

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 28th February

SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Deacon Neil Philipson
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Carmella Birch
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Borough Green's Parishioners
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Doris Spellacy RIP

Monday 1st March *S DAVID, B Patron of Wales*

8:00am	Canon John Bailey RIP
(6:00pm)	Holy Souls

Tuesday 2nd Feria

9:30am	Eithna Traynor
(6:00pm)	Holy Souls

Wednesday 3rd Feria

8:00am	Fr William Cunningham RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Vicky Lepore & her husband and their son

Thursday 4th Feria

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

Friday 5th Feria

8:00am	Marie Stevenson RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 6th Feria

9:30am	Vicky Lepore & her husband and their son
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Sunday 7th March

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am	Conrad RIP (Birthday)
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	For a safe and healthy pregnancy
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Paul Edwards RIP (Birthday)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Mary Burt RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Pat McCoy RIP

Please pray

- for God's help in our prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, despite the pandemic;
- for the Sick, especially in our parish and those suffering from COVID 19;
- for those in developing countries without access to safe water, and for CAFOD and those agencies which assist them;
- for Archbishop Peter Smith RIP (*Saturday is the first anniversary of his death*).

OTHER NOTICES

Finances

The total Offertory for January (Standing Orders and 'loose' collection) was £6,562.25. This figure is lower than a normal month's income because the Offertory received up to 6th January formed part of the Christmas Offertory to the priests.

The traditional report of the previous Sunday's collection in the Sunday Newsletter is somewhat anachronistic, now that most people donate via Standing Order, and seriously misleading. In future we shall give a monthly report, combining the Standing Order, contactless device, JustGiving on the website, and cash collection receipts. The Second Collection on 10th January - the White Flower appeal for SPUC - was £301.95. The Second Collection on 31st January - for CARJ - totalled £262.22. Thank you.

RACET

Many parishioners support RACET (The Rural Africa Children's Education Trust). They are holding a Zoom event - Zooming to Ntrigom - on Sunday 21st March, 3:00 - 4:00pm, for an online visit to one of the schools in Cross River State, Nigeria, which RACET supports. This is not a fundraiser but an opportunity to see some of the work RACET has enabled since it began in this parish in 2008. Email secretary@racet.org to receive your Zoom link.

Online porn

A parishioner recommends an organisation which has come up with a creative idea to help combat online porn. To 'live porn-free with confidence' visit their website: <https://start.covenanteyes.com/ncmc/>.

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 Fr David or Fr Paul to make an appointment.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevrcparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Second Sunday of Lent

Genesis 22: 1-2, 9-13, 15-18; Psalm 115; Romans 8: 31-34; Mark 9: 2-10

First Reading: Abraham is prepared in faith to obey God's apparent command to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. This gives us as Christians an insight into the mind of God, who was prepared to sacrifice his only Son, Jesus Christ. The famous golden dome in Jerusalem, incidentally, marks the place where this event by tradition took place.

The **Psalm** speaks of trust in God, even when "sorely afflicted".

Second Reading: God did not spare his own Son. The last words in this reading inspired the belief that Jesus sits at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us, as we say in the Creed.

The **Gospel** on the Second Sunday of Lent is always the story of the Transfiguration of Jesus in the presence of His closest disciples. This gave them, and today gives us, hope of the glory that awaits faithful followers of Jesus Christ.

In our current pandemic situation, this speaks to us more resonantly than ever: despite our difficulties we have hope in the future, revealed to us by the Transfiguration.

Fr David

Notices

Second Collection

The second collection is for CAFOD, following the Fast Day last Friday. Please donate:

- using the CAFOD envelopes, available with the Newsletters. Please use these especially if you can Gift Aid your donation, and put your donation to CAFOD in the Second Collection box/plate;
- use the contactless device at St Thomas's;
- online to cafod.org.uk/give;
- by texting LENT to 704560 to donate £10 (you can text multiple times).

Family Zoom Quiz to raise funds for Kent refugees

Today (Sunday) 7:00 - 8:00pm, hosted by Gina Hartnett. This will be a fun inclusive event for everyone, young and old, in the Parish to join in via Zoom. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, no worries we can help you to set it up.

The number of refugees reaching Kent by boat was four times greater in 2020 than 2019. At least 8,400 people made the crossing in 2020 and more than 300 have died since 1999. Our own SVP, based in the Parish, works with some of these refugees. Kathy Gonzalez will give a short presentation about the growing needs in this area.

To get the Zoom link to join the quiz and details about how to donate please email ben.andradi@icloud.com. Please join; it will be a fun for all the family.

Ben Andradi

Erina Mary Smith RIP

The Funeral Mass is on Friday at 11:00am in St Thomas's, followed by Interment at the Greatness Cemetery.

LENT

28th February 2021

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Instead of public Stations of the Cross we have online versions, one based on St Thomas's and one based on Holy Trinity. Just go to the Daily Mass link on the Parish website (<http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk>) and click on 'Videos' to find them.

Lent Course: 'No Greater Love'

Our parish Lenten programme is '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. In this way we can fulfil the Lenten precept of study of the faith despite being cooped up indoors.

Lenten resources

Several parishioners have recommended Fr Mike Schmitz' podcast *Bible in a Year*. He starts with short readings from *Genesis*, *Job* and *Proverbs* and ends with brief reflections. The podcast is a good one for teenagers. Find it on your podcast app or go the main website <https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>.

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, provided by the diocesan Agency for Evangelization & Catechesis.

Also the diocesan Spirituality Commission is offering a Retreat for Lent, which you can follow in your own home. Each week there is a short video reflection, prayer materials and other resources, to help you make the best use of whatever time and opportunity you may have during your week. Click on <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk/followme>.