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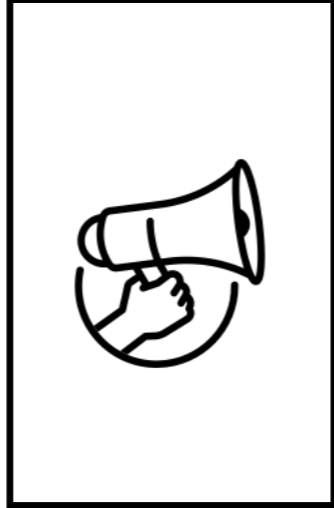
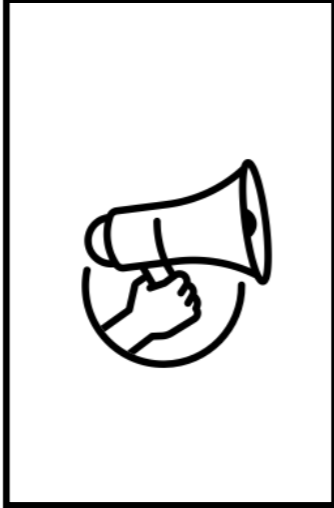
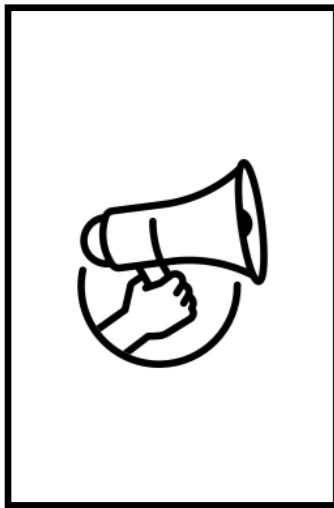
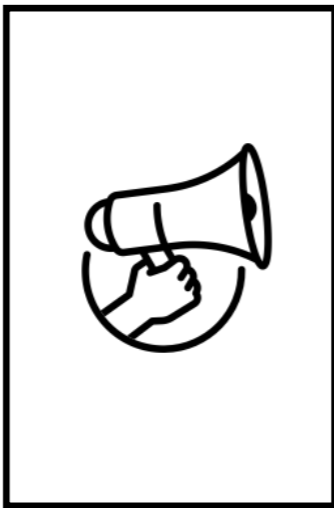
email:
 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Max. 50 signs
 in black and white


Sophie Wootton Borruso



Portraits and
 Painted Silhouettes




St Edith Devotions at the
 Well and Vespers
 in the Church

Archdiocese of
 Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
 BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

3rd October 2021



Today's Mass: Twenty-Seventh Sunday (Year B)

Genesis 2: 18-24; Psalm 127; Hebrews 2: 9-11; Mark 10: 2-16

First Reading: this reading is placed before the *Gospel* to remind us that marriage is not the creation of the Church or even of Jesus Christ. Rather, "God himself is the author of marriage" (*Gaudium et Spes* §48)

Psalm: this psalm asks God for a Zion (Jerusalem, or, we would say, the church, the new Jerusalem) full of god-fearing, happy and peaceful families.

Second Reading: this is the first in a series of Readings from the *Letter to the Hebrews*. Perhaps based on Psalm 8, the idea is that through Christ's suffering we can become part of God's family, brothers and sisters of Christ.

Gospel: some Pharisees try to trap Jesus, but His response is clear and uncompromising: if remarriage follows divorce it is an act of adultery against the previous spouse. This is not a new law promulgated by Jesus but a restatement of God's will.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS



Sunday Mass times:
 Saturday 6:00pm
 Sunday 8:00am (Latin)
 9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word)
 11:15am
 6:00pm

Weekday Mass times:
 Monday 8:00am
 Tuesday 9:30am
 Wednesday 8:00am
 Thursday 12:00noon
 Friday 8:00am
 Saturday 9:30am

Adoration:
 Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
 Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation:
 Saturday 10:00am - 10:30am,
 5:15pm - 5:45pm

