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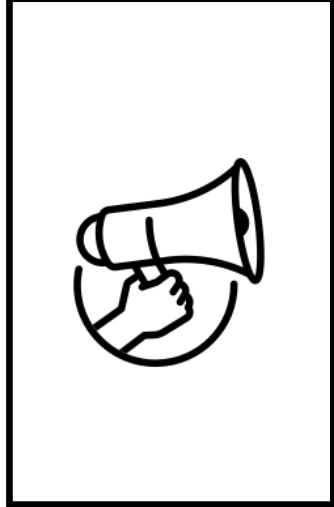
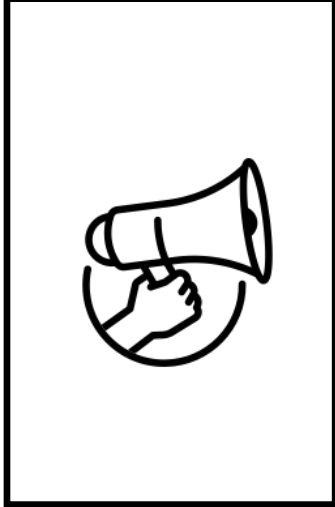
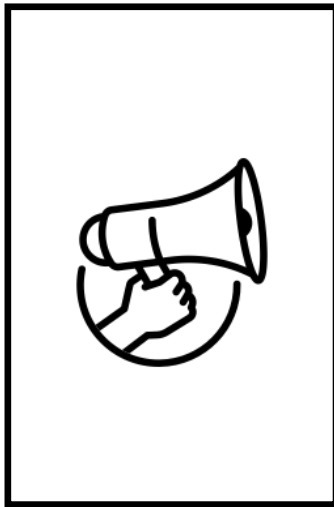
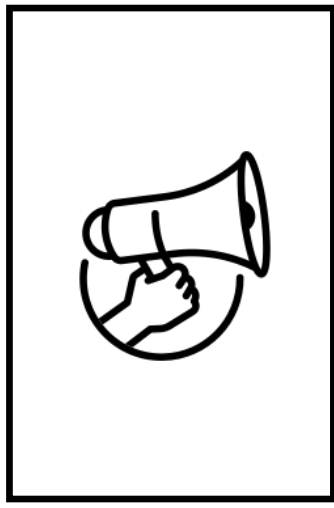
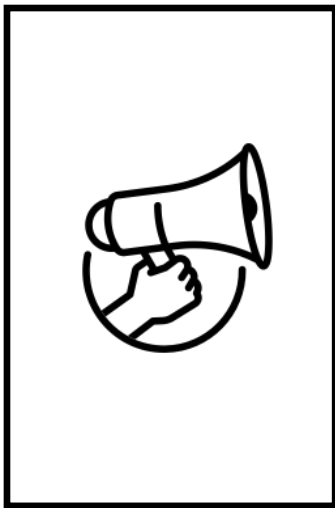
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Max. 50 signs
 in black and white


Sophie Wootton Borruso



Portraits and
 Painted Silhouettes




Fr David's
 Silver Jubilee of Ordination,
 in May

Archdiocese of
 Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
 BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

10th October 2021



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

Wisdom 7: 7-11; Psalm 89; Hebrews 4: 12-13; Mark 10: 17-30

First Reading: riches - and indeed health and beauty - are as nothing compared to Wisdom. For Christians, Wisdom in the Old Testament refers to Jesus Christ. Hence the great basilica in Constantinople (now Istanbul) 'Hagia Sophia' was dedicated to the Wisdom of God, the second person of the Trinity.

Psalm: amid the brevity and cares of life we pray for wisdom and joy.

Second Reading: the author describes the word of God. Is this the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ?

Gospel: Jesus tells the rich young man to sell everything he owns and give the money to the poor, and then to follow Him. Are we to take this literally, that every Christian should give their possessions away? Or does it apply only to certain people, such as those in religious orders who take the vow of poverty? Or does it mean that each Christian should eliminate their particular impediment from following Jesus (which might be wealth, or lust, or sinfulness, or)?

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: Thursday 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

Church contacts:

Barry Authers
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
www.saintthomas.co.uk

Executive Head :
Mrs Annemarie Whittle
Academy Principal :
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN



Sunday 10 October 2021
Mark 10:17-30
28th Sunday in Ordinary Time



My name is _____

SHARE WITH OTHERS

Colour

Here is the rich young man. He is very sad.

He doesn't think he can share all his money.



Share your wealth

The rich man was a very good man, but he loved his money very much.



