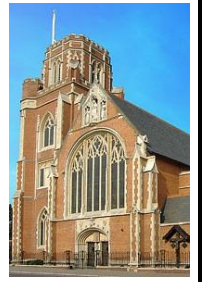


# St Thomas à Becket Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Father Alex McAllister SDS  
Becket House, Santos Road, Wandsworth SW18 1NT  
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wandsworthwesthill@rcaos.org.uk  
Parish Office: 9.30-14.30 Monday to Friday



Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

26th January 2020

Follow me and I will make you fishers of men

## Mass Times

- 25th Sat Conversion of St Paul**  
9.30 Kate Hayward +  
10.00 Confessions  
17.30 Pier Paolo & Cristina Vanotti +
- 26th Sun Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
10.00 Gerard, Lily, Adrian & Michael  
McMorrow +  
15.00 (Royal Hospital) *People of the Parish*
- 27th Mon Feria**  
9.30 David Pullen +
- 28th Tue St Thomas Aquinas**  
9.30 Jimmy Egan ill
- 29th Wed Feria**  
9.30 Maria Figueiredo Thanksgiving
- 30th Thu Feria**  
9.30 Norah Hough +
- 31st Fri St John Bosco**  
9.30 Colette Gallet +
- 1st Sat Feria**  
9.30 Holy Souls  
10.00 Confessions  
17.30
- 2nd Sun The Presentation of the Lord  
(Candlemas)**  
10.00 Jules Lobo +  
15.00 (Royal Hospital)



Christ Calling his First Disciples, Adam Brenner (1800-1891)

## Sunday of the Word of God

The first ever Sunday of the Word of God is celebrated today on the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time. This annual celebration was announced by Pope Francis in a document entitled *Aperuit Illis*, published on 30 September 2019, the Feast of St Jerome. Pope Francis said, 'The Word of God Sunday is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God'.

I believe that it is vitally important for every Catholic home to have a Bible. This may sound self-evident but it is surprising just how many homes do not have a Bible, let alone one which is read. At the back of our Church copies of St Matthew's Gospel are available; please take one home and read it. In the course of this year it is St Matthew's Gospel that we will be following in the liturgy so it is important to have a copy at home for reference. In the liturgy we have read to us only short sections of the Gospel and so it is good for us when we go home to read the relevant passage in context so helping us to understand the text much better.

The Gospels in particular give us much fruit for meditation since they are the inspired word of God. The Gospels then ought to be an important element of our life of prayer. Taking a passage from the Gospels and turning it over in our mind is a very good way of enriching our life of prayer. Please do make some effort this Sunday to become more familiar with sacred scripture. As St Jerome, the famous translator of the Bible, said, 'Ignorance of scripture is ignorance of Christ.'

### Confessions:

Saturday 10.15-11.00 and at call

**Sunday Readings:** Year A **Weekday Readings:** Year 2

### Cycle of Prayer, Ordinary Time before Lent:

Peace on Earth, Justice and Peace in the World, Christian Unity, Victims of Trafficking and Those who Work to Combat It, The Sick and Those who Care for Them, The Unemployed

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

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

Father Alex



**A Celebration of Parish Life**

We are holding a special evening of entertainment provided by Parishioners for the enjoyment of the whole Parish. It takes place on **Saturday 8th February** at 19.00 in the Church. The programme has now been drawn up and a wide range of talents will be on show. There will be a light buffet and wine afterwards in the Corry Hall. Any money raised that night will go towards our Organ Repair Fund. **Tickets are now on sale after masses: £10 per adult, children free.**

**Not the fastest horse  
can catch a word spoken in anger**

*Chinese Proverb*

**First Communion Classes**

The next First Communion classes take place on 8th February, 7th March, 28th March, 25th April (First Confession) 9th May, 6th June (Practice) and the First Holy Communion will be on 13th June. It is expected that the children will attend the 5.30 evening mass on the day of the classes so that the priest can address them.

**Cake Sale**

There will be a cake sale after 10.00 mass on Sunday 16th February.

**New Rotas**

New rotas available taking effect on the 1st February.

**Marriage in 2020**

If you are considering getting married in 2020 it is important that you contact Father Alex urgently so that the preparation process can be started in good time. Six months' notice is normally required

**The trees that are slow to grow  
bear the best fruit**

*Moliere*

**Forthcoming Dates**

Celebration of Parish Life..... 8th February  
Ash Wednesday..... 26th February  
Easter Sunday .....12th April  
Aylesford Scripture Event ..... 27th June

**The Feast of  
Our Lady of Lourdes**



The Sacrament of the Sick will be offered here at St Thomas à Becket on Tuesday 11th February at the 9.30 mass to celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. As it is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick we will also offer the Sacrament of the Sick at mass in the Royal Hospital at 15.00 on 10th February.

**From the Archbishop of Southwark**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Pope Francis has asked that the third Sunday of ordinary time be specially kept as the "Sunday of the Word of God" so that we might "appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people." Our Bishops have invited us to dedicate this whole year to Scripture, encouraging us to develop a habit of prayerful reading and reflection of the Scriptures, and to being open to Him speaking to us in our daily lives. I would like to invite you to join me in Aylesford on Saturday 27th June for a Diocesan celebration marking this year dedicated to scripture study. More details will follow, but I would like to encourage you to plan for this special day. As we listen for how the Lord is speaking to us, let pray for one another.

+John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark

**Death — the last sleep?  
No, the final awakening**

*Walter Scott*

**Last Week's Finances**

Parish Collection £ 487 Bankers Orders £384

**Upcoming Second Collections**

Today 26th January Organ Fund, 2nd February Organ Fund, 9th February Racial Justice Sunday.

**Rotas**

**Sunday Welcome & Coffee:** A Oliva, E Falcone n/w F Azevedo, M Figueiredo

**Readers:** Sat: N Nolan, S Vas, E De Souza Sun: T Brown, A Harris, A Stacey n/w Sat: E De Souza, M Slade; Sun: G Fayers, C McCarthy

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Sat: J Cato, D McGavin, C Kawesi Sun: A Nobis, R Nwodo, P Fahy, R McMullan n/w Sat: D McGavin, Sun: G Donaldson, S Palmer, D Lyons

**Little Church:** R&S Jackson n/w A Kane Blanes C Webb

**Tiny Church:** R Barros n/w J Bronicka Anderson

**Flowers:** A Oliva n/w L Northeast

**Royal Hospital:** A Robbins n/w Sr Pauline

**Maintenance Team:** 11.00 Saturday 8th February