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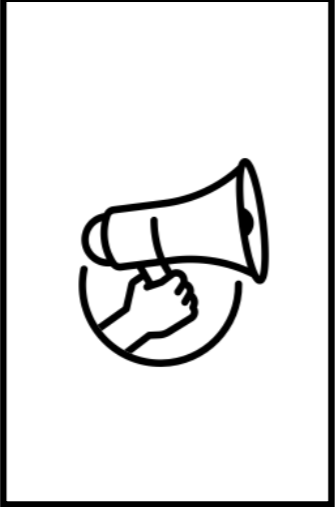
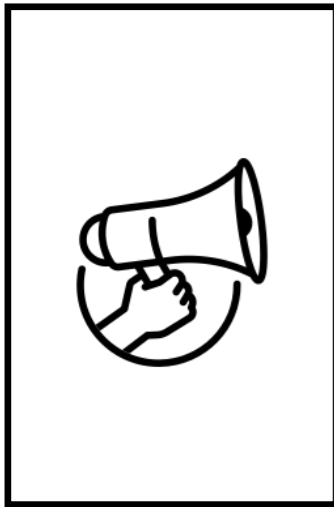
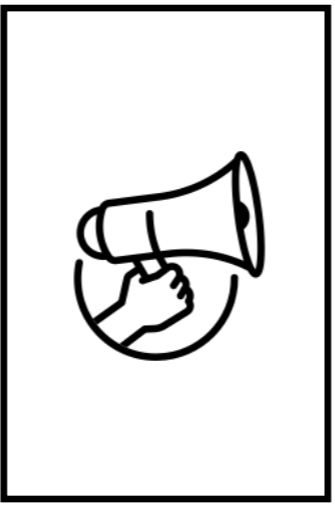
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 and **Copywriter**

Contact:
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 Looking for:
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PICTURES OF FR BONIFACE
 USING THE MONEY WE SENT, FOR COVID PRECAUTIONS
 AND FOR FOOD RELIEF.





PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 SEVENOAKS


CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
 BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

17th October 2021

SERVING
 GOD



BY SERVING
 OTHERS

FOR THE SON OF MAN DID NOT COME TO BE SERVED,
 BUT TO SERVE, AND GIVE HIS LIFE AS A RANSOM FOR MANY.
 MARK 10:45

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

Isaiah 53: 10-11; Psalm 32; Hebrews 4: 14-16; Mark 10: 35-45

First Reading: the suffering servant will, in the end, get his reward from God. The suffering servant here could be an individual (such as someone who cares for others), or the community (such as the churches persecuted in parts of the Middle East), or Jesus Christ Himself.

In all the Eucharistic Prayers, the institution narrative quotes Jesus saying he poured out his blood *'for many'*, as he said at the Last Supper. He was probably consciously fulfilling the prophecy in today's *First Reading*, in which Isaiah says that God's servant would *'justify many'*.

Psalm: let us recite this psalm truly trusting and hoping in God, *"our help and our shield"*.

Second Reading: Jesus, being a man like us but without sin, is the true high priest who alone can bestow mercy and grace for timely help.

Gospel: there are a number of different implications we could take from this *Gospel*. One (but not the only one) is as a challenge to complacency or apathy amongst church members. Being a disciple of Jesus means not an easy life but a life of service of others, which can come at personal cost.

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 17 October 2021
 Mark 10:35-45
 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

My name is _____

SERVE OTHERS!

A slave works for other people. Jesus says we must be like slaves. We must work for other people. We need to think about other people

before ourselves. If we do this we will be very important people. Here are some words which describe how we can be important:

SERVE
 CARE
 SHARE
 HELP
 SLAVE
 LOVE
 WORK

S	E	R	V	E
L	H	E	L	P
A	C	A	R	E
V	W	O	R	K
E	L	O	V	E

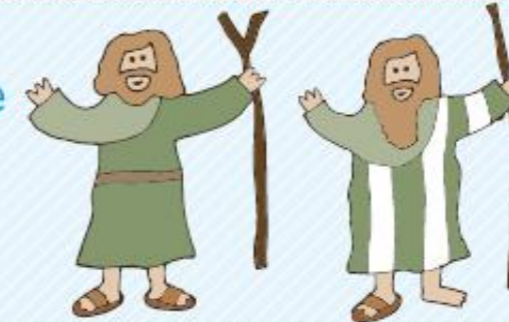
Who is most important?

Here are lots of important people. Match the person with how they help.



