

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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
Monday 22nd Feria	
8:00am	Eamonn Murphy RIP
(6:00pm)	Keith Marshall RIP
Tuesday 23rd Feria	
9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
(6:00pm)	Holy Souls
Wednesday 24th Feria	
8:00am	Freda May Ford RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Kathleen Dallas RIP (Birthday)
Thursday 25th The ANNUNCIATION of the LORD	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	John Groves RIP
12:00noon	Dec'd relatives of the Brown-Andradi families
Friday 26th Feria	
8:00am	Lionel Edwards RIP (Anniversary)
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Health of Sarah Boyle
Saturday 27th Feria	
9:30am	Gabriela Daniels RIP
Sunday 28th March	PALM SUNDAY of the PASSION of the LORD
6:00pm (Sat)	Fr Richard Diala, CM RIP
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Our children preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation
11:15am	George Rizza RIP
6:00pm	God's help against the pandemic
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Matylda Wiacek (9 th Birthday)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Private Intention

The SVP Lenten Collection will take place after all the Palm Sunday Masses next weekend 28/28th March. It will be in aid of the homeless locally and nationally. You will be able to make donations at the Masses, or by bank transfer to the account "St Vincent de Paul" Sort code 60 60 04 Account no. 46076484. Thank you. *Katie Gonzalez*

OTHER NOTICES

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Imogen Hare, who received her first Holy Communion at Mass last Sunday.

Diocesan survey

The diocese has produced a survey which aims to find out about the experiences of Catholics during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey will help the diocese to understand what has been happening whilst churches have been closed, or opened only for limited periods of time, and Catholics have had to practice their faith 'at a distance'. The survey should take about 10 minutes and the deadline is 4th July. To complete the survey please go to <https://forms.rcaos.org.uk/covid-19-surveyform/> and select 'Archdiocese of Southwark' from the drop down menu.

Beda College Discernment Weekend

The Beda College in Rome is running a discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 from Friday 3rd September to Sunday 5th September 2021. It takes place at St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales. The weekend is to reach men who are not already in touch with their diocese and is a first step for those who may be exploring the possibility of priestly vocation in later life. Promoting similar weekends in past years through parish notices proved to be most fruitful, and the results from these weekends are now in the seminaries. Information and registration forms are at <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-1>.

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.sevrccparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: Fifth Sunday of Lent

Jeremiah 31: 31-34; Psalm 50; Hebrews 5: 7-9; John 12: 20-33

First Reading: the prophet Jeremiah speaks of a new covenant which God will make with his people. Christ is of course the new covenant or new testament.

Psalm: a psalm with a profound insight into sin and forgiveness.

Second Reading: Christ's humble suffering and obedience to the Father's will are what bring about the believer's salvation.

Gospel: in this dramatic Gospel we hear Jesus' parable of the seed that dies, his words on loving and hating life and on following Him, as well as a clap of thunder and the Father's voice. Above all, Jesus tells us that His hour has now come, and that laying down His life is actually the hour of His glorification.

Fr David

Notices

Census 2021

Reminder: today is the day you should complete the census form.

THIS WEEK

The Annunciation

Thursday is the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. Holy Mass at St Joseph's at 10:00am and St Thomas's at 12:00 noon. Don't forget to genuflect in the Creed.

Mary Meaden RIP

Mary's Funeral is at the Kent & East Sussex Crematorium on Thursday afternoon.

Day of Prayer

Friday is a Day of Prayer for survivors of sexual abuse.

Next Sunday (Palm Sunday)

Holy Mass at the normal times at each of the four churches, but there will be some changes from normal - as advised by the Bishops - to ensure the Liturgies are COVID safe. The Procession will not take place; the Palm Gospel and Blessing of palms will be held 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. You are advised to arrive in good time before Mass starts: this will make sure you receive a palm and will also assist the stewards.

There will be a Second Collection after Mass for our parish SVP. This annual collection enables us, through SVP, to help poor people in the area, and at the moment especially those who are homeless or unemployed because of the pandemic.

British Summer Time

Don't forget to put your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night. You don't want to arrive an hour late for Mass!

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.sevrccparish.org.uk>) and click on 'Videos' on the YouTube page to find them.

21st March 2021

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. You can still participate even if you haven't done so up till now.

HOLY WEEK

The normal Holy Week Liturgies will take place but with 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.

Wednesday (31st): There will be the Wednesday 10:00am Mass at Oxford. The Chrism Mass in the Cathedral will be open only to a few Clergy.

Holy Thursday (1st): Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00pm at Holy Trinity and St Thomas's only, with no Washing of the Feet or Transfer to the Altar of Repose, and there is to be no Watch afterwards, for reasons of safety.

Good Friday (2nd): 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. If you are concerned about overcrowding you are advised to attend the Liturgy at Borough Green, where there is plenty of space. Please sit as directed by the stewards.

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

Holy Saturday (3rd): The traditional Blessing of Food (*Święconka*) will be held at 11:30am in St Thomas's, but there can be no refreshments afterwards.

The Easter Liturgy will be at Holy Trinity at 8:00pm and St Thomas's at 9:00pm only. We are instructed to 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 (4th)** there is likewise no sprinkling of water at the Renewal of Baptismal Promises. Holy Mass at the normal Sunday times.