

Mass intentions

All masses are at St Thomas's CHURCH unless otherwise stated

Sunday 14th February

SIXTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat)	Fr David Gibbons
8:00am	Dora & Eugene Binken RIP
9:15am	Holy Souls
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Vivienne Andrews RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Stephanie & Peter Catherwood RIP

Monday 15th Feria

8:00am	All in hospital with COVID
(6:00pm)	Sanctification of the people of Birmingham)

Tuesday 16th Feria

9:30am	Holy Souls
(6:00pm)	Front-line NHS staff)

Wednesday 17th ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00am	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Barry Griffiths RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
6:00pm <i>Borough Green</i>	John Le Sbirel
8:00pm	Parish Committees & Groups

Thursday 18th Feria

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Natalina Morbi
12:00noon	Holy Souls

Friday 19th Feria

8:00am	Christians in the Holy Land
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Canon John Bailey RIP

Saturday 20th Feria

9:30am	Neil D'Souza RIP
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Sunday 21st February

FIRST SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am	Good health for Kathleen Dallas
9:15am	Fr Paul Sanders RIP
11:15am	John Anthony Gordon RIP & Baby Niamh Olivia Glynn RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archie Payne RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Mary Burt RIP

Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially: Paul Brigham, Sue Chamberlain, Michael Gerald Cleere, Elaine Cuthbertson, Ann Steven, Sr Rosemary McCaffrey fmsa, Jill Wilson, Rosemary Remnant, Ana Pilar Santos, Richard Murphy, Maureen Perry, Lilian Spragg, Aidan Baker, Patricia Holmes, Brian Craig-McFeely, Deidre Thomas and all in our peoples' homes.

OTHER NOTICES

Support for Malawi

If you wish to send some money to Fr Boni's diocese in Malawi, to support their COVID relief or for other purposes, contact Caroline Stockmann (caroline.stockmann@gmail.com) not later than 21st February. She will co-ordinate a single bank transfer and pay the bank intercontinental transfer charges.

A lifeline for troubled marriages

During the lockdown many marriages are facing the strain. Recently one couple in the parish attended a Retrouvaille Marriage Rescue weekend (online), and they say that it "has made a huge difference to us". The next one is on 25th - 28th February: see <https://retrouvaille.co.uk>. The couple would be more than happy to talk to anyone who would like more information (contact them through Fr David or Magda). They say that people don't have to wait until they are in trouble; it is hugely valuable for people who want happier marriages.

Please pray

- ◆ for the Unemployed and for wise and just economic decisions;
- ◆ for the Sick, especially in our parish;
- ◆ for a holy and self disciplined Lent.

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.

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.

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks www.sevtrparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Sixth Sunday of the Year

Leviticus 13: 1-2, 44-46; *Psalms* 31; *1 Corinthians* 10: 31-11: 1; *Mark* 1: 40-45

First Reading: we misunderstand this section of *Leviticus* if we assert that these are rules about hygiene and health. It is about ritual purity (which is why Mark in the *Gospel* emphasises that Jesus touched the leper). The word translated 'leprosy' here means skin diseases generally.

Psalm: in Christian tradition this is one of the seven penitential psalms, but today's extract is more about thanksgiving for sin forgiven.

Second Reading: our freedom should not be exercised if it does harm to another. If everyone obeyed St Paul's exhortation "never do anything offensive to anyone" several of the recent atrocities and controversies would not have taken place.

Gospel: Jesus heals the leper. He tells him to make the required sacrifice as prescribed in *Leviticus* and tell no one, but the man can't help telling everyone. Would that we were so eager to tell everyone about Jesus!

Fr David

Notices

Day for the Unemployed

Please pray for the Unemployed, especially as a result of the pandemic. Pray also for wise decisions by government, financiers and businesses to protect people's jobs and well-being. St Cajetan is the patron saint of the unemployed.

Visiting priests

As Fr Mark is still parish sitting in Oxford, Fr Lixon is not available, and it is sensible to keep the priests in 'bubbles' on Sundays to minimise the virus risks, there is a new arrangement for the next few Sundays. Mgr Matthew Dickens will celebrate the Masses at Borough Green and West Kingsdown, and Fr Bryan Wells will celebrate the Mass at Oxford.

Next Sunday

The second collection will be for Poor Parishes in the Archdiocese.

LENT

Lent

The season of Lent begins on Wednesday (Ash Wednesday). Lent is a period of penance and self-denial as we prepare to celebrate the Resurrection of the Lord at Easter. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fasting (that is, eating only one full meal) as well as abstinence (not eating meat or taking alcohol, etc).

The *Gloria* is not recited except on the Feasts of S Patrick, S Joseph and the Annunciation. The word *Alleluia* is never uttered during Lent. The clergy wear violet vestments, and music and floral decorations are restrained.

Ash Wednesday

A day of fasting and abstinence. Mass will be at the following times. The imposition of ashes - under a ruling from Rome - will consist of the continental style of sprinkling of ashes on the head, rather than our traditional

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cross of ash on the forehead. This is to maintain anti COVID safety.

St Thomas's: 8:00am, 8:00pm.

Holy Trinity: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's: 11:00am

St Joseph's: 6:00pm.

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Because of the COVID risks and the likely small numbers attending, there will not be public Stations of the Cross this Lent in any of the churches. Instead we have prepared an online Stations of the Cross, with music by some of our singers and pictures of the Stations in the four churches, which you can view and pray in your own time. Just go to the Daily Mass link on the Parish website from Ash Wednesday onwards.

Lent Course: 'No Greater Love'

We will be running a parish Lenten programme called 'No Greater Love: A biblical walk through Christ's Passion'. The course will be every Tuesday evening over Zoom. To register or enquire about the course please contact Deacon Neil on neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk.

Lenten resources

Visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/lent-possibilities> for various resources for reflection and meditation this Lent, for families as well as adults and individuals. A look at the diocesan website (<http://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/>) may also be worthwhile.

Confessions

The priests can hear Confessions as long as COVID precautions are taken, and this may well mean outside. You can approach the priest if there is plenty of time before Mass but more likely after Mass. Alternatively, contact either me or Fr Paul to make an appointment.