

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN

MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN

LOOK IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Sunday 24 October 2021
Mark 10:46-52
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

My name is _____

TRUST JESUS!

Maze
After he was healed Bartimaeus followed Jesus along the road. Help Bartimaeus follow Jesus along the path to eternal life.

Bartimaeus wants to see again. Jesus wants to help him and listens to his calls for help. Bartimaeus knows Jesus loves him and he trusts Jesus. As soon as Jesus heals him, Bartimaeus leaves his old life and follows Jesus.

What can you see?

We have to look very carefully if we are going to see everything properly.

Use the grid to make the whole squirrel.

Word search Can you find these words?

CROWD
BLIND
CURED
JESUS
CALL
FOLLOW

C	R	O	W	D
U	J	Q	O	N
R	E	C	L	I
E	S	A	L	L
D	U	L	O	B
P	S	L	F	Y

Here is Bartimaeus
He is blind. Bartimaeus has to ask other people for money to buy food. Bartimaeus knows Jesus can help him. Write what you think he is saying in his speech bubble.

L _ M _
S _ AG _

Jesus knows Bartimaeus trusts him. He heals Bartimaeus.

Bartimaeus can see!

A PRAYER TO SAY

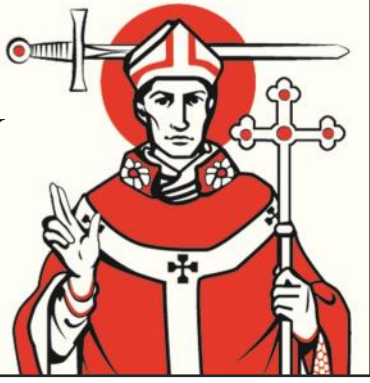
Dear Jesus, thank you for hearing me when I call for help. Help me to trust in you and know that you are always there. Amen.

ANSWERS: LET ME SEE A GAIN



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

24th October 2021



Today's Mass: Thirtieth Sunday (Year B)

Jeremiah 31:7-9; Psalm 16; Hebrews 5: 1-6; Mark 10: 46-52

First Reading: Eucharistic Prayer III asks God to 'gather to yourself all your children scattered throughout the earth', and Eucharistic Prayer IV prays for those 'gathered into one body by the Holy Spirit'. This theme of gathering the scattered is taken from today's *First Reading* from Jeremiah.

Psalm: a song of joy, sung by those scattered into exile in Babylon but now gathered back to Jerusalem (Zion).

Second Reading: only the high priest offered the sacrifice for sins on the Day of Atonement. Christ is in fact made the true high priest by the Father, and so Christ alone can offer the sacrifice which takes away our sins. The Sacrifice of the Mass offered by bishops and priests is not a new sacrifice, but a re-presentation of Christ's one, true sacrifice.

Gospel: the healing of blind Bartimaeus is the last healing miracle in *Mark*. Notice that Bartimaeus is not initially a disciple of Jesus; he comes to faith after his encounter with Jesus. The Lord's question 'what do you want me to do for you?' is perhaps the way we should start in seeking to evangelize and win disciples for Christ.

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



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Catholic

Making ^ sense of the COVID-19 pandemic (part 3)

Reaching out

Some Catholics will have lapsed during the pandemic. The Clergy do not necessarily know them or have any means of contacting them. It will be YOU, the parishioners, who will know who they are, and so the responsibility for connecting with them falls on YOU. A simple "I haven't seen you at Mass ..." may be all it takes.

Likewise, if you know a non-Catholic open to exploring the meaning of life, invite them to Mass or accompany them to the RCIA course or whatever.

How are we placed as a parish to capitalize on the expected yearning for God and for meaning in life, of which I wrote last time? What part will IT play in this? Is God compelling us to develop new ways to evangelize and catechize?

Gaining virtues

It is true that some families and marriages have been placed under added strain by the lockdowns. Equally, it has given us the opportunity to spend more quality time as a family, and not least to pray together as a family. The pandemic restrictions have meant that many more people are aware that we should be concerned about other people, not just self. The experience may have helped us to develop patience (a positive thing for me). We can bring joy to those who are disheartened by the situation, and we can offer a perspective to those who have little or no faith to enable them to make sense of it. If the local supermarket has run out of avocado and quinoa it may be irksome, but it reminds us that many people in the world go hungry, and our experience should give us a greater solidarity with them.

If transport has been disrupted, especially in the recent fuel shortages (which were caused by greed and hoarding, not by any actual shortage), it may cause us to walk or cycle more, which will be better for our health and better for the planet. There should be less pollution etc: is this God's way of helping us to heal the planet?

Implications for worship

The Church strongly depends on physical communal worship and the Sacraments. Although if someone is shielding or housebound watching a livestreamed Mass

is the best they can do, it is not actually attending Holy Mass. So going forward, will we have to make changes to enhance safety if COVID is still prevalent, without compromising the beauty and reverence of the Liturgy?

