



# 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



Fourth Sunday of Advent

23rd December 2018

## Blessed is the fruit of your womb

### Mass Times

- 22nd Sat Feria**  
 9.30 Christine Kawesi Thanksgiving  
 10.00 Confessions  
 17.30 Rewe Aurelio Sauchelli +
- 23rd Sun Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
 10.00 Patrick Dolan +  
 15.00 (Royal Hospital) *People of the Parish*
- 24th Mon Christmas Eve**  
 18.00 Children's Mass  
 23.30 Midnight Mass preceded by Carols  
 Anne Thornton +
- 25th Tue The Nativity of the Lord**  
 10.00 Irene Vincent Wellbeing
- 26th Wed St Stephen**  
 12.00 Trustees of the Poor Servants  
 of the Mother of God
- 27th Thu St John**  
 9.30 Rose Poole +
- 28th Fri The Holy Innocents**  
 9.30 Hazel and Horace Moncrieffe +
- 29th Sat St Thomas à Becket**  
 9.30 Christine Kawesi Thanksgiving  
 10.00 Confessions  
 17.30 Special Mass for St Thomas à Becket  
 James O'Donovan +
- 30th Sun The Holy Family**  
 10.00 Thomas Keaney +  
 15.00 (Royal Hospital) *People of the Parish*

### Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-11.00 and at call

**Sunday Readings:** Year C **Weekday Readings:** Year 1

### Cycle of Prayer, Autumn:

Harvest, Fruits of Human of Work, Reverent Use of  
 Creation, Students and Teachers, Spread of the Gospel,  
 Justice and Peace in the World, Prisoners and their  
 Families, All Victims of War, Young People

**Next Week's Liturgy Group:** John

**Baptisms & Marriages:** Please contact the Parish Priest



The Visitation, 1516, Goossen van der Weyden

### The Visitation

Today we mark the Fourth Sunday of Advent and this year we are given for our Gospel text an account of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to her cousin Elizabeth who in her old age was expecting John the Baptist.

This is a distinct change in tone from the previous three Sundays of Advent which were preoccupied with the End of the World and the message of John the Baptist. The readings now move us on to a phase of direct preparation for Christmas by giving us an account of this wonderful meeting between two pregnant cousins.

Elizabeth says on greeting Mary that the child leapt in her womb. We understand that somehow or other the baby, John, recognised that Mary was carrying Jesus in her womb. And we presume that as a result he leapt with joy.

In this extraordinary story we get a glimpse of John the Baptist's mission to prepare the people for the coming of Jesus. Even from the womb he knows what his task in the world is to be. Even from the womb he recognises Jesus. Even from the womb he jumps for joy at the advent of the Messiah, knowing its great significance for the world.

Father Alex

## Children's Mass



**18.00 on Christmas Eve**

Children can dress up as  
Mary, Joseph, Angels, Shepherds, Kings etc

### Christmas Crib

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

## The best things in life aren't things

### Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are available in the Church for your Christmas Offering for the Clergy. The envelopes can be used on Christmas Day (or any time if you are going away). This collection is an important part of the priest's annual income. 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*

### The Presence of Christmas

Christmas is not just a season,  
Christmas is not just a day,  
Christmas is more than a reason  
For parties, presents and play.

Christmas is truly the essence  
Of joy that the Saviour brings;  
Christmas is surely the presence  
Of Jesus, the Kings of Kings!

*William Arthur Ward*

### St Stephen's Day

Please note that mass on St Stephen's Day, 26th December, will be at 12.00.

### Rotas

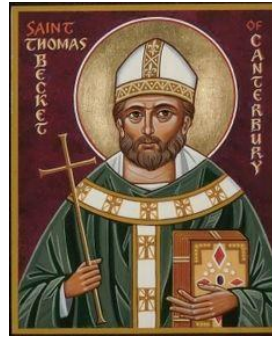
New rotas for 2019 are available at the back of the Church.

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

*St Athanasius*

### Forthcoming Dates

Feast of St Thomas à Becket.....29th December  
Confirmation.....28th April  
First Communion..... 12th May



### Feast of St Thomas à Becket

We mark the feast of St Thomas à Becket with mass on Saturday 29th December at 17.30. The special preacher will be Father Marcus Holden, an expert on the English Saints.

After the mass there will be a buffet in the Corry Hall in thanks for those who have helped the parish during the year in whatever capacity including servers, singers, sacristans, musicians, cleaners, readers, Eucharistic ministers, catechists, ushers, counters, other volunteers, etc, etc. Please come along and enjoy what promises to be a most convivial evening.

### Christmas Services 2018

Children's Mass .....18.00 Mon 24th Dec  
Midnight Mass .....23.30 Mon 24th Dec  
Christmas Day Mass..... 10.00 Tue 25th Dec  
St Stephen's Day ..... 12.00 Wed 26th Dec  
Feast of St Thomas à Becket.....17.30 Sat 29th Dec  
Feast of the Holy Family ..... 10.00 Sun 30th Dec  
Hospital Mass..... 15.00 Sun 30th Dec

### Seniors Club

We are still looking for a helper to co-ordinate and manage the Seniors Club as from January 2019. If you can help please contact the parish office.

### Christmas Day Bus Service

It may interest parishioners to know that a free volunteer bus service will operate hourly between Roehampton (Danbury Ave) and Putney Bridge Station on Christmas Day, along the route 430 bus route using a vintage RT double deck bus.

**He who has not Christmas in his heart  
will never find it under a tree**

### Last Week's Finances

Parish Collection £479 Bankers Orders £384

### Upcoming Second Collections

6th January SPUC White Flower Appeal

### Rotas

**Sunday Welcome & Coffee:** L Northeast n/w  
A Oliva, E Falcone

**Readers:** Sat: E & N Falcone, H Pall, 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,  
C. Kawesi Sun: D Lyons, E Sinclair L Delos Santos, J  
Cato n/w Sat: J Cato, D McGavin, C Kawesi Sun:  
A Nobis, R Nwodo, P Fahy, R McMullan

**Flowers:** V Barkho n/w A. Oliva

**Royal Hospital:** A. Vanotti, M Lewis n/w A Robbin

**Maintenance Team:** 11.00 Saturday 12 January  
9th February