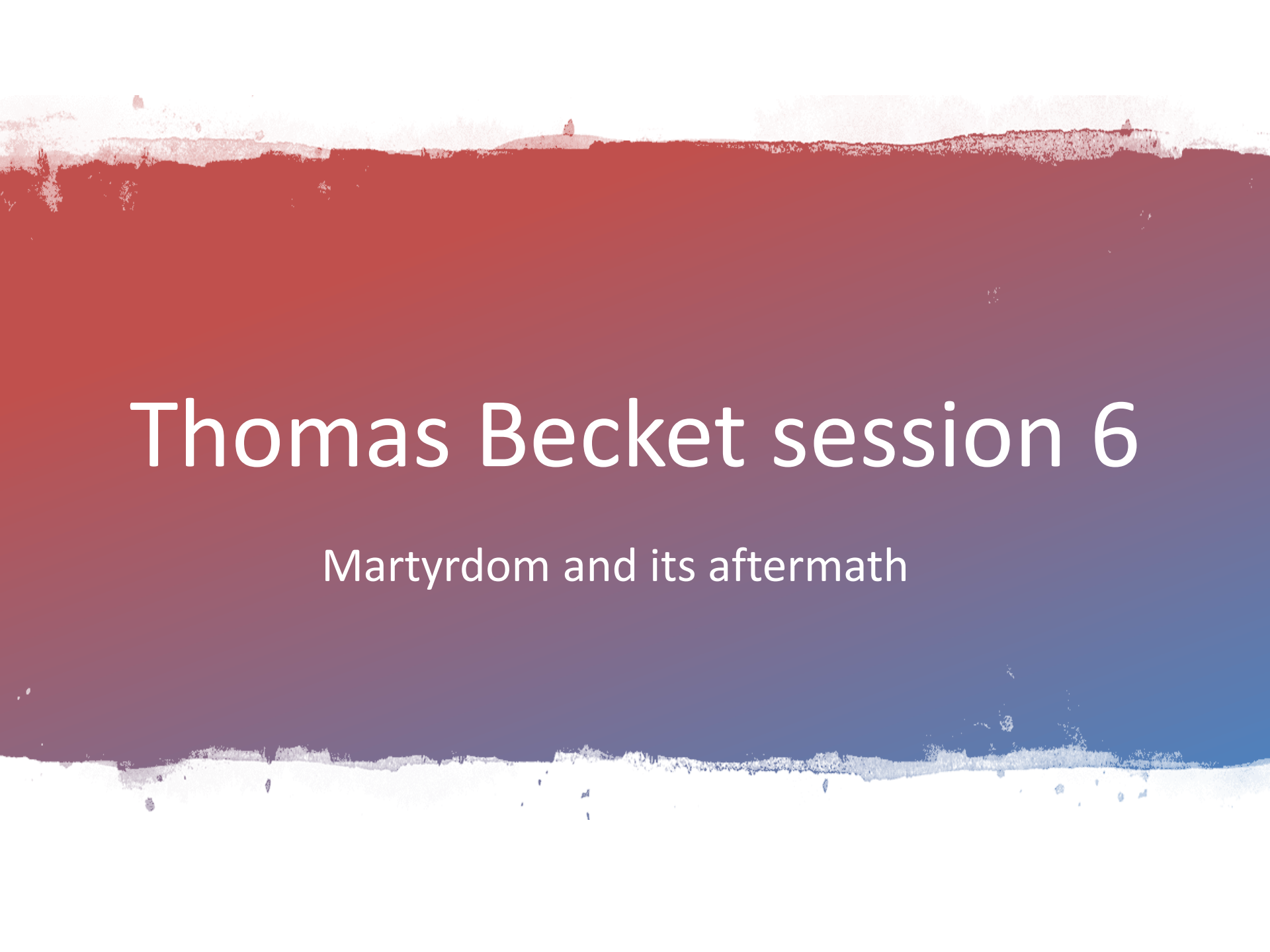


The background of the slide features a horizontal band of color. The top half is a deep red, and the bottom half is a deep blue, separated by a white, torn-paper-like border. The text is centered over this background.

