

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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
Monday 8th Feria	
8:00am	In Celebration
(6:00pm)	Alison Fitzgerald RIP
Tuesday 9th Feria	
9:30am	Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
(6:00pm)	Fr Paul
Wednesday 10th Feria	
8:00am	Christopher La Trobe RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	All suffering the affects of COVID
Thursday 11th Feria	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Vicky Lepore & her husband and their son
Friday 12th Feria	
8:00am	A safe delivery
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	In thanksgiving
Saturday 13th Feria	
9:30am	Celia Jane Ford RIP
Sunday 14th March	FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT
6:00pm (Sat)	Well-being of the families of our Parish
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Well-being of the children of our Parish
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	Chiara Mascarenhas RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Teresa Mary Watts RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Margaret Vinson RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Sick & housebound in the Parish

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

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, Ana Pilar Santos, Richard Murphy, Maureen Perry, Lilian Spragg, Aidan Baker, Patricia Holmes, Brian Craig-McFeely, Deidre Thomas, Izabela Szafranska and all in old peoples' homes.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevrccparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Third Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25; John 2: 13-25

First Reading: the God-given Decalogue - or the Ten Commandments as we usually call them. In the context of the Exodus, they "point out the conditions of a life freed from the slavery of sin" (Catechism of the Catholic Church). In our context, as Jesus said on many occasions this sacred Law is still valid: the Ten Commandments state what is required in the love of God (the first three) and love of neighbour (the other seven).

The **Psalm** is a psalm of praise of God's law, which alone gives eternal life.

Second Reading: strange as it may seem, our faith is centred on the crucifixion of Christ.

Gospel: in His cleansing of the Temple Jesus (rather like an Old Testament prophet) protests against the profanation of God's house. But only after His resurrection did the disciples come to realise that in speaking of the restoration of the Temple Jesus was making a prophecy of His own Resurrection.

Fr David

Notices

LENT

Stations of the Cross in Lent

Instead of public Stations of the Cross we have four online versions, based on the Stations at St Thomas's, at Holy Trinity, at St Joseph's, and (from this Sunday) St Bernadette's. Just go to the Daily Mass link on the Parish website (<http://www.sevrccparish.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 is every Tuesday evening in Lent 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. You can still participate even if you haven't done so up till now.

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, 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>.

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.

Holy Week

The Archbishop has sent copies of Decrees by the Congregation for the Sacraments in Rome and a *Vade Mecum* produced by our Bishops' Conference, which give instructions for the Holy Week Liturgies, reviewed by both liturgical and public health experts. Once I have had chance to digest these I will advertise in next week's *Message* how we shall observe the Great Week of our Salvation in Christ, whilst keeping COVID safe.

Fr David

OTHER NOTICES

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.

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, and for care workers;
- for Christians in Iraq, as the Pope makes a visit there, and for peace, fraternity and justice in Myanmar;
- for Michael Hague, Sheila McEvoy, Mary Meaden and all who have died.

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.