

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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
Monday 15th Feria	
8:00am	Ruth Salt RIP
(6:00pm)	Richard Latter)
Tuesday 16th Feria	
9:30am	Dorothea Murphy RIP
(6:00pm)	Fr David)
Wednesday 17th St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland	
8:00am	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Barry Griffiths RIP
Thursday 18th Feria	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	All departed St Joseph's Congregation and in memory of Margaret Vinson
12:00noon	Iva Jones RIP
Friday 19th St Joseph, Spouse of Blessed Virgin Mary	
8:00am	Erina Mary Smith RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
Saturday 20th Feria	
9:30am	Revinder More RIP
Sunday 21st March	FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT
6:00pm (Sat)	Maizie Ferreh RIP
8:00am	In thanksgiving for the work and staff of Diocesan Agency of Evangelisation and Catechesis.
9:15am	Enzo Collini RIP
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Alfred Golda RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Patrick & Daphne O'Riordan RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	NHS front-line workers

Please pray

- on Mothering Sunday for all mothers, for the mother church of our diocese, the Cathedral, and for holy mother the Church;
- for the Sick, especially in our parish and those suffering from COVID 19, and for care workers;
- for Nazanin Zaghari Ratcliffe and all falsely accused and imprisoned;
- for Mary Meaden and all who have died.

OTHER NOTICES

Parish Office

The Parish Office remains open on Wednesday mornings only, between 9:30am and 12:30pm. This is the best time to contact Magda for routine matters.

St Thomas' School Nursery Applications for September 2021

We are finalising the entrance list for Nursery places for September 2021. Currently places are given on a first come first served basis. If you would like your child to attend the Nursery from this September their date of birth needs to be between 1st September 2017 and 31st August 2018. We ask for a minimum of 15 hours per week attendance which is fully funded by Kent County Council. For further information and an Application Form please email: nursery@saintthomas.co.uk

Head of Communications

The Archdiocese is looking to recruit a Head of Communications, to develop and implement a communications strategy. This is a full-time role with a starting salary of £55,000 - £60,000. See the diocesan website (<http://rcsouthwark.co.uk/indexold.html>) for more information; closing date for applications 6th April.

Trinity School AGM

The AGM for the governing Trust SCET (Sevenoaks Christian Education Trust) is on Wednesday 5th May at 11:00am by Zoom. If you can represent Sevenoaks Catholic parish at this please contact Fr David.

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: Fourth Sunday of Lent

2 Chronicles 36: 14-16, 19-23; Psalm 136; Ephesians 1: 22-25; John 3: 14-21

The first word of the Entrance Antiphon gives this Sunday its name: Laetare Sunday. Isaiah rejoiced because the end of the exile was near. We rejoice because the end of Lent is near. Today is also, in England, Mothering Sunday.

First Reading: the wrath of God is seen in the exile of the people - punishment for their infidelity to him - to Babylon, under king Nebuchadnezzar. The mercy of God is seen in the return of the people to Jerusalem, under king Cyrus.

Psalm: the psalm famously written during the exile in Babylon. For Christians this present life, this 'vale of tears', is an exile from our true home in heaven.

Second Reading: despite our death, caused by our sins, we are saved through Christ, and this salvation is a free gift. Salvation means being recreated as we were meant to be (before our disobedience brought death).

Gospel: Jesus states that He must be lifted up (ie on the cross) in order for those who believe in Him to have eternal life. Some people will react by allowing their wicked lifestyle to turn them away from belief in Christ. Others live by the truth and so follow the light (ie Christ).

Fr David

Notices

Michael Hague RIP

Michael's Funeral is at the Kent & East Sussex Crematorium on Tuesday afternoon.

Sheila McEvoy RIP

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's on Wednesday at 1:30pm, followed by Interment in Kemsing churchyard.

Feasts this week

Wednesday is the feast of St Patrick, Patron of Ireland (although I don't suppose Irish people need me to tell them this!).

Friday is the Solemnity of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and of the chapel in Borough Green. Sadly the pandemic prevents us holding the customary festivities there this year.

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 St Bernadette's. Just go to the Daily Mass link on the Parish website (<http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk>) and click on 'Videos' on the YouTube page 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

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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>.

Holy Week

The normal Holy Week Liturgies will take place, with the ongoing precautions like 'social distancing' and with certain changes to make them COVID safe. For example we shall not be able to use the Holy Week booklets. All of the Liturgies in St Thomas's will be livestreamed.

On **Palm Sunday** the Procession will not take place; the Palm Gospel and Blessing of palms will be inside. At the Passion, only the priest/deacon will read it, and you are asked not to join in the crowd parts, as usually happens.

At the Mass of the Lord's Supper on **Holy Thursday** there will be no Washing of the Feet or Transfer to the Altar of Repose, and there is to be no Watch, for reasons of safety.

The **Good Friday** Liturgy will be at 3:00pm in all four churches, but as on Palm Sunday only the priest/deacon will read the Passion and you should not join in the crowd parts. Only the celebrant will venerate the Cross, followed by a period of silent adoration.

Stations of the Cross may not take place on Good Friday; please view our online versions.

The Easter Vigil - at both St Thomas's and Holy Trinity - on **Holy Saturday** will omit the fire and procession. The Candle will already be in place and lit; the small people's candles are not allowed. The Liturgy of the Word will be as short as permitted, and at the Renewal of Baptismal Promises there may be no sprinkling of water.

On **Easter Sunday** there is likewise no sprinkling of water.