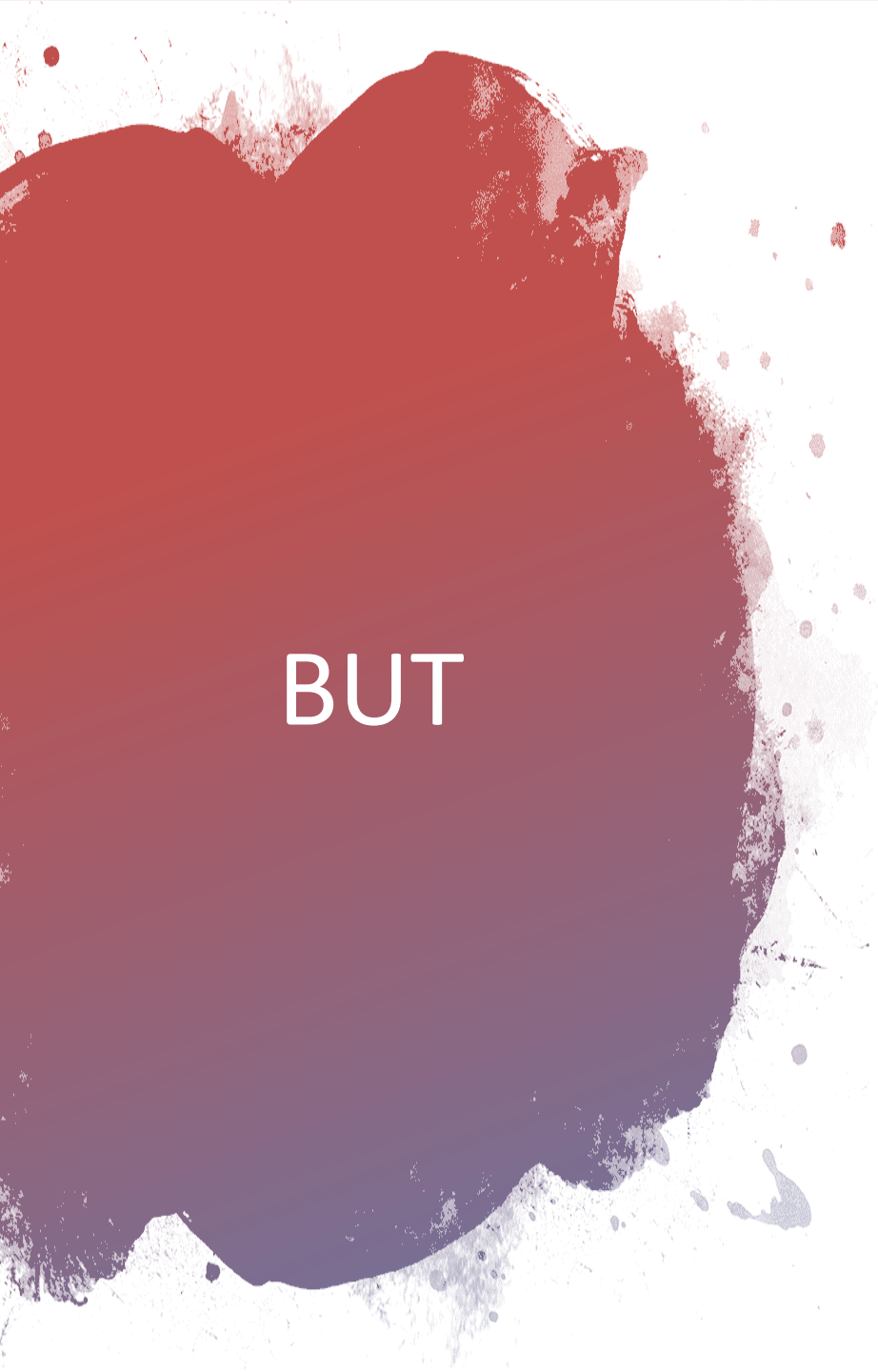
Thomas Becket session 6

Martyrdom and its aftermath



Peace reached at Frétéval 22 July 1170

- Henry had got what he wanted – the coronation of the Young King
- He wanted to avoid ecclesiastical censure and go on crusade
- Thomas seemed willing to compromise because he wanted to get back to restore the Canterbury estates
- He would be allowed to recrown the Young King



BUT

- Much was left unresolved
- Thomas left Sens and made a showy return to the coast, sending ahead letters of excommunication and suspending Roger of York
- Landed at Sandwich and was greeted by vast crowds

Scenes from the Becket Leaves



Thomas and the kings take leave of each other

Thomas prepares to depart for England



He is buying a ticket (one way)

Arrival in England – note the *regales* and *Brocenses*





Subsequent events

- Tumultuous welcome in Canterbury
- Attempts reconciliation with the Young King but envoys rebuffed
- Serves notice that he will complain about
 - Trial of clergy in secular courts
 - Non-restoration of property [the Brocs]
 - Blocking of access to the pope