Conclusion

Pope Francis said recently, at his *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing, that the pandemic is not God's judgement on humanity so much as God's call on people to judge what is most important to them, and to resolve to act accordingly from now on. He also said: "let us hand over our fears to Jesus so that He can conquer them". And Francis concluded: "prayer and quiet service: these are our victorious weapons".

The pandemic reminds us that life is precarious and precious. Will it lead to a greater respect for life, and a reduced desire for things like euthanasia, assisted killing, and abortion? Will the pandemic lead more people to seek to find meaning in their lives, and can we convince them that Jesus is that meaning? Will the pandemic cause us to open our hearts more to Christ and to follow His way? Or will we, as a parish and as Church, waste the opportunity God has given us?

This brief survey has, it may be, contained more questions than answers. As we emerge from the pandemic either we grow more despondent and give up or we respond with a renewed vigour to play a full part in the building up of the kingdom of God. I end with a message from the Vatican Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life: "each of us is called to do our part, but we are not alone".

**PRAYER AND QUIET
SERVICE: THESE ARE
OUR VICTORIOUS
WEAPONS**

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

Catharine Ingram ingramfamily15@yahoo.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 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 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

Baby & Toddlers:

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 07487 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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World Mission Day

Today is a Day of Prayer for the evangelization of the world. The Second Collection today is for Missio, the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. More info at <https://missio.org.uk/>.

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, celebrating the 9:30am Mass at Most Holy Trinity.

First Holy Communion

Ella Millington and Szymon Czajkowski receive Holy Communion for the first time at the Saturday evening Mass. Florrie Dunderdale, May McKenna, and Sofia Brightwell receive their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass at St Thomas's.

Next Sunday

is the Solemnity of All Saints, transferred from its usual date of 1st November. Note that the clocks go back at 2:00am next Sunday; Sunday Masses will, as it were, be an hour later.

All Souls' Day

All Souls' Day is on its usual date of 2nd November. Requiem Mass that day will be at 9:30am, 12:00 noon, and 8:00pm in St Thomas's. Please notify Magda in the Parish Office of any names to be added to

the November Books of Remembrance in each of the four churches.

Altar Servers' Training (St Thomas's)

A course of 4 lessons to train for Altar Serving, open to those who have made their first Holy Communion, on Fridays from 5th - 26th November, 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Meet in the Parish Centre. To register your child, email their name and school year to Catherine Ingram at Ingramfamily15@yahoo.com or return a Registration form to the Office (these are in St Thomas's Entrance).

Those who previously trained but have not done it because of the pandemic are welcome to attend this course, as a refresher course.

Garden Tidy-up at Most Holy Trinity, Otford

We are holding a gardening morning on Saturday 13th November, from 10:00am, and we need as many parishioners as possible to come and help. Please bring your own garden tools, garden gloves, and kneelers where possible. If we can keep on top of the weeds we shall have beautiful grounds for the Spring.

Parish Auditor vacancy

We thank Pierre Lamstaes, who has audited the parish accounts for the last four years. We are now seeking a new auditor, who should have professional accountancy qualification and audit experience, and knowledge of church structures. The auditor is required to carry out an independent review, rather than a full audit, and report to the diocesan Finance Office and the Parish Finance Committee. Contact Ben Andradi, Chair of the Parish Finance Committee (ben.andradi@gmail.com) if you can perform this important parish role.

'Preparing for Christmas'

A Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 4th December at The Poulth House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU (opposite North Frith Farm), 10:00am - 4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer and

PARISH NOTICES

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 Newsletter typo

“Because of the Funeral, Mourning Prayer on Wednesday will be at 8:30am”.

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

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

Please pray

- for the evangelization of the world, and for churches in poor or new areas;
- for the blind, the lame, and women with child;
- 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.

A sense of humour is a gift from God.

–Man: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Man: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Man: Can I have a penny?

God: Just a second.

–Why did the priest giggle during his homily?

He had Mass hysteria!

–What do you call a Catholic service that is very very important?

A Critical Mass.

—A priest, a minister and a rabbi are discussing when life begins. The priest says, “It begins at conception”. The minister says, “Life begins at 24 weeks gestation”. The rabbi says, “You are both wrong, Life begins when the kids move out of the house and the dog dies.”

–What do you call a priest in charge of the school play?
The spiritual director.

.....

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE OPENING OF THE SYNOD

At the end of the Second Vatican Council, Pope St Paul VI spoke words worth hearing again as we consider afresh our Christian calling:

‘The Church has gathered herself together in deep spiritual awareness, not to produce a learned analysis of religious psychology, or an account of her own experiences, not even to devote herself to reaffirming her rights and explaining her laws. Rather, it was to find in herself, active and alive, the Holy Spirit, the word of Christ; and to probe more deeply still the mystery, the plan and the presence of God above and within herself; to revitalise in herself that faith which is the secret of her confidence and of her wisdom, and that love which impels her to sing without ceasing the praises of God.’