Granville Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek
 Monday - Friday
 9:30am - 12:30pm
 Tel: 01732 454177
 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
 www.sevrcparish.org.uk



High Street, Otford
TN14 5PH

MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am
 (with Children's Liturgy of the Word)
 Wed 10:00am
 Holy Days of Obligation 10:00am
Adoration: Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

Church contacts:
 Barry Authors
 Tel: 01959 524362
 sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



Western Rd, Borough Green
TN15 8AG

ST JOSEPH'S BOROUGH GREEN

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am
 (with Children's Liturgy of the Word)
 Thurs 10:00am
 Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

Church contact:
 Antoni Offert
 Tel: 07513 041075
 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
TN15 6JP

ST BERNADETTE'S WEST KINGSDOWN

Mass times: Sunday 11:00am, Friday 10:00am
 Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am
Rosary: 1st Wed every month at 7:00pm
Adoration: Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

Church contact:
 Jill & John Gobel
 Tel: 01474 853676
 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



South Park,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH

Headteacher:
Mrs Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

St Thomas' Nursery

Head of Nursery:
Mrs Geraldine Leahy
info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN



Sunday 3 October 2021
 Mark 10:2-16
 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time



God has made people to love each other. Jesus wants us all to welcome God into our hearts, just as he welcomes the children who want to come to him.

My name is _____

WELCOME LOVE

A picture to colour

Fill the missing letters in the hearts to find out what God is like. Joseph and Grace are married.

They love each other very much and want to be together for ever. We can see by looking at them what love is like. They show us what God is like.



Maze

Jesus loves all children and wants them to be very close to him. Can you help the children find their way to Jesus?



Which does not belong?

Here are some pictures of Grace and Joseph showing how much they love each other.



Cross out any that do not belong.

Spot the rings

People who are married wear a ring. A ring has no ending. It shows that love goes on forever. Can you find the 4 lost wedding rings on this page?

A PRAYER TO SAY

Please, God, help all the people who are married to stay friends always. Sometimes people can't stay married. Please help them to know that God's love for them will never end. Amen.

Answers: kind, always there, forgiving, loving, patient.

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

www.sevrcparish.org.uk Parish Tel: 01732 454177

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KHS
davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Peter Littleton
peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Parish Office hours: Monday-Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Parish Safeguarding

Your Acting Parish Safeguarding Representative is *Ken Baines sevenoakssg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk*
The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 02072 611606. *In an Emergency dial 999.*

Adoration:

Barry Authers adoration@sevrcparish.org.uk

Altar Servers:

James McBrien james@clearwateradvisers.com

Bereavement Support Group:

Ronnie Campbell 01732 452988, Sarah Harrison 01959 522357 or Kate Travers katetravers521@hotmail.com.

Catenians:

Social club for Catholic men; Dinner on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at 8:30pm.
Aiden O'Mahony
aidan.omahony@btinternet.com or on 07834 259 229.

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass:

Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:

Mark O'Prey sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk

Otford, 9:30am Mass:

Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

Fiona Newton - fionanewton321@btinternet.com

Choir:

Music Group Lonnie Christophers

lonniechr@hotmail.com

Traditional Choir Barbara Page Tel: 01732 454726

Borough Green Chris Hull chris.hull@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's):

Jim McSharry jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

Confirmation Programme:

Gabrielle Ellis sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk

Finance Committee:

Mary Scott 3maryscott@gmail.com

First Holy Communion

and Reconciliation Programme:

Ingrid La Trobe sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk

Flowers St Thomas's

Jan Gordon john.gordon1@talk1.com

Gift Aid: Sean Corrigan sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk

Holy Trinity Committee

Barry Authers sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

Lectio Divina: Kathie Gonzalez Tel: 01732 761253

Mothers' Prayers: Mondays, 11:30am at Star House,
Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532505

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota: St Thomas

Andrew Pembroke: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

Parents & Toddlers: Mary Strinati 07890 229794;
Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am, Parish Centre

RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust):

MaryAnn Perasso Tel: 01959 522337, www.racet.org

RCIA

For adults becoming Catholic Andrew La Trobe
andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

Retreats

Catherine Roger c.roger@btinternet.com

St Joseph's Committee

Sec John Foley johnandmariefoley@gmail.com

The Pilgrims

Jackie Pembroke ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com

or Pat Harman 01732 453902

Scripture Fellowship: Reading a Gospel together.