25
December
1170

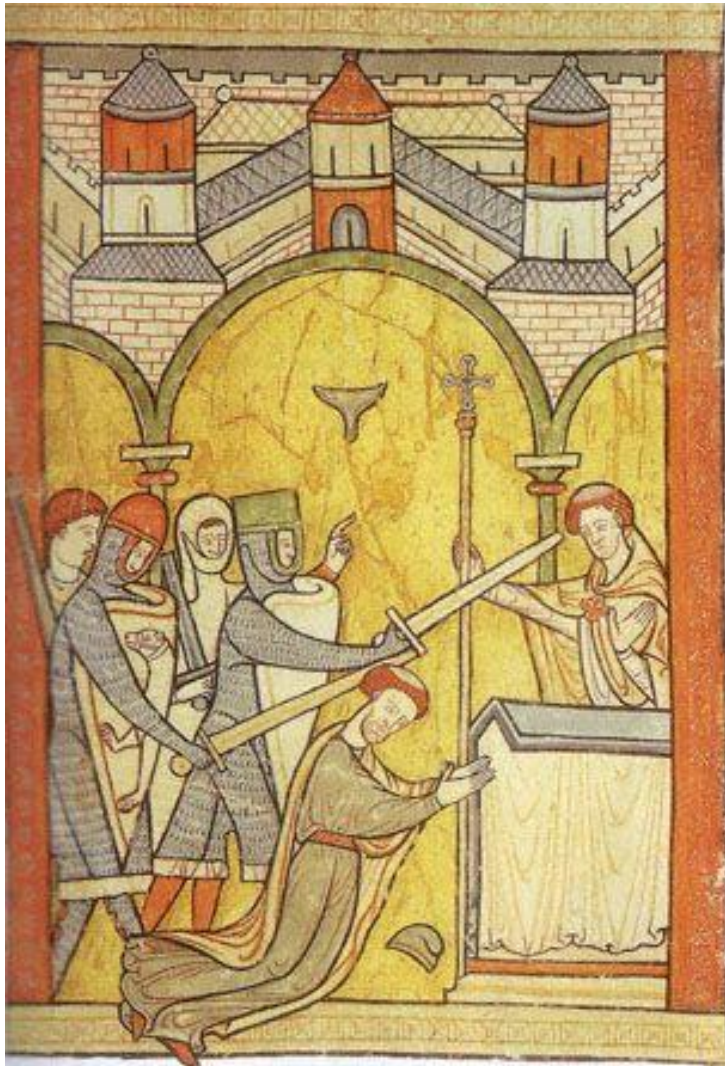
- Sermon in Canterbury Cathedral warns his congregation that they will soon be deprived of their pastor
- Excommunicated by name those who had seized Canterbury lands



29
December

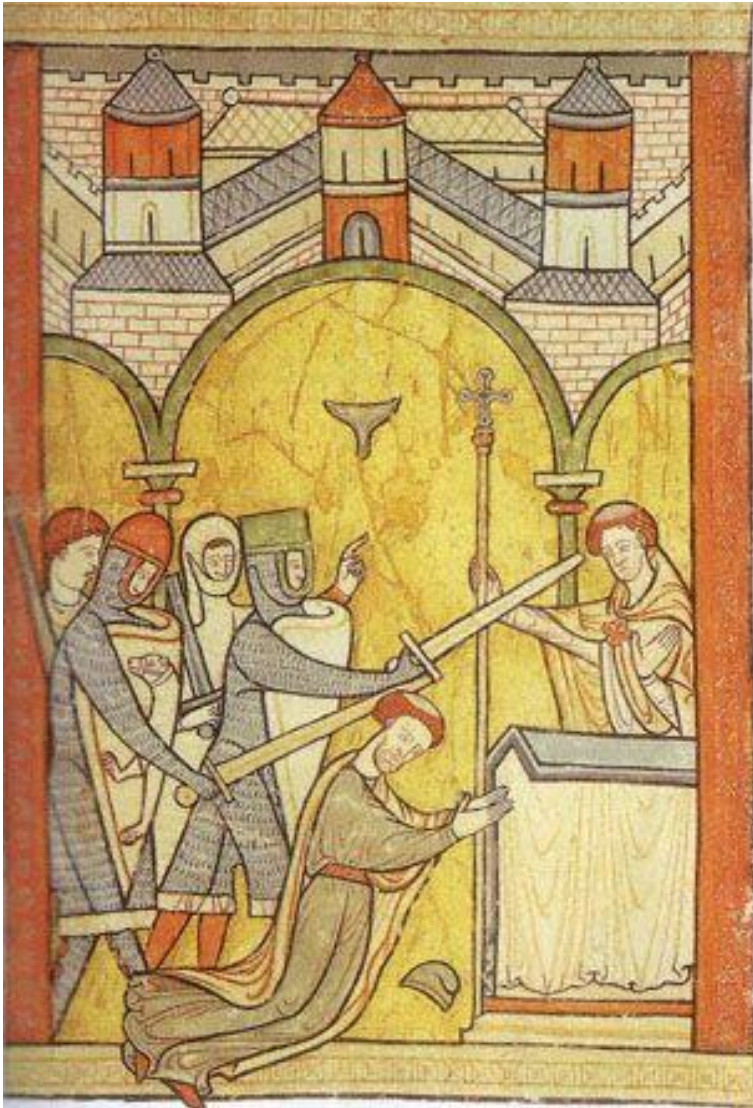
- His murder in the cathedral is described in detail
- 9 biographers describe events
- John of Salisbury, William of Canterbury, William fitz Stephen, Edward Grim, were there