Help the rich man give away his money so that each poor person has the same amount.

Who needs what?

These people all need something.

Can you draw a line from each person to the thing they need?



Enter God's Kingdom

Jesus wants us all to enter God's kingdom but it might not be that easy. Can you follow the right path to get there?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you for loving me, Jesus, just like you loved the rich young man. Help me to rise to your challenge and share what I have with others. Amen.

Answers: Each person can have four coins

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Website: www.sevrparish.org.uk **Tel:** 01732 454177

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

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

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Safeguarding Rep: Ken Baines sevenoaksg1@rcaos.org.uk

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

Adoration:

Barry Authers adoration@sevrparish.org.uk

Altar Servers (St Thomas's):

James McBrien james@clearwateradvisers.com

Bereavement Support:

Third Monday, 10:30am in Parish Room

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

Catenians:

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony aidan.omahony@btinternet.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass:

Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:

Mark O'Prey sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk

Otford, 9:30am Mass:

Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

Fiona Newton - fionanewton321@btinternet.com

Choirs:

Music Group:

Lonnie Christophers lonniechr@hotmail.com

Traditional Choir: Barbara Page 01732 454726

Borough Green: Chris Hurl chris.hurl@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's):

Jim McSharry jamesmcsarry@hotmail.com

Confirmation Programme:

Gabrielle Ellis seveoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Finance Committee:

Secretary: Mary Scott 3maryscott@gmail.com

First Holy Communion & 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

Secretary: Barry Authers sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

Lectio Divina:

Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

Mothers' Prayers:

Mondays, 11:30am at Star House, Star Hill Road
01959 532505

Parents & Toddlers:

Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am, Parish Centre
Mary Strinati 07890 229794

Parish Evangelization Team:

David Cooper dpcoop1963@gmail.com

RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust):

MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's):

Andrew Pembroke st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

Repository:

Christine Landon christinedlandon@gmail.com

RCIA

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

Retreats

Catherine Roger c.roger@btinternet.com

St Bernadette's Committee:

Secretary: Jill Gobel jill.gobel@btinternet.com

St Joseph's Committee:

Secretary: John Foley johnandmariefoley@gmail.com

The Pilgrims

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com

or 01732 450197

Scripture Fellowship

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson 07847 652846

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Kathie Gonzalez sevenoakssvp@gmail.com

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM):

Borough Green UCM: Mary Ringham 01732 672602

West Kingsdown UCM: Monica Biggs

[mddbigs@hotmail.com](mailto:mmddbigs@hotmail.com)

Contact the Office for all enquiries, Mass Intention bookings, Baptism certificates, etc

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

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Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
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Prisoners' Sunday

Today is a Day of Prayer and Action for prisoners and their families. It is an opportunity to direct our thoughts to the needs of prisoners, their families and children, to pray for them, and to reflect on the ways we can make a difference to those whose lives are affected by the criminal justice system.

Pact is the Catholic charity, rooted in Catholic social teaching, which works for the support of prisoners and their families: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk/>.

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells for the Mass at Otford.

Fourth national Mass count

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

First Holy Communion

Xavier Lacour and Olivia Finnegan will receive our Blessed Lord in the Eucharist for the first time today, at the 11:15am Mass at St Thomas's and the 11:00am Mass at St Bernadette's respectively.

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 their first session.

St Thomas' School

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

Pilgrims' coffee morning

On Tuesday morning: all retired parishioners are invited to come and have a coffee and a chat.

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.

West Kingsdown UCM Report

We were delighted to meet again in August for a good old gossip and catch-up, socially distanced of course in the Church grounds! We were fortunate to have a sunny afternoon and much was planned for the coming months.

There was big disappointment that we hadn't been able to have our Summer Fair but decided to hold some fundraisers by having a single stall after Mass each week. The stalls were varied and the fundraisers chose their charity. We are very proud of St. Bernadette's and the results achieved.

So far we have raised the following: Jigsaws £55.00 (Alzheimer's); Book sale £230.00 (Community Cupboard); Cosmetics, toiletries and jewellery £100.00 (Community Cupboard); Knitted Handicrafts £150.00 (Community Cupboard); Raffle £180 (CAFOD Crisis in Afghanistan); Christian Aid £120.00. Our proposed bric-a-brac stalls will have to wait until Spring for more clement weather.

On November 18th we are celebrating 100 meetings of UCM at St. Bernadette's. It was begun in 2010 by Canon John Bailey and Linda Harding with Sister Elizabeth as our Patron. Long may we thrive!