Andrew Wilkinson Tel: 07847 652846

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Kathie Gonzalez - sevenoakssvp@gmail.com or
ugonzalez@btinternet.com

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM):

Borough Green UCM: Mary Ringham Tel: 1732 672602

West Kingsdown UCM: Monica Biggs

per_ardua_ad_astra@hotmail.com

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

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Page 5	Mass Intentions
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Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
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Rosary Sunday

Rosaries may be purchased from the Repository. Guides to how to pray the Rosary can easily be downloaded from the internet.

Second Collection

The Second Collection is for CAFOD, whose local experts are helping people all over the world to adapt to climate change and protect our common home. By donating to CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day collection you can help communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis. Use the CAFOD envelope to Gift Aid your donation. You can also donate online through the CAFOD website or by text: CAFOD10 to 70580 to donate £10.

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells for the Mass at Otford and Fr Alexander McAllister SDS at the 6:00pm Mass at Sevenoaks.

Third national Mass count

Stewards please count everyone at Mass and email the figures to Fr David.

First Holy Communions

Zoe Johnstone and Finnian Ryan make their First Holy Communion at the 9:15am Mass today.

11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir provides the music today.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in St Thomas's

On Mondays after 8:00am Mass, until 9:30am and on Tuesdays, 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

RCIA Course

Mondays at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre, for adults who wish to be Baptized 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. If you know someone who may be interested, invite them and come with them to the first session.

St Thomas' School

Year 5 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday.

Toddlers Group

This group - for toddlers and their mums/dads - meets on Thursday, 9:15am - 11:15am. Contact Mary Strinati (07890 229794) if you are interested.

Children's Liturgy of the Word

We are hoping to restart this at St Thomas's (9:15am Mass), St Joseph's and Most Holy Trinity. If you can volunteer to help, please see Mark O'Prey or Fr David or Fr Peter at St Thomas's, Fiona Newton at Borough Green, or Magda at Otford. Training will be provided, but all catechists must first be DBS checked.

St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells

Open Mornings & Evening

For entry in September 2022. Open mornings (tours between 8:55am - 12:00 noon) Tuesday 5th, Wednesday 6th, Wednesday 20th & Thursday 21st October. Tours must be booked in advance, via the website: www.sgschool.org.uk.

To obtain Fr David's signature on the Supplementary Form please email him to make an appointment. Please note that one criterion used is whether or not the family has registered in this parish.

Thank you from St Joseph's

Thank you for all the gardening tools we've received and rest assured that we will make good use of them.

PARISH NOTICES

St Joseph's garden work party: The next garden work party will be on Thursday 14th October after Mass. Please come to help - we now have tools on site for you to use.

St Vincent de Paul Society Donations

For those who missed the SVP Annual Collection last weekend but who would very kindly like to give, the bank details at the Nat West are as follows:

Sort code: 60 60 04

Account name: St Vincent de Paul Society

Account number: 46076484

Many thanks for your generosity.

St Thomas's Church Cleaning

Could you spare just one hour a month to help clean our church? No experience required and full training will be given on the job. We are in urgent need of at least four additional volunteers! Kindly contact me for further information; 07917 032024 or email jamesmcharry@hotmail.com

The Pilgrims: Coffee Morning

Please join us for coffee and cake. Tuesday 12th October 11:00am. We welcome old friends and those who have not been before. The church will be open beforehand for private prayer from 10:30am

Newsletter Update

Dear Parishioners, as you have noticed our newsletter is again in its extended version and after such a long time a lot has changed. Please send to Magda any information that you would like to see corrected or included on page 10. Magda is open to suggestions. On page 12 it will now be possible to add a classified ad (max 50 characters). There is no set fee for this but only a small contribution for printing purposes. We are very pleased to once again be able to share with you all the news from our Parish.

