

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 9th May *SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER*

6:00pm	Patricia Rimmer RIP
8:00am	Timothy & Cleta 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

Monday 10th *Feria*

8:00am	James José Martin Walker RIP
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Tuesday 11th *Feria*

9:30am	John Rodrigues RIP
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Wednesday 12th *Feria*

8:00am	Paul (Robert Hugh) Edwards RIP (2 nd Anniversary)
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Margaret Griffiths RIP (Anniversary)

Thursday 13th *The ASCENSION of the LORD*

8:00am	People of the Parish
12:00 noon	In thanks for the providence received
8:00pm	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
6:00pm <i>Borough Green</i>	John Groves

Friday 14th *S MATTHIAS, Ap*

8:00am	Douglas, Mona and Anne Jenkins RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 15th *Feria*

9:30am	Holy Souls
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Sunday 16th May *SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER*

6:00pm	Holy Souls
8:00am	Holy Souls
9:15am	In thanks for the providence received
11:15am	In thanksgiving from Mercado Family
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Maria & the comfort of her family
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

COVID stewards

To retain public Masses we are very dependent on (and very grateful to) a small number of stewards in each church. 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.**

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Our list is somewhat out of date.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.

Please pray

- for God's help to end the pandemic;
- for the reunion of Christendom (from Friday onwards);
- for Mgr Matthew Dickens as he prepares for his new apostolate.

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 Kensing, pray for us.

Seminarian placement

The Archbishop has arranged for a Seminarian, Matthew Donnelly, to come to the parish for a short Diaconate Placement, between Saturday 22nd May and Saturday 19th June. I am sure you will make him welcome.

Bereavement support

We were unable to hold our usual meetings during 2020 but we feel that the time is now right to resume our informal meetings on the third Monday of each month. Therefore on Monday 17th May, you can find us in the Parish Room from 10:30am until midday. In many ways, we have all been bereaved over the last year and sadly many of us have lost loved ones. You can be assured of a warm friendly welcome, a cup of coffee and biscuits, and time to quietly talk through your losses. We look forward to welcoming you. Please use the front entrance to the Parish Room rather than coming through the Church.

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PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

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Today's Mass Readings: *SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER*

Acts of the Apostles 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48; Psalm 97; 1 John 4: 7-10; John 15: 9-17

First Reading: after Peter preaches that Christ's death and resurrection were for every one of every nation (including the 'pagans', ie non-Jews), the Holy Spirit comes down on them all and they are Baptized.

Psalm: this psalm is a call to praise the Lord for his wonders and salvation. As a piece of possibly useless information, this is the only psalm which has just 'A Psalm' as its title.

Second Reading: as always in his writings St John stresses that being a disciple necessarily involves love of God and of one another, since "God is love".

Gospel: Jesus uses the imagery of the vine and the branches to describe His relationship with God the Father and the disciple's relationship with Himself. In the Old Testament the vineyard is a frequent symbol for Israel; Jesus is saying that He, along with His disciples, form the new Israel.

There may also be eucharistic overtones: the vine is a symbol of eucharistic union and eucharistic life-giving. And (see the *Second Reading*) St John couples this with love of God and of one another. *Fr David*

Notices

Supply priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells for the 9:30am Mass at Oxford, and Mgr Matthew Dickens for the 9:30am Mass at Borough Green and the 11:00am Mass at West Kingsdown.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Edlyn Varga and Allegra Riefolo, making their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass.

Thursday: Ascension Day

Acts of the Apostles 1: 1-11; Psalm 46; Ephesians 4: 1-13; Mark 16: 15-20

The key *Reading* is the First, which describes Jesus' return to heaven. The *Gospel* adds that there He took His place at the right hand of the Father. Our only fitting response is summed up in the *Psalm*: "sing praise for God, sing praise".

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

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.

Fr Bryan Wells is assisting us by offering the 12:00 midday Mass at St Thomas's.

Funeral Mass: Niall Hickey

Niall's Funeral Mass is at 2:00pm on Friday in St Thomas's, followed by the Committal at the Bluebell Crematorium. Numbers are still restricted because of the COVID rules; parishioners wishing to pay their respects to Niall should form a 'guard of honour' outside the Church (maintaining the physical distance) from about 2:30pm.

Pentecost Novena

The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the reunion of Christendom begins on Friday.

9th May 2021

Next Sunday: Oxford May Devotions & Blessing of the Rosary Garden

Next Sunday at 3:30pm at Most Holy Trinity, the May Devotions, including the Holy Rosary and crowning the statue of Our Lady, and Blessing of the new Rosary Garden. All are welcome, not just Oxfordians; this is especially suitable for families.

Next Sunday: Second Collection for World Communications Day

This collection supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CNN), the media office of the Bishops' Conference.

Parish Men's Group meetings

A group of men in the parish are meeting during the month of May to discuss, pray and discern how they 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 meetings for the time being 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: please contact either Andrew La Trobe (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com) or Adrian Pingleton (adrian.pingleton@gmail.com) for further details.

Mgr Matthew Dickens

As he announced last Sunday Mgr Matthew will in June begin a new apostolate as Parish Priest of St Thomas Becket, Wandsworth West Hill, whilst retaining some of his Vicar General responsibilities. This will bring an end to some 12 years of Sunday supplying in this parish.

We are immensely grateful to him for all his assistance over these years, and wish him well in his new post. At least his patron will be our own St Thomas! If you would like to make a donation to him to thank him, please place it in an envelope marked 'Mgr Matthew' and hand it in by 23rd May. Put your name on the reverse to Gift Aid it.