Monica Biggs

PARISH NOTICES

St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells Open Mornings

For entry in September 2022. Open mornings (tours between 8:55am - 12:00 noon) 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 for St Gregory's or Trinity Schools please email him to make an appointment. Please note that one criterion used is whether or not the family has registered in this parish.

Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission Autumn Assembly: 'CPO26 What next?'

A continued response to the huge environment issues of our time. At Corpus Christi, Brixton Hill, Saturday 20th November from 10:00am onwards. Entrance is free. Everyone welcome. Email jpiccontact@rcaos.org.uk to reserve your place. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

Parish/diocesan emails

The Head of ICT of the Archdiocese has emailed to say that those who have diocesan email addresses (usually sevenoakssomeone@rcaos.org.uk) - eg safeguarding reps, catechetical co-ordinators, accounting, etc - MUST use the rcaos email and not their personal email. This is to comply with GDPR laws and insurance regulations, and to enable access to diocesan online systems and IT support. If you need help contact ictsupport@rcaos.org.uk.

Another Newsletter extract

"The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hospitality."

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

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.

Please pray

- ◆ for prisoners, their families, and prison staff;
- ◆ for more parishioners to volunteer to become Children's Liturgy catechists;
- ◆ 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.



Sometimes a really short prayer to God can make all the difference to your situation:

- Father, I have to thank You for looking beyond my faults and for loving me unconditionally. Forgive me when I fail to love others in the same way. Give me eyes to see the needs of the difficult people in my life, and show me how to meet those needs in a way that pleases You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.
- Father, I am tempted to worry about so many things. Our world is a mess! Forgive me for focusing on anything or anyone but You. Thank You for the Bible that equips and empowers me to live each day. Right now, I declare that You are my only Hope. Please help me remember that You really are in control. In Jesus' Name, Amen.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Catholic

Making ^ sense of the COVID-19 pandemic

How can God allow such suffering, with millions of people seriously ill and thousands dying of the coronavirus, health services and health professionals under unprecedented strain, international travel severely impacted, and serious economic, employment and trade problems, not to mention the surge in loneliness and mental health problems, children missing education, marriage breakdowns, and so on and so on? Even worse, the pandemic has caused acute disruption to normal parish life and ministry, and to some eyes religion has appeared irrelevant: how many people will have got out of the habit of going to Mass?

Let us first remind ourselves of what the Church teaches about suffering. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* (§ 1500 - 01) says: *"Illness and suffering have always been among the gravest problems confronted in human life. In illness, man experiences his powerlessness, his limitations, and his finitude. Every illness can make us glimpse death. Illness can lead to anguish, self-absorption, sometimes even despair and revolt against God. It can also make a person more mature, helping him discern in his life what is not essential so that he can turn toward that which is. Very often illness provokes a search for God and a return to him."*

There are, one must say, some silver linings in the cloud. There is a greater awareness of the need to care for our planet, and it may be that aeroplane travel will never be as great again for instance, thus reducing harmful emissions. Perhaps the experience will have caused some people to think afresh about what is actually important, and to become less materialistic and concerned with possessions and status. Working from home may improve family life and rebalance the work/home matrix.

Job

A helpful book of scripture to read and ponder on in this situation is the book of *Job*. *Job* (it is fiction, remember, not history) is the story of a righteous man whom God allows to be tested by much suffering and many calamities. We learn from *Job* that God is the Lord of history, that everything is under his control, so that when he allows suffering it is only because it will produce a greater good.

Christ's own Passion is the perfect example of this: His suffering and death led to good, our salvation. What, then, might be the good which will come out of the pandemic?

We are not in control

Huge developments have taken place in recent years in science and technology (and we can consider ourselves blessed that we have Zoom etc to enable us to keep in touch remotely and even watch a livestreamed Mass) but there is a danger that we rely on these alone and forget God. We human beings like to be in control, but could it be that God is reminding us that he is in control, that we should trust him and not rely solely on human beings or technology?

Equally, so many people these days have made money, status, possessions, internet fame, and good looks their idol but it may be that this crisis will provide a wake up call. Could it be that God is allowing us to be denied many of the things we took for granted: eating what we want, going on long-distance holidays, enjoying freedoms to go and do what we wanted to, and such like, so that we will appreciate these things more, that we will see them as gifts and blessings from God rather than entitlements that we have earned by our merits?

The prevailing ethos of our culture is that people can have and do what they want, and people are ruled by their passions and desires. One hopes that people will become more aware of other people's needs and become more concerned for the common good.

