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This page is intended for the publication of all solicitations from our parishioners who would like to offer their services, or who are looking for information or support.

Please email sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk for further details.

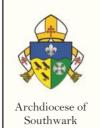
The deadline for next weekend is Wednesday noon.

OUR ALTAR SERVERS RECEIVE THEIR MEDALS AT AYLESFORD

SOPHIE OBERMAN RECEIVES HER FIRST HOLY COMMUNION IN KILLALOE







PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 31st October 2021



Today's Mass: Solemnity of All Saints

Apocalypse 7: 2-4, 9-14; Psalm 23; 1 John 3: 1-3; Matthew 5: 1-12a

As we are about to enter the final month of the Church's year, we turn our attention to all the saints who live triumphantly in heaven, including those not in the canon (list) of saints.

First Reading: St John, in his vision of heaven in the *Apocalypse*, sees the innumerable ranks of the saints, "from every nation, race, tribe and language", who have remained faithful to Christ even unto death.

Psalm: this hymn like psalm sums up the virtues required to enter heaven: clean hands, a pure heart, and a desire for Godly things, not worthless things.

Second Reading: this passage gives the hope that, as we are children of God, we too can be numbered among the saints in heaven, but to achieve this we must purify ourselves.

Gospel: there are many different ways of understanding the Beatitudes, but one way is to see them as a list of entrance requirements to enter the kingdom of heaven. Many Christians in the world today, especially in Syria and Iraq, are suffering the persecution to which Christ refers.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

Sunday Mass times: Weekday Mass times: 8:00am Saturday Monday 6:00pm Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday Sunday Thursday 12:00noon 8:00am (Latin) Friday 8:00am 9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word)

11:15am 6:00pm

Adoration:

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

9:30am

Saturday

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 Lituray of the Word) Wed 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 10:00am Adoration: Thursday 7:30pm - 8:30pm Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

Church contact:

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 Lituray 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 contacts:

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

MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



Sunday 31 October 2021 Mark 12:28-34

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time (Scotland, Ireland)

Jesus says that love is the answer. We must love God with our heart, soul and strength and love other people as much as we love ourselves. We can't have one without the others - love is at the heart of everything!

LOVE IS THE ANSWER!

How do we show our love for God?

By saying our p ___y__ (sarre) By being n to others (dki) By saying __r_ when we do wrong (yosr) By going to h (rcuch)



Love our neighbour

crossword to find out ways that we can love our neighbour Jesus told G us to love our neighbours as

1. If our neighbour is late and we are in a hurry, we can show love by being this way 3. When we give others some of our things

6. When someone is talking. we love them if we give them our full attention

1. We show love by speaking to God about someone 2. When someone helps us,

we should say this to them 4. We show love to others by wrapping our arms around them 5. If someone does

something bad to us, we love them by telling them that we

To do at home You will need:



Card

To make

1. Cut out a circle (someone kind will help you). Write God on one side, and Others on the other side.

2. Toss it up, to see which way it lands. It's like two sides of a coin.

THINK: If you love God you will be kind to others, and if you are kind to others you are loving God!

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me so much. Please help me to love you with all my heart and to love other people, just as much as you did. Amen.

redemporist Look Design by Anna Davie. Edited by Radiel Thompson. Published by Radiemptorts! Publications Chawton Hampshire GUB4 3HQ.

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER Website: www.sevrcparish.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 sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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

Adoration

Barry Authers adoration@sevrcparish.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 sevenoaksclow@rcaos.org.uk
Otford, 9:30am Mass:
Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

 $Fion a \ Newton - fion an ewton 321 @ \ bt internet.com$

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

RCI

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

Retreate

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

lackie Pembroke, ac ihpembrok

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

mmddbiggs@hotmial.com

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

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

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Plenary Indulgence

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the holy souls, may be gained once in any church today, on All Souls' Day, or next Sunday, on the usual conditions (recitation of the Our Father and Creed, sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's Intention).

Those who visit a cemetery between 1st and 8th November and pray for the faithful departed may also obtain the Indulgence for the holy souls (see below).

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, celebrating the 9:15am Mass at St Thomas's, and to Fr Alexander McAllister, SDS, celebrating the 6:00pm Mass at St Thomas's.