Courses offered by the diocesan Agency for Evangelization & Catechesis

Archbishop's Certificate

This course is for those in the parish involved in catechesis, adult formation or evangelization. It is a two year, blended learning course and starts on 9th October. Visit <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>.

Evangelium Online

A free Zoom course on Sunday evenings: a refresher

and overview of the Catholic faith. Register at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/evangeliumonlinecourse21-22>.

Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies

A nationally recognised course, particularly for those involved in Catholic education as teachers, teaching assistants or governors. To find out more about this modular course (on which Fr David teaches) or to register: <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/ccrs>.

Papal joke

At the recent Ordination of a new Auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, in the papal mandate the Pope wrote that that Christians 'eos numquam solos ambulare', or 'they never walk alone'. Perhaps there is a new Beatitude: 'Blessed are the Pacemakers'!

Please pray

- ◆ for all students in schools;
- ◆ for all children preparing for their First Holy Communion;
- ◆ for the Confirmation Programme candidates;
- ◆ for God's help in ending the pandemic.

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.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

COVID-19: the present situation



There are now no legal restrictions on places of worship, limiting the attendance at Weddings and so on, as there once were. However, the virus is still present in the community and I, as Parish Priest, and the parish generally do have a responsibility to discharge Health and Safety requirements. Guidance from the Bishops can be found at <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/covid-guidance-collective-worship/>, which incidentally has a fine photo of Fr Mark Odion, MSP, one of our regular supply priests.

The general principles are:

1. **prevailing local conditions** (eg if there were a huge spike in local infections, hospital admissions, and deaths);
2. **mitigations**: although the vaccination rate is high there is still a risk of virus transmission. Mitigations advised by the Bishops include hand sanitising at entrances and exits, face coverings in Church (unless exempt), cleansing of places where people have been, and windows and doors to be kept open to improve ventilation (so wrap up warm in the winter!). We are immensely grateful to our stewards at all four churches for overseeing these procedures;
3. **'social distancing'**: at St Thomas's and Most Holy Trinity, please use the green ticks to help you maintain safe distances, and at St Joseph's and St Bernadette's we shall continue to space out the chairs;
4. **congregational singing**: this, and choirs, are permitted, but we may reduce the length of hymns, for example, to reduce the time spent indoors.

When **receiving Holy Communion** you may do so either on the tongue or in the hand, but please exercise great care to avoid the priest's hand touching you, and do not come too close to the priest. Do not come forward unless you are receiving Holy Communion; the exception is small children, whom you can't leave by themselves. Holy Communion will continue to be administered in one kind, until the Bishops decree otherwise.

The physical **Sign of Peace** remains suspended, but you can always make a gesture to a neighbour if you wish. The **Holy Water** stoups also remain unfilled; if you want Holy Water bring a bottle to the priest, who can bless it.

Altar serving and **reading at Mass** are more or less back to normal, but please be aware and take any sensible precautions. Readers should now read from the Lectionary and not from the Newsletter.

Confessions can heard before (if there is plenty of time) or after any Mass, by appointment (just email me or Fr Peter), or at the normal Saturday times in St Thomas's. In St Thomas's we are using the side Chapel instead of the Reconciliation Chapel, as it is COVID safer.

Home visits (including Home Communion) can be done, but we may not visit several people in one day, to avoid inadvertently spreading the virus, so these may not be as frequent as before. Contact Fr Peter to receive Holy Communion at home or in an old people's home. **Anointing (including the 'Last Rites')** can be carried out at any time.

St Thomas' School will comply with the regulations ordained by the various government and diocesan authorities. **Groups** such as Toddlers and Confirmation classes will adhere to the parish risk assessment.

If you have COVID or COVID symptoms, do not come to Church. For those still shielding all Masses at St Thomas's are livestreamed on the parish website (thanks Barry and John). Otherwise, you are probably safer in Church than if you go to the shops! And do please keep up the prayers for the swift end to the pandemic.