The four knights



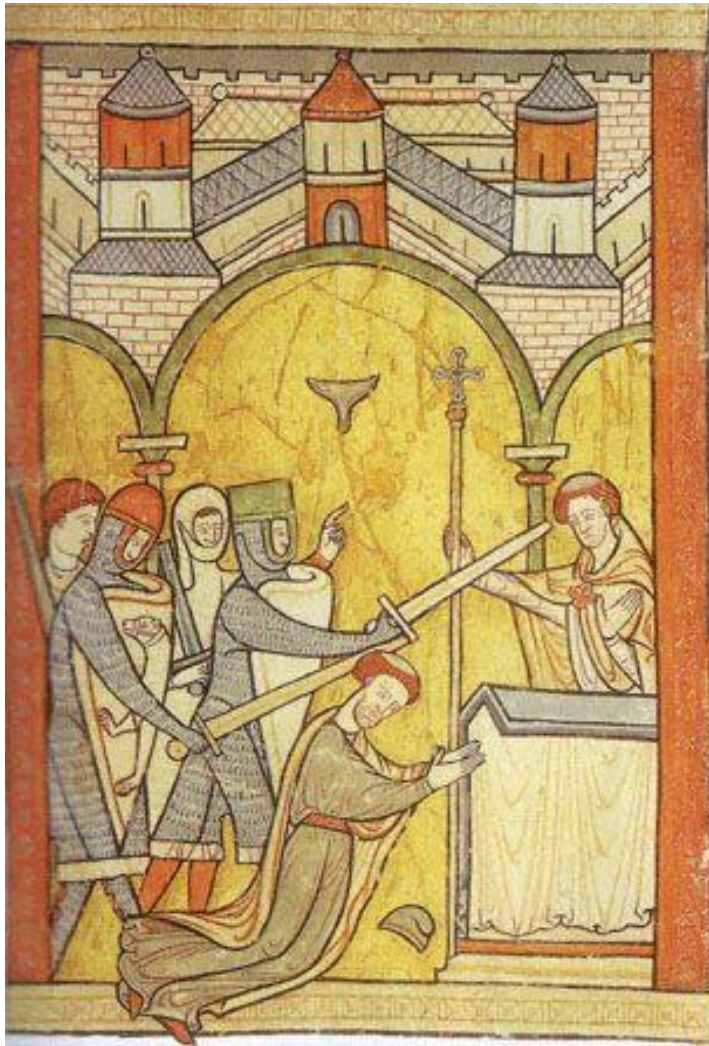
- Hugh de Moreville, lord of Appleby (Westmorland) and one of the witnesses at Clarendon; 1170 an itinerant justice in Northumberland

The four knights



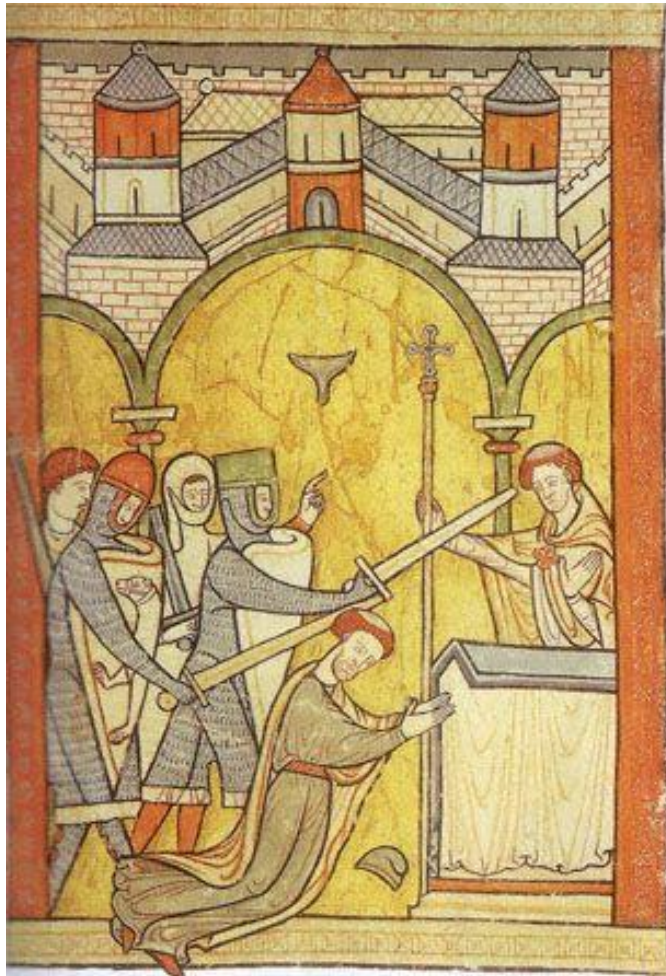
- William de Tracy, landowner in Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon

The four knights



- Reginald fitz Urse, son of Richard fitz Urse and Sibylla, illegitimate daughter of Henry I – a man of status

The four knights



- Richard Brito / le Bret, landowner in Somerset and probably out to prove his loyalty to the king



Questions

- Why did the knights kill him?
- Had Henry ordered his death?
- Why did Thomas die? – why did he refuse to compromise?