We have been allotted a relatively short timeline for the diocesan Synodal process. It will, however, hopefully begin a more extended discernment. This will be carried forward to shape our pastoral vision and planning into the future. It will help us understand what it means to be the Church at this time in our place. It will serve our renewal, personally and communally. As Pope Francis reminds us, we journey together as ‘the one People of God...in order to experience a Church that receives and lives [the] gift of unity, and is open to the voice of the Spirit.’

I encourage everyone in our Archdiocese to take part in the Synod by participating in their local parish process which will take place primarily over the next month. You can also participate by submitting a response directly online or in writing. Each parish is different, and we must be mindful of the challenges still presented by Covid 19; but please try to listen and reflect as widely as possible, including schools, people of all ages and backgrounds, and groups and organisations within the local community. I look forward to meeting with the parish delegates to hear what has emerged.

Allow me to finish by sharing again what I said when I became your Archbishop:

We have a hope in the Lord Jesus...These are the most important first words I could ever say to you. In the Lord Jesus we have a hope for our world, a world which God created, a world which God loves. In Him we have a hope for our common humanity which God shared by taking flesh and dwelling among us. In the Lord Jesus we have a hope for the Church, Christ’s Body, called to announce the Gospel with confidence and joy. In Him we have a hope for each other, that our lives have a purpose, a dignity and a destiny, that we can live in love, with justice, for peace. We have a hope in the Lord Jesus, crucified and risen from the dead, alive in His Church, alive in His Word, alive in His Sacraments. Dear friends we have a hope in the Lord Jesus, alive in us by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Please pray for Our Holy Father and the Synodal process in our Archdiocese and worldwide, that the Holy Spirit will draw us more closely together in the truth and send us out as a light to the nations. May God bless you as we begin this journey together, confident that the Lord always works for good through those who love Him.

Yours devotedly in Christ

+ John Wilson

Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark

PASTORAL LETTER FOR THE OPENING OF THE SYNOD



Archdiocese of Southwark

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, has invited the Catholic Church across the world to begin a journey of listening attentively to the Lord and to each other. We want to deepen our understanding of what it means to live together, in union with Christ, as fellow disciples called to announce His Gospel. This experience of encounter is called a Synod and follows a Synodal process. The word Synod comes from two Greek words which mean 'journeying forward on the way together,' the Way who is the Lord Jesus, our Truth and our Life.

There are three key words for this Synodal process: communion, participation, and mission. Put simply: What does it mean for us to belong to Christ and be in relationship with His Church? What does it mean for us to be engaged and involved with Christ in His Church? What does it mean for us to be sent out, in proclamation and service, by Christ and His Church? We are being asked to rediscover together - laity, clergy, and religious - what it means to be a servant-Church, rooted in Christ who came 'not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' The Synod is an opportunity for everyone baptised into Christ to consider what it means to be a missionary disciple. It begins at the grassroots and leads, through a national and continental phase, to a gathering in Rome in 2023.

In our own Archdiocese we have asked every parish to nominate two delegates who can work locally, in whatever way is most helpful, to enable a parish process of listening and reflection. To help with this there are some questions for consideration from the Synod Office in Rome and others prepared by our own Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis. All this material has been sent to parishes and can be found online. I hope that every parish will undertake its own process of reflection which will feed into our submission to the national Synod document.

We might ask what is the purpose of the Synod? Pope Francis is quite clear. It is an event in the life of the Church where the primary agent is the Holy Spirit. We are to be a listening Church, characterised by 'closeness, compassion and tender love.' This is the foundation and pathway for sharing all we hold to be true and good and beautiful in our Catholic faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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>	John Rafferty, who is fighting cancer, and the wellbeing of his family

Monday 25th Feria

8:00am	People of Afghanistan
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Tuesday 26th Feria

9:30am	Welfare of the Gallahan family
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Wednesday 27th Feria

8:00am	Private Intentions
10:00am <i>Otford</i>	Wellbeing of Saffron family

Thursday 28th SS Simon and Jude, App

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Healing for Kate
12:00noon	Giulio & Giuseppina Minnto RIP

Friday 29th Feria

8:00am	Alfred & Lily Lockyer and their parents
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 30th The Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30am	Keith D'Souza RIP
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SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER ALL SAINTS

6:00pm (Sat)	Maureen & Colm Bradley
8:00am (Latin)	Mary Edith Hibling RIP
9:15am	Welfare of Roy Britten and family
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	Stefania & Jan Ociepa RIP and Stanislaw Czaja RIP
9:30am <i>Otford</i>	All deceased of Golda & Wiacek family
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Sevenoaks Pilgrims
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Rest of Souls of Price family

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 all in old people's homes..

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:

Laetetur cor quaerentium Dominum. Quaeite Dominum, et confirmamini, quaeite faciem eius semper.

Communion:

Laetabimur in salutari tuo, et in nomine Domini Dei nostri magnificabimur.