

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AT ST THOMAS'S CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Sunday 17th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
6:00pm (Sat)	Fumihide Joseph Shoji RIP, wellbeing of Keiko Shoji & great-grandson Haruki
8:00am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
9:15am	Elizabeth Byrne
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Barry Griffiths RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Fr Mike Gwinnell RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Good estate of the Folland Family
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Alec Fletcher RIP
Monday 18th Feria	
8:00am	Holy Souls
(6:00pm)	George Caldwell RIP (Anniversary))
Tuesday 19th Feria	
9:30am	Sheila Monaghan RIP
(6:00pm)	Holy Souls)
Wednesday 20th Feria	
8:00am	Josephine & Joseph Brown RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
Thursday 21st S Agnes, V M	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Dec'd relatives - Andradi-Brown family
Friday 22nd Feria	
8:00am	Donor's good intentions
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	The Villagers of West Kingsdown
Saturday 23rd of Our Lady	
9:30am	Timothy & Clea Andradi
Sunday 24th January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am	Fr Joe Andradi
9:15am	Canon Frank O'Sullivan RIP
11:15am	Holy Souls
6:00pm	Mary Margaret Hughes RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Good estate of the Bailey family
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Patrick Bunton RIP

**** DO NOT put this Newsletter back;**

take it with you to avoid the danger of spreading the COVID

At this time

Dear Lord,
At this time of pandemic,
Let us foster respect and solidarity
with others, especially those who are
weak or poor.
Let us remain calm and ignore
unsubstantiated rumours.
Let us take advantage of living
together as a family.
Let us attend to moments of prayer.
Let us cultivate responsibility,
patience and hope. Amen.
*Prayer adapted from a radio message
from Rodolfo Valenzuela Núñez,
Bishop of La Verapaz, Guatemala*

We cry out to you

God of all,
we cry out to you for help.
In your mercy, hear our prayer.
Protect us, Lord, and be with us
especially those of us most vulnerable
during this coronavirus crisis.
Move us to reach out in love
to our neighbours near and far.
So that the humble may be exalted,
the hungry filled with good things.
Grant us the courage
not to rush back to our old ways,
but to rebuild our world together,
creating foundations of justice,
with equality and peace for all.
Amen.
Prayer: Catherine Gorman/CAFOD

We stand together

We pray for all who are suffering
and bereaved.
At this time of
sorrow, incomprehension and
tragedy, we stand together.
In this crisis, we pray for God's mercy
and healing for the sick
and for health and strength for all who
care for them. Amen.
*Prayer: Adapted from a message from
Sister Bridget Tighe of Caritas
Jerusalem*

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevtrparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Second Sunday of the Year

1 Samuel 3: 3-10, 19; Psalm 39; 1 Corinthians 6: 13-15, 17-20; John 1: 35-42

The **First Reading** - the calling of Samuel to be a great prophet - is chosen to shed light on the calling of the disciples in the *Gospel*. Like Samuel, the disciple of Christ is called to be a spokesman for God.

Like Samuel (and the disciples in the Gospel) we recite the **Psalm** to indicate our willing acceptance of the call to do God's will.

Second Reading: this begins a series of readings from St Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians*. As our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, we should avoid fornication, which "is to sin against your own body".

Although Year B is the year of Mark, as St Mark's Gospel is short, on some Sundays like today the **Gospel** reading is from John. Today we hear John's account of the calling of the first disciples, but as usual with John the main point is not history but theology: this is a summary of Christian vocation and discipleship. Is Jesus truly the teacher (rabbi) and Anointed One (Messiah) whom you follow wholeheartedly?

Fr David

Notices

COVID Restrictions

Under the recently announced restrictions you may leave home to attend Mass, as places of worship are allowed to remain open, but do not mingle with people outside your household bubble.

Some parishes have had to close, at least for a while, either because the priests have COVID or are having to isolate or because of a lack of stewards. At the moment we are able to continue with the normal Sunday and weekday Masses, and Fr David is most grateful to the various stewards in the four churches for enabling this.

DO NOT come to Mass if you have COVID or COVID symptoms, or if you are shielding, quarantining, or isolating. Masses at St Thomas's will continue to be livestreamed via the parish website.

Please sanitise hands on access and egress, and maintain a 2 metre distance at all times between you and another person who is outside your household. Face coverings must be worn unless exempt; this is now law.

The churches will be well ventilated (so dress warmly!).

Please keep up the fervent prayers for God's help during the pandemic and a swift end to the spread of the coronavirus.

Peace Sunday

The theme this year chosen by Pope Francis is *A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace*. The Pope's World Peace Day Message as well as resources for families and others can be found on the Pax Christi website: [Peace Sunday 2021 – Pax Christi England and Wales](https://www.paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021), where you can also make a donation. Please pray today for Peace on Earth.

Church Unity Octave

This begins tomorrow and ends on Monday of next week. In the pandemic there will not be the usual Unity Services, so instead all we can do this year is pray at home.

Parish Office

Magda, the Parish Secretary, will for the time being only be in the Office on Wednesday mornings, 9:30am - 12:30pm, for all routine matters such as Mass Intention bookings, collecting First Holy Communion books, etc and enquiries.

St Thomas' School Situation vacant

A part-time one to one Applied Behaviour Tutor for a child with special needs is required. The closing date for applications is 20th January, and anyone interested in the role should email office@saintthomas.co.uk.

Christmas Offering

Your Christmas Offering to Fr David and Fr Paul totalled £18,976.24 (that is, £9,488.12 each). Considering the restraints and financial problems caused by the pandemic this is an excellent amount, and Frs David and Paul are most grateful. They, along with Monsignor Matthew and Fr Mark, also send their thanks for the various gifts and cards received.

As Stephanie, our Accountant, is furloughed at the moment, we will report on other collections and give a financial summary for 2020 as soon as we are able.

Symptom-free COVID-19 testing in Kent

To help monitor the spread of the virus you can get a COVID test in Kent, at various sites of which the nearest are in Swanley, Larkfield and Tunbridge Wells. Book a test online at <https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/protect-kent-and-medway/test-and-trace/symptom-free-testing>.