First Holy Communion

Alice Baker receives Holy Communion for the first time at the 9:15am Mass today in St Thomas's.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group provides the music for today's Mass.

Tuesday: All Souls' Day

Requiem Mass for all the Faithful Departed on Tuesday at 9:30am, 12:00 noon, and 8:00pm in St Thomas's. All those who have been bereaved are invited to coffee and cake after the 9:30am Mass, organised by the Bereavement Support Group.

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.

Tuesday: 9:30am Mass

9:30am Mass will be followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. Everyone is very welcome.

Friday: Altar Servers' Training (St Thomas's)

The course of 4 lessons to train for Altar Serving, open to those who have made their first Holy Communion, begins this Friday, 4:00pm - 5:00pm. Meet in the Parish Centre. To register your child, email their name and school year to Catherine Ingram at lngramfamily15@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.

Next Sunday: Blessing of Graves

3:00pm at the Greatness Cemetery. Meet above the Chapel at the Catholic section for the initial prayers, and the priests will then bless individual graves.

If you have a relative buried in another cemetery, please email me or Fr Peter to fix an appointment to go and bless that grave.

Synodal Process in the Archdiocese

Please take - and use - a diocesan Prayer Card with a prayer for the Synodal Process.

The two parish meetings, both in the Parish Centre, will be on Saturday 13th November, 2:30pm - 4:00pm, and Tuesday 16th November, 8:00pm - 9:00pm. Refreshments on arrival. After initial prayer, each participant will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes to give their answer to one or more of the questions posed in last week's Newsletter. Our delegates (David Cooper and Bill Farren) will collate the views expressed and report on to the Diocesan delegates.

Visit https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/media/mslfprt0/3synod_questions.pdf for the 27 questions we are being asked to answer.

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.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Fr Paul's Induction Mass

at St Pius X, Norbiton is on Saturday 20th November at 6:00pm, celebrated by Bishop Paul Hendricks. The address of the church is The Triangle, Kingston-upon-Thames, KT1 3RT. It is near Norbiton station (trains from Waterloo).

Your Legacy of Faith

Writing a Will and putting your affairs in order is something every adult should do, to ensure your loved ones are protected after your death and to make your faith, as you move on to eternal life with Christ, live on with a gift in your Will. You should make sure that your loved ones know your Funeral preferences: this will spare them anguish when the time comes.

Please consider leaving the Parish a gift in your Will; this is a wonderful way to support your Catholic community. Your bequest should be to 'The Parish Priest of St Thomas' Catholic Church, Sevenoaks' and not to me or anyone else by name. This ensures your gift goes to the Parish. If you would like to speak to someone about it, call a member of the diocesan Legacy Team on 020 7960 2504 or email legacy@rcaos.org.uk.

St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells VIth Form Open Evening

Wednesday 10th November, 7:00pm - 8:30pm. Details of parking, booking, and COVID restrictions can be found on the School's website.

Another Newsletter blooper

"The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon".

Please pray

for God's blessing on the COP26 Climate Summit; for God's help in ending the pandemic;

for all who are bereaved;

for the repose of the souls of all former parishioners.

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.

Today with Jesus

Lord, Jesus, today is Your day, and I want Your will to be done. So, whatever happens, hold my hand and let's face it together. Amen.

- Back to the Bible

God's Promises for Today

Heavenly Father, I have been so wishy-washy when it comes to taking hold of Your promises and making them mine. But today, I'm putting my foot down! I will not allow my human reason to talk me out of my spiritual inheritance. I will set my foot down on every promise that You have given me today. I'm going in! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Sharon Jayes

Good Morning Lord Prayer

Good morning, Lord! Today's a new day, a chance for a new start. Yesterday is gone and with it any regrets, mistakes, or failures I may have experienced. It's a good day to be glad and give thanks, and I do, Lord. Thank you for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be. Amen.

- Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Fill Me With the Spirit Today

Dear Lord, as we rise to meet each new day, please let us be filled with Your spirit. Wherever we go, let us spread love, joy, peace, goodness, and faithfulness. Let us desire to become more like you and to worship you in all we do. Help us desire these things so much more than the sin that entices us. Thank you for always going before us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Dr. Charles Stanley

A Daily Prayer of Thanksgiving

Dear God, Thank you for your amazing power and work in our lives, thank you for your goodness and for your blessings over us. Thank you for your great love and care. Thank you for your sacrifice so that we might have freedom and life. Forgive us for when we don't thank you enough, for who you are, for all that you do, for all that you've given. Help us to set our eyes and our hearts on you afresh. Renew our spirits, fill us with your peace and joy. We love you and we need you, this day and every day. We give you praise and thanks, for You alone are worthy! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

- Debbie McDaniel



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

St John Henry Newman on All Saints

s today is the Feast of All Saints, I thought it would be instructive to study what the most recent Englishman to be made a saint had to say about it. His Sermon 32 in Plain and Parochial Sermons (dated 1834 - 42) is entitled Use of Saints' Days. His text is Acts 1:8: "Ye shall be Witnesses unto Me, both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth".

The Saviour's wonderful works

First, Newman reminds us that of the many wonderful saving acts of Christ one of the most significant is the history of the many Saints, the "cloud of witnesses", whom we celebrate this day. The countless holy lives should be seen first of all as an example of the marvellous fruits of Christ's works on earth and of the workings of the Holy Spirit.

"This great multitude, which no man could number, is gathered into this one day's commemoration, the goodly fellowship of the Prophets, the noble army of Martyrs, the Children of the Holy Church Universal, who have rested from their labours".

All Saints' Day

Newman goes on to explain that as the centuries went by there were too many Saints' days, and this was becoming a problem as people had holydays off, and were becoming too idle. So most of the Holydays were abridged into one Feast Day of All Saints.

But he observes that by his day things had gone to the opposite extreme, and people were neglecting Holydays. "Under pretence of being too busy" people were, one might say, rendering to Caesar what is Caesar's but not to God what is God's. I think we can say that this criticism holds good today as well.

Newman also complains in his Sermon that churches used to be open during the day, for prayer and "spiritual sustenance of Christians during the day", but this was now at an end: "we dare not open our churches, lest men should profane them instead of worshipping." How true this is nowadays as well.

Neglect of Saints' days

Thus, he goes on, "the world has encroached on the Church; the lean kine have eaten up the fat. We are threatened with years of spiritual famine, with the triumph of the enemies of the Truth, and with the stifling, or at least enfeebling of the Voice of the Truth". Words which could so easily have been penned this year!

And why has this state of affairs happened? Because we have neglected the year round religious observance. We can all easily attend church on Sundays, but "it would be a vastly more powerful evidence of our earnestness for the Truth, if we testified for Christ at some worldly inconvenience to ourselves" by going to church on Holydays. It would give a powerful witness to Christ, and to Truth, if people were to "throng the churches on the weekday Festivals and various Holy Seasons".

The Benefit of All Saints' Day

Newman then expounds the 'peculiar benefit' we derive from the observance of Saints' days: they set before us "the mind patterns of excellence for us to follow". In this, "the Church does but fulfil the design of Scripture".

"The saints set before us the mind patterns of excellence for us to follow"

It is a fault of his age, he asserts, that people despised the past in comparison with the present. The discipline of Saints' days, however, reminds us that we have been far outdone by men and women who lived centuries ago, who are shining examples of wisdom and virtue. Recalling the saints reminds us of our duty: "which is, after the example of Saints, to take up our cross meekly, and pray for our enemies".

Conclusion

Observing All Saints' Day reminds us that we are all called to be saints: "to wait for the Lord's coming and to prepare His way before Him", to promote the Truth, 'in faith and obedience' to acknowledge our sins, to suffer for Christ, to pray, and "to do much and say little!".

Front page image All Saints by Wassily Kandinsky

PRAY FOR THE SUCCESS OF COP 26

Why do Christians need to support action against climate change?

"Future generations will never forgive us if we miss the opportunity to protect our common home. In the book of Genesis, we learn that we inherited a garden; we must not leave a desert to our children." So said Pope Francis a few weeks ago on October 4th as he joined with some 40 faith leaders representing the world's major religions - about (90% of world's population) - to call for urgent action in COP 26.