The King

- Always maintained he had not intended Thomas's death
- Garnier blames Roger of York for warning Henry he would never have peace as long as Thomas lived
- Henry apparently distraught at the news
- Foreign lands placed under interdict by the archbishop of Sens until the agreement reached with papal legates at Avranches in May 1172



Did
anything
actually
change?

- Did the death of Thomas change anything?
- Did it affect royal authority in England?
- Did it affect papal authority in England?



Avranches

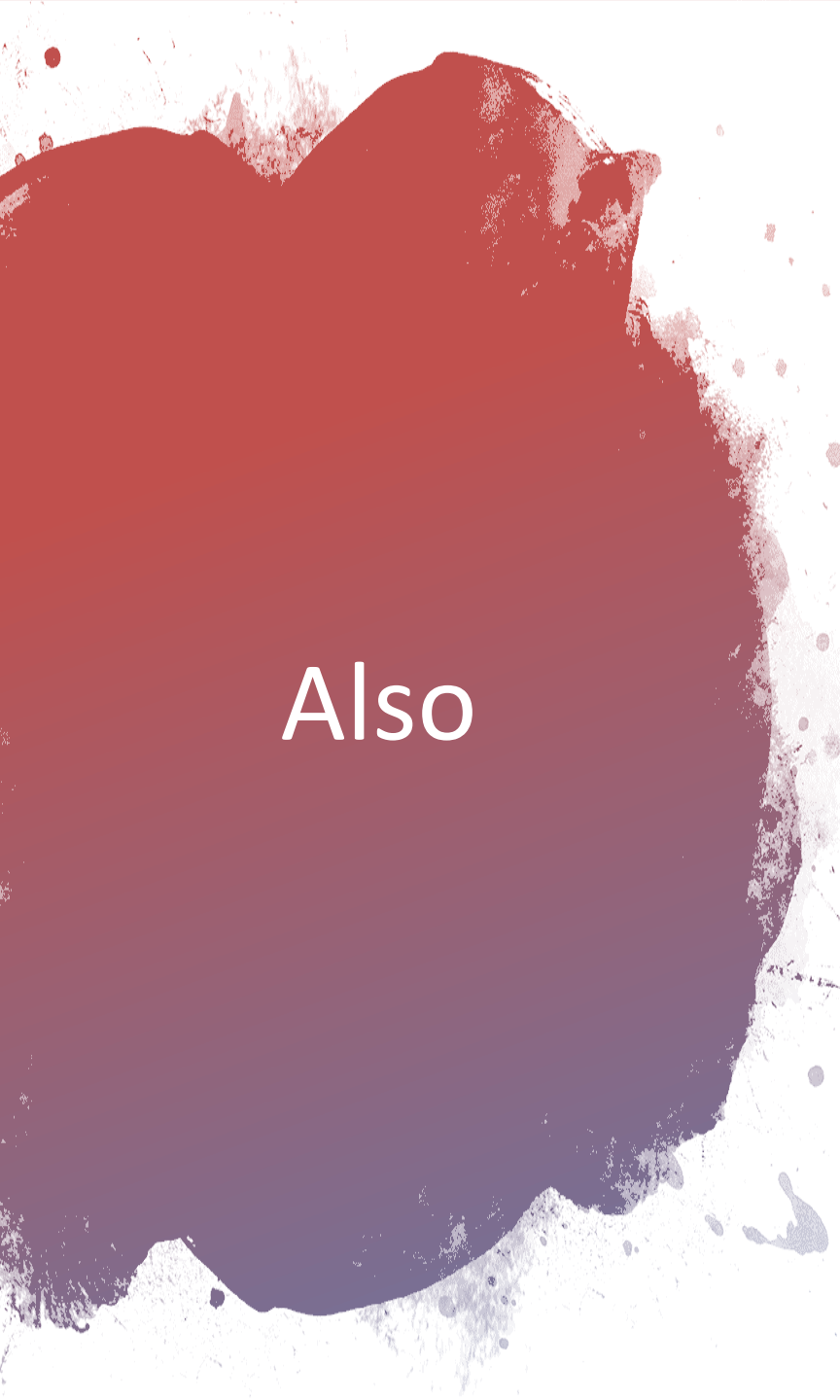
May 1172

- Context is the threatened rebellion of Henry's sons
- Henry is vulnerable as his continental lands are under interdict
- Henry swore he had not intended Thomas's death
- He promised to renounce the Constitutions of Clarendon
- He would fill vacant bishoprics within 40 days of his return to England
- He would maintain an army of 200 in the Holy Land



