

Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> December

**ST THOMAS BECKET, BISHOP AND MARTYR,  
PATRON OF PASTORAL CLERGY IN ENGLAND  
AND WALES**

*Thomas was martyred in 1170 on the steps inside Canterbury cathedral. He rose to become Chancellor of England for King Henry II and, under the king's influence, became Archbishop of Canterbury. Thomas quarrelled with the King and was eventually killed by four of the king's knights. He was canonised three years after his death and a great devotion to the saint soon sprang up.*

Entrance Antiphon: **In the presence of kings,  
O Lord, I will declare your will, for your  
commands have been my delight.**

The **Gloria** is recited.

First Reading: Colossians 1:24-29  
*I became the servant of the Church.*

Responsorial Psalm: **The Lord is my shepherd;  
there is nothing I shall want.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia! I am  
the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know  
my own sheep and my own know me.  
Alleluia!**

Gospel: Luke 22:24-30  
*I confer a kingdom on you, just as my Father  
conferred one on me.*

Alternative Gospel: Matthew 10:28-33  
*Do not be afraid of those who kill the body.*

Communion Antiphon: **Whoever loses his life  
for my sake, will find it in eternity, says the  
Lord.**

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**WEEKDAY**

**MASS SHEET**



26<sup>th</sup> December – 29<sup>th</sup> December

Wednesday, 26<sup>th</sup> December

**ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR**

*All we know of Stephen is written within the scriptures.  
He was the first, or proto, martyr. Stephen is the Patron  
of Altar Servers: The Guild of St Stephen.*

Entrance Antiphon: **The gates of heaven  
were opened for blessed Stephen, who was  
found to be the first among the number of  
the Martyrs and therefore is crowned  
triumphant in heaven.**

The **Gloria** is recited.

First Reading: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59  
*I can see heaven thrown open.*

Responsorial Psalm: **Into your hands, O  
Lord, I commend my spirit.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia!  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the  
Lord; the Lord God is our light. Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 10:17-22  
*It is not you who will be speaking; the Spirit of  
your Father will be speaking in you.*

Communion Antiphon: **As they were stoning  
Stephen, he called out: Lord Jesus,  
receive my spirit.**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

**ST JOHN, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**



*John, the son of Zebedee and brother of James, witnessed the Transfiguration and the Agony in the Garden. According to legend he settled in Ephesus and had special care for Our Lady after the Crucifixion.*

Entrance Antiphon: **This is John, who reclined on the Lord's breast at supper, the blessed Apostle, to whom celestial secrets were revealed and who spread the words of life through all the world.**

The **Gloria** is recited.

First Reading: 1 John 1:1-4  
*What we have seen and heard we are telling you.*

Responsorial Psalm: **Rejoice, you just, in the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia! We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The glorious company of the apostles praise you, O Lord. Alleluia!**

Gospel: John 20:2-8  
*The other disciple, running faster than Peter, reached the tomb first.*

Communion Antiphon: **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and from his fullness we have all received.**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS, MARTYRS**

*This day commemorates the slaughter, by Herod, of all children under the age of two in Bethlehem at the time Jesus was born.*



Entrance Antiphon: **The Innocents were slaughtered as infants for Christ; spotless, they follow the Lamb and sing for ever: Glory to you, O Lord.**

The **Gloria** is recited.

First Reading: 1 John 1:5 - 2:2  
*The blood of Jesus Christ purifies us from all sin.*

Responsorial Psalm: **Our life, like a bird, has escaped from the snare of the fowler.**

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia! We praise you, O God, we acknowledge you to be the Lord. The noble army of martyrs praise you, O Lord. Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18  
*In Bethlehem Herod had all the male children killed.*

Communion Antiphon: **Behold those redeemed as the first fruits of the human race for God and the Lamb, and who follow the Lamb wherever he goes.**