Spot the difference

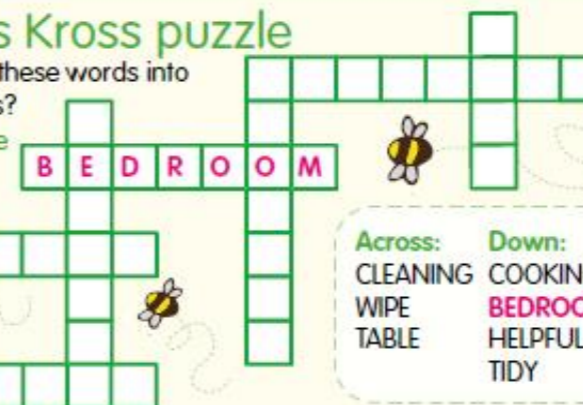
James and John were brothers. Can you spot 5 differences between them?



A Kriss Kross puzzle

Can you fit these words into the squares?

The first one has been done for you.



Across: CLEANING, WIPE, TABLE
Down: COOKING, BEDROOM, HELPFUL, TIDY

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, help me to be really loving like you. Help me to put other people first, even when it's hard. Amen.

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 Hurll chris.hurll@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's):

Jim McSharry jamesmcsharry@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 janice.gordon47@hotmail.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

Baby & Toddlers Group:

Thursdays 9:30am - 11:30am, Parish Centre
Mary Hunt 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 5	Mass Intentions
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Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children

Synodal Process

There is a Pastoral Letter today from His Grace the Archbishop about the Synodal Process. More information can be found in the Newsletter. Please email or ring Magda [by Friday](#) if you would like to attend the parish meetings, so we can assess how many we shall need. You will find the questions in the Newsletter (page 8), which you can access on the website in addition to the printed version. David Cooper and Bill Farren will be our two parish delegates.

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, assisting by offering the 9:15am Mass at St Thomas's.

First Holy Communion

Ben and Chloe Onuoha receive Holy Communion for the first time today, at the Mass at Most Holy Trinity.

St Thomas's 11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir leads the music today. They are always glad to have new recruits: just go up to the Gallery after Mass and speak to Barbara Page.

Monday: Bereavement Support

Anyone who has been bereaved - whether recently or a while ago - is invited to come along to the Parish Room from 10:30am on Monday.

Tuesday

Year 3 from St Thomas' School attend the 9:30am Mass.

Thursday

The anniversary of St Bernadette's Consecration (in 1988) falls on Thursday. As COVID restrictions make a

proper celebration difficult, we shall observe the Solemnity at the 10:00am Mass on Friday.

Next Sunday

is World Mission Sunday. The second collection will be for Missio, the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. This collection goes in its entirety and directly to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor: local church helping local church.

Finance

The Offertory receipts were £11,235 in July, £11,944 in August, and £11,529 in September. The Catholic Education Service (CES) Second Collection was £490.41 and the Home Mission (CASE) Second Collection was £481.33.

We do not yet have the final figures for the Parish SVP and CAFOD collections.

Annual Mass Count

The average attendance over the last four Sundays was 540. For comparison, in 2019 (the most recent pre-COVID figures) attendance was 815; attendance is therefore at 66% of pre-COVID totals.

'Preparing for Christmas'

A Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 4th December at The Poul House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU (opposite North Frith Farm), 10:00am - 4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer and nature, the day will be an opportunity to prepare for Christmas by reflecting with Mary and Joseph on waiting, journey and what saying Yes to God means in our lives. The day will be led by Gilly Fenner; 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. To attend please email Gilly at gf58b@icloud.com.

Another funny

A lady was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in this parcel?" asked the Post Office assistant. "Only the Ten Commandments" she replied.

PARISH NOTICES

St Joseph's

Thank you all for supporting the stall in aid of Abbie's Army last Sunday. The stall raised just over £150 and the Union of Catholic Mothers gave a donation of £71.86 as well. This will help the work of the charity in fighting kids' cancer.

Most Holy Trinity - Children's Liturgy of the Word

Thank you so much for your engagement. We are pleased to announce that the Children's Liturgy starts this week and will take place every Sunday except the school breaks.

Scripture Reading and Reflection (Lectio Divina)

Our group meets once a month, usually on a Monday evening at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre, to read and reflect on a short piece of Scripture (usually the Gospels) in order to hear God speak into our lives through his Word. Please do come and join us to get to know Jesus more deeply. For more details please contact Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253 or 07736 813427.