Fr David

CAFOD HARVEST APPEAL

Pope Francis says we are a single family living in a common home. The CAFOD Harvest Fast Day this year focuses on the climate crisis. This is a crisis that will affect each and every one of us. A crisis that is damaging our world. Our common home: God's creation.

The Coronavirus pandemic is pushing millions of people around the world into poverty and deepened inequality. The poorest and most vulnerable people in the world are also the ones who are being hit hardest by climate change. Harvests are failing. Cities are flooding. Entire communities are finding it harder and harder to survive in the place they call home.

But, in the face of this, all around the world, ordinary people like us are giving their all to protect our planet, our common home, God's creation.

Ivanilde is a mother, a grandmother and a farmer. And, for the last 19 years, she's been on the frontline of the struggle to protect our common home. She lives in a small patch of rainforest in one of the most heavily deforested regions of the Brazilian Amazon. Pope Francis has said that the health of our planet depends on the health of the Amazon – yet every year thousands of acres are deliberately burned so the land can be cleared for cattle ranching, or simply to be turned over to make a quick profit.

More than once, Ivanilde's home has been ravaged by fires started on land owned by wealthy cattle ranchers. She's felt the heat on her face and the sting of the smoke in her eyes as the flames destroyed her trees and crops. Trees she's planted herself and spent so long caring for – the trees whose fruits her family rely on to survive. She's faced obstacles that could shake the spirits of the very bravest – but she has never given up.

With the help of local experts from our church network, she's replanted and restored her land. Thanks to donations like yours, expert human rights lawyers were able to stand alongside Ivanilde and her community through years of legal battles, to help them win their rights to stay, and protect the fragile piece of the Amazon they call home.

Ivanilde is not alone. All over the world, people are doing their bit to fight the worst effects of climate change. In Ethiopia, water experts are helping to build solar-powered pumps to help communities struggling with drought. In Bangladesh, local climate experts are helping people protect their homes and livelihoods from ever more devastating cyclones.

By giving today, you'll be helping the people who have done the least to cause the climate crisis but are being hit the hardest by its devastating effects. And you will be supporting people like Ivanilde, who are dedicating their lives to protecting our common home. You can donate via today's Second Collection (use an envelope for CAFOD to receive the Gift Aid refund), online at <https://cafod.org.uk/>, or you can give using the contactless machine in St Thomas's.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 3rd OCTOBER TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm(Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am(Latin)	Cyril Waite RIP (Birthday)
9:15am	Tommy Hooks RIP
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Malcolm Lott RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	John & Valerie Ingram In thanksgiving for 49 years of marriage
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	All those affected by the pandemic
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Private Intention for the recovery of a good friend

Monday 4th S Francis of Assisi

8:00am	Tony Smith RIP (Anniversary)
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Tuesday 5th Feria

9:30am	Christopher Gouck Gallo
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Wednesday 6th Feria

8:00am	Kelly Bartholow RIP & family
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Spirit

Thursday 7th Our Lady of the Rosary

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Lucy Balaam for good health

Friday 8th Feria

8:00am	Welfare of Karie -Lyn & Abel Pelletier
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Ella Doherty RIP & Pat Hume

Saturday 9th S JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Pr

9:30am	People of Afghanistan
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SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm(Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am(Latin)	Fr David and Fr Peter
9:15am	Cleta & Timothy Andradi RIP
11:15am	Private Intention
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	All ill Parishioners
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	The children's cancer charity
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially:

Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven and Lilian Spragg.

Departed

Please pray for the soul of

Rachel Mary Pilkington

who has recently departed.



Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Please do take a copy of this newsletter home with you each week.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance: In volumate tua, Domine, universa sunt posita, et non est qui possit resistere voluntati tuae. Tu enim fecisti omnia, caelum et terram, et universa quae caeli ambitu continentur; Dominus universorum tu es.

Communion: Unus panis et unum corpus multi sumus, omnes qui de uno pane et de uno calice participamus.