n/w A Oliva, E Falcone

Readers: Sat: E & N Falcone, C Kawesi, Sun: G Donaldson, L Brown, L Northeast n/w Sat: N Nolan, S Vas, E De Souza Sun: T Brown, A Harris, A Stacey

Eucharistic Ministers: Sat: E Falcone, D McGavin Sun: D Lyons, E Sinclair, L Delos Santos, J Cato n/w Sat: J Cato, D McGavin Sun: A Nobis, R Nwodo, P Fahy, R McMullan

Flowers: L Northeast n/w A Oliva

Royal Hospital: Sr Pauline n/w C Kawesi