After School Club Assistant

St. Thomas' Catholic Primary School are looking for a person to assist the After School Club leader in supervising children attending After School Club, providing appropriate activities, encouraging co-operation, securing their safety, monitoring well-being and ensuring good behaviour. This role is from Wednesday to Friday, 3:00pm to 6:00pm term time only. Starting date: 1st November 2021. If you are interested please apply to office@saintthomas.co.uk for a job description and further details. This position may suit a student looking for part time work.

Midday Supervisor

St. Thomas' Catholic Primary School are looking for a midday supervisor to work Monday to Friday 11:45 to 1:30pm. This person will be responsible for supervision on the playground and in the dining hall. If you are interested please apply to office@saintthomas.co.uk for a job description and further details.

A Church of the Poor for the Poor

Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees is a local charity that supports refugees families settling in Sevenoaks under a Government scheme.

A fundraising concert will be held on Saturday 23rd October at 7:30pm in the Pamoja Hall at Sevenoaks

School. It will be also live streamed on YouTube. There will be a variety of violin and Mediterranean classical guitar music.

- Prices: Adults £15, children under 16 years £5, carers free
- Bookings: Visit www.eventbrite.com and search for Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees or arrange to collect tickets at the door by email on sevenakswelcomesrefugees@gmail.com
- Information: www.sevenoakswelcomesrefugees.org
- Concert leaflets in St Thomas porch
- Volunteers needed at concert night (stewarding, drinks etc.)

Thank you
Andrew Wilkinson

Please pray

- for the Synodal Process, that guided by the Holy Spirit we may journey together to eternal life;
- for an end to trolling and cyber-bullying in social media;
- 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.

Prayer for Peace

Father God, my heart is filled with chaos and confusion. I feel as if I am drowning in my circumstances and my heart is filled with fear and confusion. I really need the strength and peace that only You can give. Right now, I choose to rest in You. In Jesus' Name, I pray, Amen.

~ Mary Southerland.

Prayer for Being Grateful

Father, I am so sorry for the way I complain about my circumstances. Please forgive me for my bad attitude when things don't go my way. I want to see Your hand in every part of every day - good or bad. Help me learn how to face every storm with confidence, knowing that You really are in control even though I cannot hear Your voice or see Your hand at work. In Jesus Name, Amen.

~ Mary Southerland



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Catholic

Making ^ sense of the COVID-19 pandemic (part 2)

The Church's Mission

We have been governed by legal restrictions and we are still working under the Bishops' guidelines. This is a reminder that we are not simply individuals and that we are called to work collaboratively to build up the kingdom of God. It also reminds us that we are members of a church led by the Bishops, on whom the Holy Spirit has conferred his authority. We sometimes forget this and think that the local church can decide things for itself.

If the pandemic leads to a strengthening of the Church's mission to the poor and marginalised that would be a good thing. Is it unrealistic to hope that both Church and society will respond to the crisis and address social and economic inequalities, not just in our own country but between developed and developing countries? New thinking, new ideas, and a new commitment will be needed. There is no reason why a more moral society cannot be constructed on the back of this crisis.

The life of hope

Can we both live out in our Christian discipleship and proclaim to the world the force of resurrection hope and the beauty of a life lived in God's grace? We shall have to resist simplistic answers, which fail to convince others, and we must acknowledge people's fears and doubts. Do we know our faith well enough to persuade others that there is a loving God who cares for us, despite appearances during the pandemic? Amidst suffering, death, economic hardships and human limitations we must help people to find meaning in their lives.

In *Laudato Si'* §57 Pope Francis said: "Faith allows us to interpret the meaning and the mysterious beauty of what is unfolding". Like the people of God who 'sat down and wept when they remembered Jerusalem' we are the present people of God in the midst of fear and despondency, and our mission is to convey an understanding of the present and a convincing hope for the future.

We develop a hunger for the flesh of Christ

Many churches cancelled Masses to assist the fight against viral contamination. For many Catholics around the world this is probably the first time they've encountered this kind of experience. Those who go to

daily or Sunday Mass regularly feel the loss – as if something is missing. How many of us long to stain our lips with the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion?

As a result, there is this hunger prevailing among a large number of active Catholics who cannot receive the Blessed Sacrament. Could it be that we have taken for granted the presence of our Lord - just taking Holy Communion mechanically - and God is reminding us of how important the Eucharist is? If so, let us reflect on how the Eucharist is the source and summit of Christian life so much that all the sacraments are ordered to it.

Perhaps the restricted access to Mass and to Holy Communion will restore the 'eucharistic hunger' of which Pope St John Paul II spoke in his Encyclical Letter *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (§33). When we can receive Holy Communion, we should make the most of it, by careful preparation (ideally including fasting, an act of contrition or, better still, Confession, and prayer) and following it with a serious thanksgiving.