Agreement with Cardinal Hugo Pierleoni, 1176

- Recorded by Ralph Diceto [of Diss] – London
- The context is the legate's mission to decide the Canterbury / York dispute; he suggested a compromise
- Agreed that
 - Clerks were to be exempt from secular courts except for (1) cases involving forest law and (2) cases involving a lay fief with lay service due



Also

- Bishoprics were to be kept vacant for no more than one year
- The murderers of Thomas were to be tried in a secular court [which did not happen]
- Clerks were not to undergo judicial combat [this was antiquated anyway]



SO:

- Avranches seems to suggest that Henry had 'lost' because he had to renounce the Constitutions and this would allow appeals to Rome, immunity for criminous clerks etc
- *Privilegium fori* and benefit of clergy remained unhindered until the time of Henry VIII. Appeals to Rome apparently remained unrestricted
- *BUT* the king retained considerable powers, including over patronage cases and church lands not held in free alms



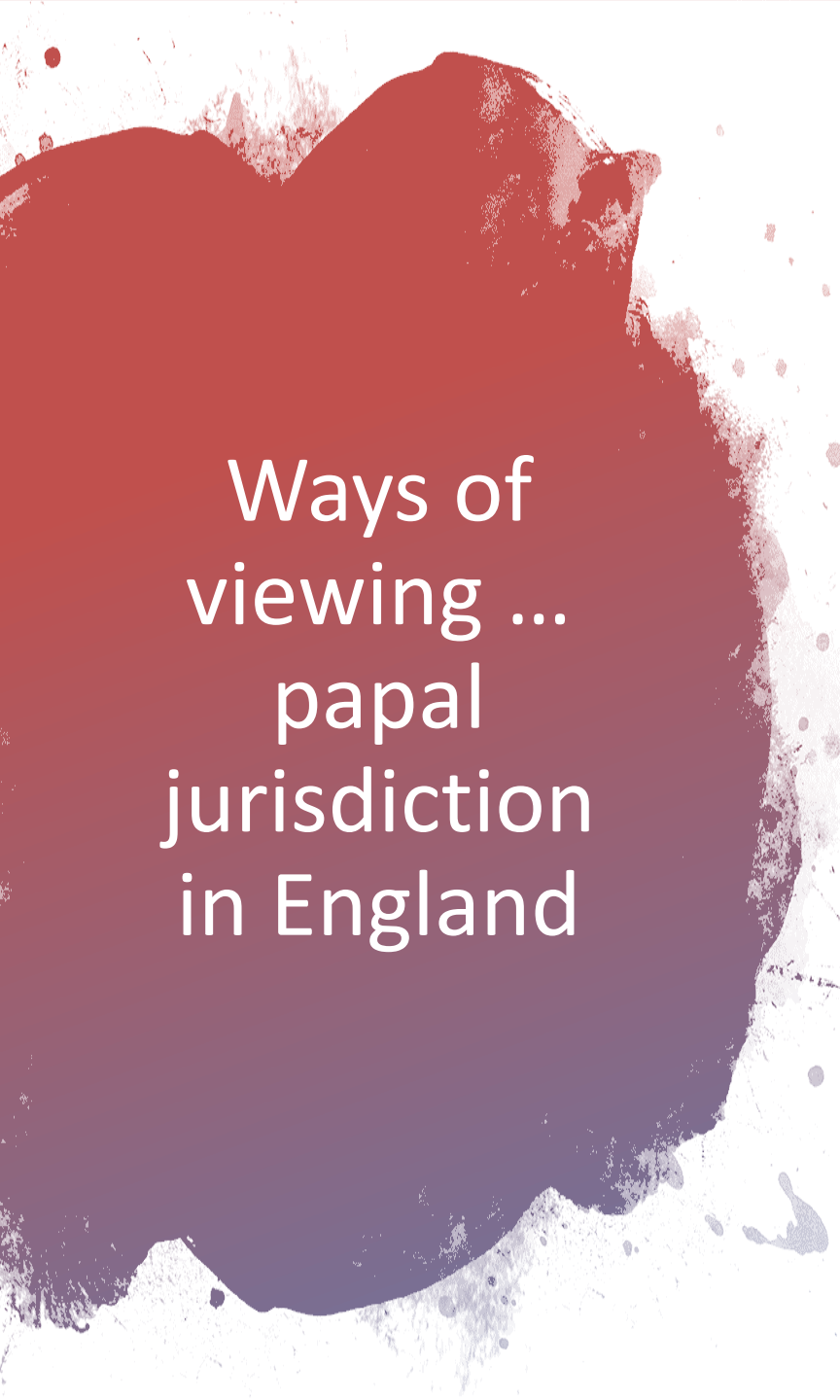
Historiography

- Z. N. Brooke: a posthumous victory for Thomas
- Mary Cheney: a change in style of confrontation; the problems were still there but there was more likely to be compromise
- C. Duggan: a victory for the church and a considerable defeat for Henry



cont..