*VERY OFTEN
ILLNESS PROVOKES
A SEARCH FOR GOD
AND A RETURN TO HIM*

Next week: part 2

A 'HELLO' FROM FR. PETER

It seems a little strange, having been here in Sevenoaks for over three months, to be penning an introduction to myself to the parish; but since we have only just re-introduced the 'long-form' newsletter, now seemed an appropriate moment to put some words together.

As many of you have, by now, discovered, I hail from the opposite corner of the country to this one, having grown up in sunny (although, in my experience, oftener soggy) Cornwall. I am the eldest of three children, and the son of a farming family - I am almost tempted to say 'dynasty', since Littletons can be traced back 400 as occupants of the farm where my parents still live (in semi-retirement). My religious experience growing up was somewhat mixed. As a child I was quite heavily involved - through my mother - in a local, evangelical protestant Church, and an attendee of many of its very active youth programmes. However, my Father has never, in my lifetime, been any sort of Churchgoer, apart from the usual big occasions.

As a teenager, I drifted away from my faith, but at University I experienced a conversion. I had been having a very difficult time with transitioning to life away from home and to my studies. There, in the midst of a mini-crisis, I rediscovered my need for God. Two years later, my degree (Law with German) took me overseas, to spend a year living in Bayreuth, in northern Bavaria. In Bayreuth, for the first time I encountered the Catholic Faith, and, through a series of quite unpredictable events and sudden life decisions, I converted to Catholicism. I believe in my first conversion I realised I needed God - perhaps not, especially wanting Him; through my conversion in Germany, I began to actively love Him, maybe for the first time.

My conversion to Catholicism brought about big changes in my life. Firstly, I began, with the aid of the Church's spiritual tradition, to grow much deeper in my relationship with Jesus Christ. Secondly, it caused a big turnaround in my life-plans. I had gone to University with a view to becoming a lawyer, with a medium term plan to move into politics and become an M.P. ... and then become Prime Minister. At this time, though, Our Lord showed me that this was not a plan that would lead to happiness, and that I needed to let it go. Much to my own astonishment, I found myself saying 'yes', which, of course, led to the question - well if not that, then what?

I very quickly found myself discerning a vocation to the priesthood. Perhaps the key moment for me was walking home from University (back in England now, in Birmingham), and I was praying; and as I did so, I realised that the Lord had come to occupy such a place in my heart that if I were to marry, I would have to step back from Him, in some way. That part of my heart which I would give to a wife, I had - almost without noticing it - given to Jesus

Christ. From that day on I never really doubted that He was calling me to consecrate myself to Him in the priesthood; and, while I have often *kicked against the goads* (cf. Acts 26.14), I never really doubted He would have His way in the end.

Through a circuitous route I ended up training for the Archdiocese of Southwark, and was ordained to the Diaconate in December 2016. I served for just under a year as Deacon in Sidcup, and then at Wandsworth East Hill. After ordination to the priesthood in July 2019, I was appointed assistant priest in Tooting Bec, and now, after a brief stint in Wandsworth West Hill, I am pleased to serve you as assistant priest in Sevenoaks (and surrounding communities).

Fr Peter



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 10th OCTOBER TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm(Sat)	Private Intention
8:00am(Latin)	Fr David and Fr Peter
9:15am	Cleta & Timothy Andradi RIP
11:15am	Private Intention
6:00pm	Deacon Christopher Cassidy RIP
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>	People of the Parish

Monday 11th S John XXIII, P

8:00am	Welfare of the Fleming family
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Tuesday 12th Feria

9:30am	Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy RIP
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Wednesday 13th S EDWARD the CONFESSOR, King

8:00am	Bridget Alexander RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Prisoners & their families

Thursday 14th Feria

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Bożenna Jolanta Bryl RIP

Friday 15th S Teresa of Jesus, V D

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

Saturday 16th of Our Lady

9:30am	Elizabeth Tarrant RIP and her family
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SUNDAY 17th OCTOBER TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm(Sat)	Barry Burnes RIP (3 rd Anniversary)
8:00am(Latin)	Cyril Waite RIP (Birthday)
9:15am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
11:15am	Bernard Page RIP
6:00pm	A swift end to the pandemic
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Doral M ^c Cormack

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

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

Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven and
Lilian Spragg.

Baptism

Welcome to
Samuel John Henry Whitney
who was baptised at St Thomas's
last Saturday

Prayer for All The Faithful Departed.

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



LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine,
Domine, quis sustinebit? Quia
apud to propitiatio est, Deus Israel.

Communion:

Divites egerunt et esurierunt;
quarentes autem Dominum non
minuentur omni bono.