

St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS
Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth SW18 1NT
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Parish Office: 9.30-14.30 Monday to Friday



Christmas Day

25th December 2017

Unto us a Son is born

Mass Times

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

19.00

30th Sat Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

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

31st Sun Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

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

Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-11.00 and at call

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

This Sunday's Readings: Page 149 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: Mark

Baptisms & Marriages: Please contact the Parish Priest



The Nativity, Lorenzo Lotto - 1523

When the Song of the Angels is Stilled

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman



Every good wish and blessing for Christmas

During this Christmas season, may you be blessed
With the spirit of the season, which is peace,
The gladness of the season, which is hope,
And the heart of the season, which is love

**I will honour Christmas in my heart,
and try to keep it all the year**

Charles Dickens

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

What the Donkey Saw

No room in the inn, of course,
And not that much in the stable,
What with the shepherds, Magi, Mary,
Joseph, the heavenly host -
Not to mention the baby
Using our manger as a cot.
You couldn't have squeezed another cherub in
For love nor money.

Still, in spite of the overcrowding,
I did my best to make them feel wanted.
I could see the baby and I
Would be going places together.

UA Fanthorpe

**He became what we are
that he might make us what he is.**

St Athanasius

Christmas Crib

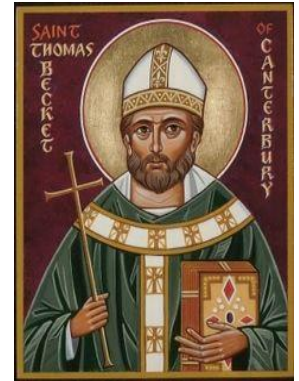
As usual at this Season, all gifts at the Christmas Crib are given to the Catholic Children's Society. Please support this work as generously as you can.

Upcoming Dates

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

Feast of Saint 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.



Thank You

Christmas at St Thomas à Becket is a very busy and lively time; it is a real celebration of the love of God made manifest in the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. Our grateful thanks go to those who cleaned and decorated the Church so beautifully, to our singers and musicians, to the Altar Servers and to all those who are involved in so many ways. A special thanks to those who helped with the very beautiful Carol Service. Also thank you very much for your very generous Christmas offerings, cards and gifts.

Feast of St Stephen

Please note that masses on 26th December, the Feast of St Stephen and New Year's Day will be at 12.00.

Little Church

Little Church resumes again on Sunday 7th January.

Parent and Toddler Group

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

**Christmas Day is a day of joy and charity
May God make you very rich in both**

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.

A Christmas Prayer

God of Abraham and Sarah, of David and his descendants, unwearied is your love for us and steadfast your covenant; wonderful beyond words is your gift of the Saviour, born of the Virgin Mary. Count us among the people in whom you delight, and by this night's marriage of earth and heaven draw all generations into the embrace of your love. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendour of eternal light, God for ever and ever.

ICEL