- W. L. Warren: 'Thomas Becket was victorious in death but the victory was a triumph for his reputation not the triumph of his cause' – the myth of the martyr's achievement



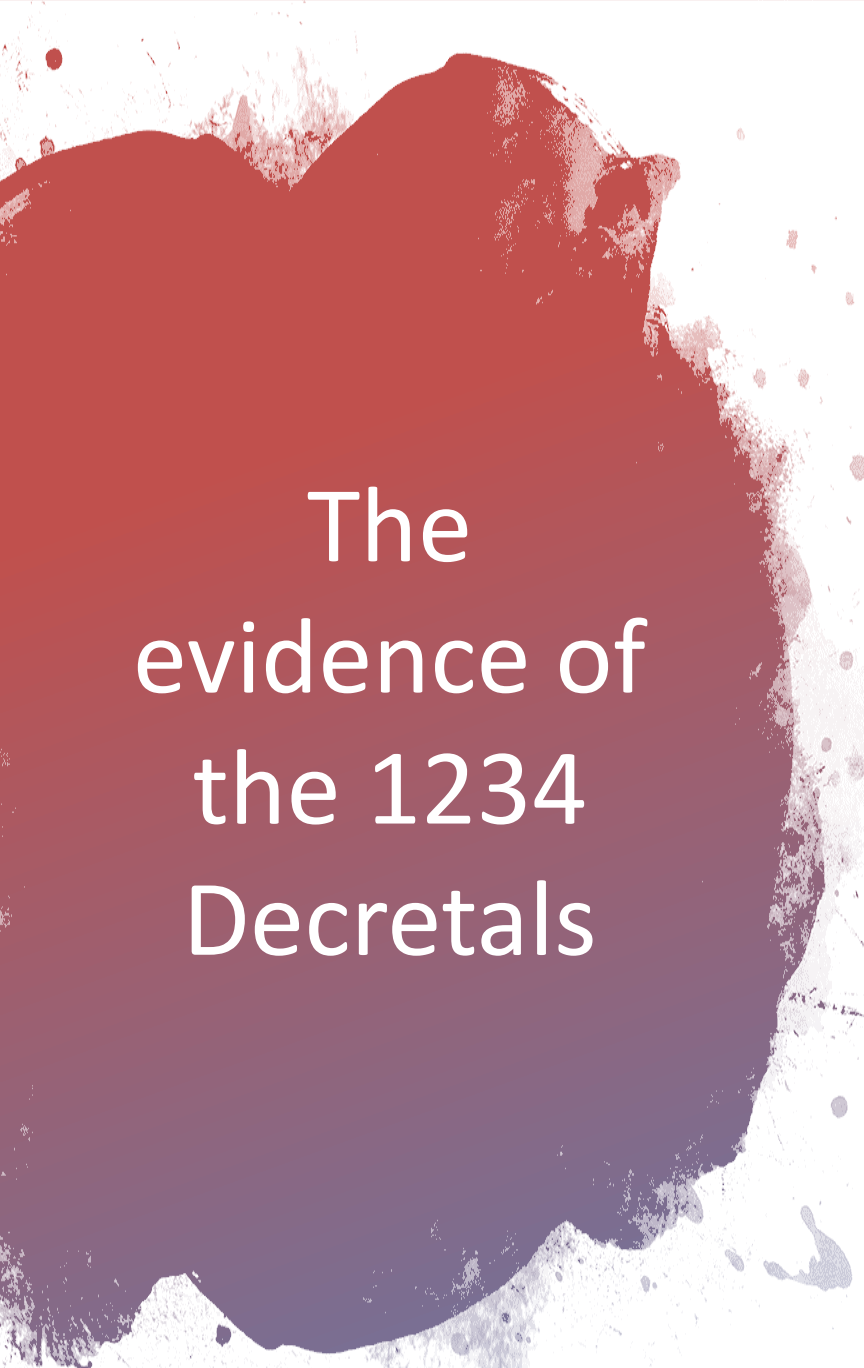
Ways of viewing ... papal jurisdiction in England

- Did appeals increase? If so this would suggest a victory for the church
- 12th century in general saw increase in the number and this process was encouraged by the papacy
- What is the evidence – if any – that appeals increased as a result of the Becket dispute and Becket's death?



