

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 15th AUGUST *The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY*

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am (Latin)	Hubert Jamitzky RIP
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	Maria & Stan Kowalczyk RIP
6:00pm	Edward Marchal RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	James Healey RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Mary Varley
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Monday 16th *Feria*

8:00am	Mary Ralph - complete recovery
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Tuesday 17th *Feria*

9:30am	Barry Griffiths RIP
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Wednesday 18th *Feria*

8:00am	Anne D'Souza RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Richard Knight RIP

Thursday 19th *Feria*

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Kerry & Liz

Friday 20th *S Bernard, Ab D*

8:00am	Connie Burton RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Michael & Bernard Harding

Saturday 21st *S Pius X, P*

9:30am	Holy Souls
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SUNDAY 22nd AUGUST *TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY (B)*

6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am (Latin)	Recently departed parishioners RIP
9:15am	A swift end to the pandemic
11:15am	Edward Marchal RIP
6:00pm	Rita Lewis RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Lawrence Joseph Murphy RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	The Bereaved
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	People of the Parish

PLEASE PRAY

- for Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven, Antonia Mroziuk, Lilian Spragg and all who are ill or in old peoples' homes;
- for a swift end to the pandemic;
- for our senior parishioners (the Pilgrims).

LATIN ANTIPHONS TODAY

Entrance: Signum magnum apparuit in caelo: mulier amicta sole, et luna sub pedibus eius, et in capite eius corona stellarum duodecim.

Communion: Beatam me dicent omnes generationes, quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est.

Parish Days of Prayer

The Women's Day of Prayer will be on 18th September, and the Men's Day of Prayer on 2nd October. Both will be 10:00am - 4:00pm at Most Holy Trinity, Otford - as last year - with registration and tea/coffee from 9:30am. Bring your own Lunch and bottle of water. Cost: £15. Both days will be led by Fr Bryan Wells, well known as a regular supply priest in the parish.

For more information contact Catherine Rodger (c.rodger@btinternet.com or 01732 458852). To attend send £15 (cash or a cheque payable to 'St Thomas' Church, Sevenoaks') in an envelope marked Parish Day of Prayer to the Parish Office, by Sunday 5th September. Do consider inviting someone to come with you who may not have attended before. These Days were very well received last year.

Another Newsletter extract

"For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs".

St Thomas' Catholic Primary School - governance

The Academy Committee is looking to recruit a Foundation Academy Committee member (who must be a practising Catholic) to support the school by monitoring and reviewing its progress and attainment. The role includes playing an active part in discussions at Academy Committee meetings (currently 4 evenings a year), as well as conducting monitoring visits to the school. We welcome those wanting to get involved in the community and learn new skills. Previous school governance experience is not essential and further training or familiarisation is available as necessary.

For further information please contact Catherine Ingram at chair@saintthomas.co.uk or visit the school's website <https://www.saintthomas.co.uk/governance/>.

RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Archie George Gullen

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevrcparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass Readings: The ASSUMPTION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 15th August 2021
Apocalypse 11: 19, 12: 1-6, 10; Psalm 44; 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26; Luke 1: 39-56

This is the oldest feast of Our Lady, starting in the East after the Council of Ephesus (which defined Mary as the Mother of God) in 431.

Vigil Mass (Saturday 6:00pm). The Readings convey different images of Mary: the Ark of the Covenant (First Reading and Psalm), incorruptibility (Second Reading), and obedience to the Word of God (Gospel). The significance of the Ark of the Covenant is that it was regarded as incorruptible; it is thus a symbol of the imperishability of the body of Mary.

Mass of the Day. First Reading: unusually this is not from the Old Testament but from the vision of the end-time in the last book of the New Testament. Mary, as the mother of Christ - "*a male child*" - is portrayed as the first church; she bore in her womb and gave substance to Him who is the head of the church. Mary, without spot or wrinkle, is the first to be redeemed.

The **Psalm** is one traditionally used in the readings for Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Second Reading: Christ is the 'first fruits', and the next to rise to eternal life will be "*those who belong to him*", and surely Mary is the first of these.

The **Gospel** includes the whole of the *Magnificat*, which we can regard as a hymn of Mary's exaltation. Also, with Mary we glorify God who, "*mindful of his mercy*", has looked with favour on his lowly handmaid. And Mary's exaltation is the foreshadowing of our own.

Fr David

Supply priest

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, offering the Mass at Most Holy Trinity today.

First Holy Communion

Natalia Parry will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time at the 11:15am Mass in St Thomas's today.

Bereavement Support

Anyone who has been bereaved - recently or in the past - is invited to attend this support group, in the Parish Centre from 10:30am on Monday; do come along for coffee and a chat.

Holy Matrimony

The Wedding of Spencer Garrett and Claire Pingleton is on Monday at 12:30pm in Most Holy Trinity.

The Pilgrims Coffee

On Tuesday 9:30am Mass followed by coffee and cake in the front garden or in the parish room. Please come and enjoy conversation and companionship!

Parish Office

As Magda is away on holiday the Parish Office is closed and will reopen on Tuesday 31st August. The office email (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk) will be monitored by the priests, but you may not receive as speedy a reply as normal. Please continue to book Mass Intentions in the usual way, and contact the Presbytery for things like Baptism certificates.

St Thomas's Repository

Is now open again for business, for the usual items: cards, rosaries, etc. Please take care at the counter and maintain COVID precautions.

RCIA Course

starts in September. This is a programme for adults who wish to be Baptized in the Catholic Church or (if already Baptized) Received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church. Contact Andrew La Trobe (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com; 07775 738485) to enquire or to register for the course.

Ride & Stride - Most Holy Trinity

Charles Sexton and Barry Authers are participating in the Ride and Stride in aid of Kent Churches on Saturday 11th September, representing the Most Holy Trinity, Otford. They will be appealing for sponsors after the 9:30 Mass at Otford from 8th August until 5th September. Volunteers to welcome participants to the Church on the day are also needed and volunteers can sign up after these Masses too.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Thomas's

We are starting an evening session of Adoration especially for those at work during the day, on a Tuesday from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. This will start on 14th September, appropriately the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

Adoration will continue on Mondays after Mass, from 8:30am - 9:30pm (except for Bank Holiday Mondays, when it will be from 11:00am - 12:00 noon, before the Mass).

The Pilgrims on Thursday 9th September

10.00am Mass at St Joseph's, Borough Green, followed by a talk about the new church with hospitality from the community there, and then on to the lovely garden at Great Comp for the afternoon. Transport by minibus, so places will be limited.

More details to follow.