

MASS INTENTIONS

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

Sunday 16th May SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm	Holy Souls
8:00am	Fr Kevin Alban RIP
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

Monday 17th Feria

8:00am	Barry Griffiths RIP
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Tuesday 18th Feria

9:30am	John O'Connor RIP
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Wednesday 19th Feria

8:00am	Lockyer & Conroy families and their deceased family members
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls

Thursday 20th Feria

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00 noon	Good intentions of the donor's family

Friday 21st Feria

8:00am	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 22nd Feria

9:30am	Peace & Justice in Jerusalem and Holy Land
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Sunday 23rd May PENTECOST

6:00pm	John Albertini RIP
8:00am	Cyril Waite RIP (Anniversary)
9:15am	Peace & Justice in Jerusalem and Holy Land
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Jan & Stefania Ociepa RIP and Stanislaw Czaja RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Fr Bryan Wells
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Good estate of the Hurl's family and Richard Murphy RIP
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.**

COVID restrictions changes

On Monday we move to Step 3 in the Government's roadmap for England. The only real change for us is that Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms (outside Mass) now have a raised attendance limit of 30. Otherwise the COVID restrictions and precautions remain the same:

- ✓ sanitise hands on arrival and exit;
- ✓ good ventilation in the church;
- ✓ sit 1 metre apart from others not in your household bubble;
- ✓ Holy Communion under one kind only;
- ✗ those not receiving Holy Communion should not come forward in the Communion Procession (except for small children you can't leave by themselves);
- ✗ no exchange of the Sign of Peace;
- ✗ no congregational singing.

A Lifeline for Marriages

Has Covid put you under more stress as a couple? Is your marriage stressed, unloving, cold? Do you want to improve your communication? Have you separated, divorced, are you thinking about it? Do you want to try again? The Retrouvaille programme may be just what you need!

The next programme commences with a weekend on 1st - 4th July. For more information tel or text 0788 729 6983 or 0797 338 0443 (complete confidentiality assured.) or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com; www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Please pray

- for God's help to end the pandemic;
- for all who have asked for our prayers;
- for those receiving their first Holy Communion at this time;
- for the Catholic Communications Network.

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.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevtrparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER (Year B)

Acts of the Apostles 1: 15-17, 20-26; *Psalm* 102; *1 John* 4: 11-16; *John* 17: 11-19

First Reading: the apostles select Matthias to replace Judas - to maintain the number at 12 - to be a fellow witness to the Resurrection of Christ.

Psalm: the Christian lives joyfully, knowing that God is both higher than the heavens and also close to us in love and forgiveness.

Second Reading: St John tells us that "*God is love*". This no mere metaphor, it is what God *is*. If we live in God then we shall also live in love.

Gospel: this is part of what one commentator has described as "one of the most majestic moments in the Fourth Gospel, the climax of the Last Discourse where Jesus turns to his Father in prayer". In today's *Gospel* Jesus asks His Father to maintain His disciples in unity ("*may they be one like us*") and in truth ("*consecrate them in the truth*"). *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 Helena Spingardi and Emma Budz, making their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass. Congratulations to Alex Sears and Jude Davies, making their first Holy Communion at the Mass at St Bernadette's.

Oxford May Devotions & Blessing of the Rosary Garden

Today (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.

Second Collection for World Communications Day

The Second Collection today supports the work of the Catholic Communications Network (CNN), the media office of the Bishops' Conference. This provides support to the Bishops and the wider Church in promoting the Gospel through the media.

Bereavement support

On Monday in the Parish Room from 10:30am until midday (enter by the door marked 14) for anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or a while ago. Contact Ronnie Campbell - 01732 452988, Kate Travers - kate.travers521@hotmail.com, or Sarah Harrison - sarah.harrison18@btinternet.com for further information, or simply turn up. You are assured of a sympathetic ear.

Holy Matrimony

The Wedding of Richard Lyon and Tamsyn Pingleton is at 12:30pm on Saturday at Most Holy Trinity. Please note that under COVID number restrictions only those invited by the couple may attend the ceremony.

Parish Men's Group meetings

These will take place in May - by Zoom for discussion, prayer and discernment. 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.

Seminarian placement

On Saturday we welcome Rev'd Matthew Donnelly to the parish for a short Diaconate Placement until Saturday 19th June.

Priests' Training Fund

The total collected in this Second Collection was £1,972.72. Thank you for this most excellent sum.

Quiet Day of Reflection

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 26th June at The Poul House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU from 10.00 to 16.00.

Through the use of poetry, prayer and nature, the day will be an opportunity to reflect gently on the pandemic lockdown and how it has changed us spiritually, socially and personally. What were the blessings? And the challenges? Where did we find solace? How do we want our "new normal" to be?

The day will be led by Sevenoaks parishioner Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for 18 years. Please bring a camping chair (or similar) and a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes as part of the day will be outside. Suggested contribution £5. Numbers are limited to 20. If you wish to attend please email Gilly at gf58b@icloud.com.

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.