The evidence

- Up to 1159 most documents related to appeals (mandates, commissions etc) appear in monastic cartularies
- From 1159 we get decretals – these are collections of decrees, stimulated by Gratian's *Decretum*. They are now there for future reference.
- 1234 Decretal Collections – a great compendium



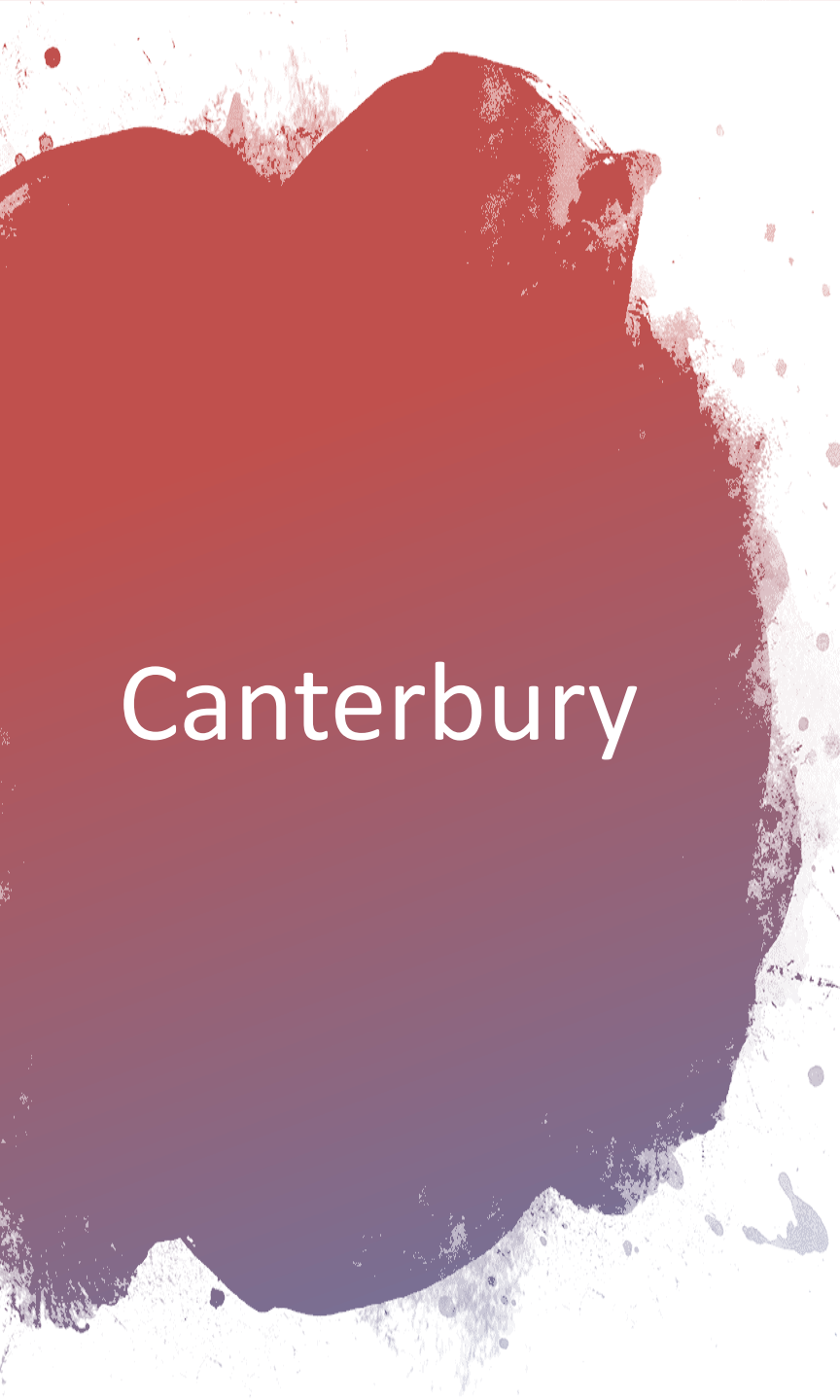
The evidence of the 1234 Decretals

- Some – notably A. Morey and Z. N. Brooke, argue that after 1172 appeals from England to the papacy increase. There was now no barrier to appeals. Out of 470 decretals issued by Alexander III 180 came from England.
- However, new questions – about marriage for instance – are being asked, and this might account for the increase.



What about royal authority?

- Between 1170 and 1189 [the remainder of Henry's reign] we get a series of curialist bishops
- Richard of Ilchester promoted to Winchester
- Reginald fitz Jocelin to Bath
- Geoffrey Ridel to Ely
- John of Oxford to Norwich



Canterbury

- Royal influence here as well:
 - Richard of Dover 1173
 - Baldwin of Forde 1184



York

- After the death of Roger de Pont L'Evêque York kept vacant for 8 years – and the revenue was over £1000 a year. In 1189 Henry's illegitimate son Geoffrey was appointed.