Spiritual revival

I have seen it said that pandemics are regularly succeeded by a spiritual revival. The coronavirus and lockdown are bound to induce a pining and a longing for God; there could well be a search for the spiritual centre of human life and a desire for reassurance, such as in Psalm 42: "My soul thirsts for God, for the living God". Are we ready to meet this hunger and thirst for God?

*FAITH ALLOWS US TO
INTERPRET THE
MEANING AND THE
MYSTERIOUS BEAUTY OF
WHAT IS UNFOLDING*

Next week: part 3

THE SYNODAL PROCESS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK

As you may have read, the Holy Father has set in motion a process of worldwide consultation leading towards the Synod of Bishops in 2023. 'Synod' comes from two Greek words meaning 'walking together'. All the Baptized are invited to contribute on three main themes: Communion, Participation, and Mission. Documents from the Synod Office in Rome can be found at <https://www.synod.va/en.html>.

First there is a diocesan phase, followed by a national and regional phase, feeding into the Synod in Rome. The Archbishop will be one of the Bishops' Conference delegates at the Synod in Rome.

The Archbishop is calling us to participate in the first phase. The Archbishop has stressed that this is not a democratization of the Church or a referendum on Church teaching, but getting at the nub of being missionary.

Each parish is asked to nominate two delegates to organise opportunities for listening and discernment in the parish; this will feed into the diocesan discernment. I am pleased to say that David Cooper, co-ordinator of our new Evangelization Team, and Bill Farren, representing the 'outstations', have agreed to be our two delegates. No doubt someone will complain that they are both men, but it is impossible to represent four churches and all the different types of parishioner in just two people. Our own Ingrid La Trobe is one of the diocesan contacts for the Synod.

The 'local phase' (ie the parish phase) will run from now until 19th November. During this period we shall be holding meetings. **So we can assess how many meetings we shall need, please email Magda (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk) or phone her (01732 454177) by Friday to indicate you plan to attend; we will publicise the dates and times next weekend.** Parish groups may wish to hold their own meetings before the general parish meetings. There will also be a Synod 'portal' on the new diocesan website.

The Synod poses the following fundamental question:

A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together.' How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'?

There are then a number of questions under the three headings of Communion, Participation, and Mission. The key questions, which will form the basis of the parish meetings, are:

Communion: Christ is present as the head united to his body (Ephesians 1:22-23) in our parishes and communities. How is this reflected in your parish/community life?

Participation: How can we better enable full participation and co-responsibility in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?

Mission: How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?

The Archbishop writes:

Please do all you can to support this process as we 'journey together', respectfully hearing and exploring how the perennial teaching of the Church can be applied and lived today. As Pope Francis reminds us: "what is under discussion at synodal gatherings are not the traditional truths of Christian doctrine. The Synod is concerned mainly with how teaching can be lived and applied in the changing contexts of our time."

Fr David



The Archbishop has stressed that this is not a democratization of the Church or a referendum on Church teaching, but getting at the nub of being missionary.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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>Otford</i>	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Donal M ^c Cormack

Monday 18th S LUKE, Ev

8:00am	Private Intention
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Tuesday 19th Feria

9:30am	Welfare of Brandon Lewis and politicians and all people of Northern Ireland
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Wednesday 20th Feria

8:00am	People of Afghanistan
10:00am <i>Otford</i>	Wellbeing of Gomoluch family

Thursday 21st Feria (CONSECRATION ANNIV St BERNADETTE'S)

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archbishop Michael Bowen RIP
12:00noon	Sally Jackson RIP & her children

Friday 22nd S John Paul II, P

8:00am	Lockyer and Conroy family RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 23rd of Our Lady

9:30am	Angela Zilkova RIP (1 st Anniversary)
--------	--

SUNDAY 24th OCTOBER THIRTIETH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm(Sat)	All migrants & especially the migrants from Belarus
8:00am(Latin)	Evangelization of the World
9:15am	Mgr O'Brien RIP
11:15am	Daniel Doherty RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Otford</i>	Marie Authers RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Canon Richard Hearn RIP
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 and all in old people's homes.

Baptism

Welcome to **George Cochrane**

who was baptised at St Thomas's last Sunday

&

Arthur Finnegan

who was baptised at St Bernadette's Last Sunday

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: Ego clamavi, quoniam exaudisti me, Deus; inclina aurem tuam, et exaudi verba mea. Custodi me, Domine, ut pupillam oculi, sub umbra alarum tuarum protege me.

Communion: Filius hominis venit, ut daret animam suam redemptionem pro multis.