

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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	Julio Minuto RIP
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
Monday 25th	The CONVERSION of St PAUL, Ap
8:00am	Holy Souls
(6:00pm)	Doctors, nurses and carers who have helped to save the lives of Covid 19 victims)
Tuesday 26th	SS Timothy & Titus, BB
9:30am	Dec'd relatives of Andradi-Brown families
(6:00pm)	All those who have died from Covid 19 and for the comfort of their families and friends
Wednesday 27th	Feria
8:00am	Josephine & Joseph Brown RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Bill Sherratt RIP
Thursday 28th	S Thomas Aquinas, Pr D
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Good intentions of the family of the donor
Friday 29th	Feria
8:00am	June Hicks RIP (8 th Anniversary)
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Doris Spellacy RIP
Saturday 30th	of Our Lady
9:30am	Dec'd relatives of Andradi-Brown families
Sunday 31st January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
6:00pm (Sat)	Gizela Golda (Birthday)
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Donor's good Intentions
11:15am	Stefenia & Jan Ociepa RIP, Stanislaw Czaja RIP
6:00pm	Deacon Jim Hayes RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Jo Bonser RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	David Bunton RIP

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

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

Fund-raising for SVP/Sevenoaks Food Bank

During this lockdown we are planning to run 2 more Parish quizzes following the success of those before Christmas. The next one will be on Sunday Jan 31st at 7:00pm on Zoom. The quiz will be hosted by Ed Grobel and we encourage both children and adults to join. It will be a lot of fun. The quiz will be followed by a talk by Isabelle Mercer about our Sevenoaks Food Bank (The Loaves N Fishes Food Bank) which operates out of St John's Church Hall. Our Food Bank has seen a significant increase in demand in these times. The Parish SVP group supports this Food Bank. To join this Parish quiz please email ben.andradi@icloud.com and he will send you the Zoom link and the SVP Bank Account details for your donation. The event will last about 1 hour.

PS our last set of Parish quizzes before Christmas raised over £5000 for Fr Boniface and for his work in Malawi; many thanks for all who contributed to it.

Please pray

- for Openness to the Word of God (*especially today*)
- for Christian Unity (*especially in the Church Unity Octave*)
- for the Archbishop, Most Rev'd John Wilson
- for God's help against the pandemic
- for Denise Hafford and all who have died recently.

St Roch, pray for us.
St Joseph, pray for us.
St Thomas of Canterbury, pray for us.
St Bernadette, pray for us.
St Edith of Kemsing, pray for us.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevtrparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Third Sunday of the Year

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10; Psalm 24; 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31; Mark 1: 14-20

First Reading: the book of Jonah is not history or prophecy. It is fictional, a story about a man called Jonah who was called by God to preach repentance to the people of Nineveh, who respond positively.

Let us mean it when we recite the **Psalm**: "Lord, make me know your ways".

Second Reading: in the middle of a long passage about marriage and celibacy, St Paul suggests that as Christian disciples we should lead our lives *sub specie aeternitatis*, that is with our eyes fixed on eternity, on the next life rather than this passing life.

Gospel: this is the first of a series of *Gospels* from Mark. The preacher is spoiled for choice as there are three major themes in such a short reading:

- at the beginning of His public ministry, Jesus' first message is about the closeness of the kingdom of God and the need to repent and believe the Good News;
- He calls the first of His disciples, who immediately leave their previous lives to follow Him;
- once called the follower of Christ is to be a 'fisher of men'; in other words the Christian's first responsibility is to evangelize, to spread the Good News.

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.

Sunday of the Word of God

This Sunday, now held every year on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, "reminds us of the importance and value of Sacred Scripture for the Christian life, as well as the relationship between the Word of God and the Liturgy" (Congregation for Divine Worship & Discipline of the Sacraments *Note 17th December 2020*; for the whole document visit <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2020/12/19/201219a.html>).

We are limited by the pandemic this year as to what we can do liturgically to enthrone the Sacred Scriptures, but at home you could

- set up a Bible Corner for the day, for you to gather round as a family for prayers;
- pay special attention to today's Mass Readings, considering what they mean and how they impact on our daily life;
- read and pray through a book of the Bible this week, especially through the practice of *Lectio Divina*;
- consider how you can improve your Bible Study throughout the year.

This week

The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity ends tomorrow, the Feast of The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle.

Tomorrow is the anniversary of the Episcopal Ordination of the Archbishop in 2016 and Saturday of Bishop Howard Tripp (Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop).

Catenian Requiem Mass

The Catenian Circle's Requiem for Deceased Brothers, scheduled for Monday after being postponed from November, has now been cancelled.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

The second collection next Sunday will be for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice; this supports the work of the Catholic Church in promoting racial justice in our schools, parishes, and in wider society.

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 and enquiries.