

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 2nd May FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm	Mr Morris RIP
8:00am	Niall Hickey RIP
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	James McBrien (Birthday)
6:00pm	Sarah McGlavin RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Marie Authers RIP (3 rd Anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	UCM Intention
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Monday 3rd SS PHILIP & JAMES, App

12:00 noon	Paddy Egan RIP
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Tuesday 4th The ENGLISH MARTYRS

9:30am	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP
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Wednesday 5th Feria

8:00am	Elizabeth Gilmartin RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls

Thursday 6th Feria

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Susan Hamilton-Rigby RIP
12:00 noon	Christopher La Trobe RIP

Friday 7th Feria

8:00am	Dec'd members of the Wardle family
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 8th Feria

9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
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Sunday 9th May SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm	Patricia Rimmer RIP
8:00am	Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
9:15am	Niall Hickey RIP
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	P.J. Kelly (Anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	John Groves
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Parish Men's Group meetings

Pope Francis in an Apostolic Letter (*Patris corde*) released on 8th December 2020 proclaimed a Year of Saint Joseph. The Holy Father wrote of the impact of Covid-19 and how it has helped us appreciate the importance of ordinary people who, though far from the limelight, exercise patience and offer hope every day. In this they resemble Saint Joseph, "the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence," who nonetheless played "an incomparable role in the history of salvation."

A group of men in the parish are proposing to arrange to meet during the month of May to discuss, prayer and discern how we might follow the lead of Saint Joseph more closely in serving the needs of those around us in our work, social, family and parish life. The first meeting, scheduled for the evening of Thursday 6th May at 8pm, will be held on Zoom and include sharing video content from a "That Man is You!" programme (<https://paradisusdei.org/that-man-is-you/>). All are welcome to join for the first meeting, or others to follow during May: please contact either Andrew La Trobe (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com) or Adrian Pinington (adrian.pinington@gmail.com) for further details.

Please pray

- for God's help to end the pandemic;
- that those who have been anxious about attending Mass or who have lost the habit of coming to church will reconnect with the sacraments and, especially, the Mass;
- for those who use the Food Banks in the area.

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.



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, Brian Craig-McFeely, Deidre Thomas, Izabela Szafranska and all in old peoples' homes.

Prayers for the Sick

Our list is somewhat out of date. Please contact Magda in the Parish Office with names of the sick and housebound for inclusion in our regular Prayer List.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevrcparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts of the Apostles 9: 26-31, 17-19; *Psalms* 21; 1 *John* 3: 18-24; *John* 15: 1-8

First Reading: not surprisingly when Saul - the former persecutor of the Christians - arrived in Jerusalem he was regarded with suspicion and fear. But Barnabas showed himself to be truly Christian, believing the best of Saul and not holding his past actions against him.

Psalm: the end of the psalm the Lord quoted on the cross, which begins "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?". The psalm which begins with a sense of desertion and uncertainty ends with a triumphant song of praise for the Lord's mighty deeds.

Second Reading: faith, truth and love all go together: and love is not just words or thoughts, but "something real and active".

Gospel: previously in *John* the Lord had revealed Himself as the bread which sustains life. Now, in the metaphor of the vine - in which He compares Himself to the vine and His disciples to its branches - He makes Himself known as not only the sustainer but also the origin and source of true or real life, a life which can only be had by disciples from and in union with Him.

Fr David

Notices

Bank Holiday Monday

Holy Mass on Monday in St Thomas's is at the Bank Holiday time of 12:00 midday.

Last call for Confirmation 2021

Attention all those currently in Year 7 or above: registration for this year's Confirmation Programme is now open. Register on line at www.sevrcparish.org.uk where there is an outline of important dates. This is a proposed programme, and the dates may need to be altered due to the coronavirus. Once registered, we can keep you informed of any changes by email. **Closing date: 7th May 2021.**

Advance Notice: Ascension Day (13th May)

Holy Mass for this Holyday of Obligation (or it would be if the Obligation applied at the moment!) on Thursday 13th May:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 12:00 noon, 8:00pm

Holy Trinity, Oxford: 10:00am

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am

St Joseph's, Borough Green: 6:00pm.

Advance Notice: Oxford May Devotions

On Sunday 16th May at 3:30pm. We have to avoid the usual procession and singing for COVID reasons, but we will still have May Devotions, including the Holy Rosary and crowning of the Statue of Our Lady. Fr David will also bless the new Rosary Garden.

'Priest's bubbles'

Hitherto we have kept the priests in bubbles for Sunday Masses during the pandemic. It now seems timely to discontinue this; amongst other things it will enable Fr David and Fr Paul to reconnect with parishioners in the three chapels, many of whom they have not seen for over a year. The *Missa privata* on Mondays and Tuesdays will also now be discontinued. Other COVID precautions remain in place for now.

COVID stewards

To retain public Masses we are very dependent on (and very grateful to) a small number of stewards in each church. They oversee the Test & Trace registration and the sanitising of hands on entry, ensure parishioners are seated a safe distance from each other, and disinfect the benches/chairs afterwards. We need some more stewards to spread the work load: **if you can do this - some Sundays, not always - please volunteer; don't wait to be asked.**

Most Holy Trinity, Oxford

There has been some confusion about the exact dedication of the church at Oxford. We are pleased to report that Mgr Matthew Dickens has verified that it was dedicated (by Archbishop Michael Bowen on 31st May 1981) as 'The Most Holy Trinity, Oxford' and, as Diocesan Chancellor, he has issued a Certificate of Notification to this effect. So we don't have to alter the noticeboard!

Sevenoaks Food Bank

Despite a very generous donation from SVP, the donation side of the food bank was really quiet last Thursday and our stocks look a bit like an Emmental cheese! We really need pasta/rice sauces, fruit tins, tuna, instant powder soup, cooking ingredients, biscuits and spreads for bread. A big effort from every one over the next few weeks would be gracefully received. Thank you for your generosity.

Isabelle Mercer

The Day of the Lord

The Bishops' Conference issued a statement - 'The Day of the Lord' - at their recent Plenary Meeting. The Archbishop has asked that it be shared as widely as possible with parishioners. A copy accompanies this Message.