The Pope added "COP26 in Glasgow represents an urgent summons to provide effective responses to the unprecedented ecological crisis and the crisis of values that we are presently experiencing, and in this way to offer concrete hope to future generations". We want to accompany it with our commitment and our spiritual closeness." He called for the world to limit global average temperature rise to 1.5°C and to achieve net-zero carbon emissions as soon as possible (and not later than 2050).

In addition, wealthier nations and those with the greatest responsibility need to step up their climate action at home by reducing carbon emissions and financially supporting vulnerable countries to adapt to and address climate change.

Six years ago, before the U.N.-sponsored climate change conference in Paris in 2015, Pope Francis published the encyclical *Laudate Si'*; this document is widely recognized as having contributed significantly to getting many governments to support the Paris Climate Agreement, in which 195 countries committed to keeping global temperature rises to below 2°C.

Pope Francis says that the current climate crisis speaks volumes about who we are and how we view and treat God's creation. We stand before a profound injustice: biodiversity loss, environmental degradation and climate change. The people who bear the most catastrophic consequences of these abuses are the poorest on the planet and have been least responsible for causing them. We serve a God of justice, who delights in creation and in every person created in God's image and also as shown in scripture, who always hears the cry of the poor. Some of the poorest places in the world like Lagos, Manila, Alexandria, and Haiti face severe existential threats as a result of ecological devastation. We need to be good stewards of creation and provide a common home for our children and their children for the sake of intergenerational justice.

Pope Francis concludes: "Caring for creation is a spiritual condition requiring a response of commitment. This is a critical moment. Our children's future and the future of our common home depend on it."

What can I do to support COP26?

It's a difficult time for most families; we are still in the midst of a global pandemic and face significant challenges. Many household budgets are stretched with rises in cost of food and fuel.

Get informed on the Church's' teaching on environment: many of the recent Popes - John Paul II and Benedict and now Francis - have made many important statements on this.

Understand climate change issues: the science is complex, while real solutions will require action on a global scale by Governments and large corporations. There is a lot of 'hype' in this area e.g., many entities claim they are carbon neutral but ignore their supply chain which could be supplied from Chinese imports where most of the carbon is emitted.

Make choices to lower your personal carbon footprint: e.g., usage of petrol, composition of diet, home energy usage, shopping habits etc. The websites of Christian charities like CAFOD, Christian Aid and Oxfam have a lot of information on what you can do and how you can get involved.

Pick up CAFOD's Prayer card (in St Thomas's Entrance) for the COP26 climate summit and say it.

Ben Andradí

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 31st OCTOBER SOLEMNITY of 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

All deceased of Golda & Wiacek family

and Stanislaw Czaja

9:30am Borough Green Sevenoaks Pilgrims

11:00am West Kingsdown Repose of the Souls of Price family

Monday 1st NOVEMBER Feria

9:30am Otford

8:00am Felicidad Agnas RIP (3rd Anniversary)

Tuesday 2nd COMMEMORATION of the FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS' DAY)

9:30am In memory of all dear Souls of

dec'd friends and members of the Fell, Smith, White & Haggarty family

12:00noon Wellbeing of

Justin Lionel & Ailean Edwards

8:00pm Fr Colin Murphy RIP

Wednesday 3rd Feria

8:00am Thomas Healey RIP (3rd Anniversary)

10:00am *Otford* Rev Fr Colin Murphy RIP

Thursday 4th S Charles Borromeo, B

10:00am Borough Green Private Intention12:00noon People of Afghanistan

Friday 5th Feria

8:00am George Rizza RIP (Birthday)
10:00am West Kingsdown Sir David Amess, MP RIP

Saturday 6th of Our Lady

9:30am Gabriel Edwards & family

SUNDAY 7th NOVEMBER THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm (Sat) Private Intention

8:00am (Latin) Welfare of Seamus O Boyle & living

and deceased family members

5

9:15am Fr Ignatius Lazzari RIP 11:15am Timothy Cleta Andradi RIP

6:00pm George Rizza RIP (1st Anniversary)

9:30am *Otford* Doris Rackley RIP

9:30am Borough Green UCM

11:00am West Kingsdown Peggy Spiers RIP

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 Elise Archer

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

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes sub honore Sanctorum omnium, de quorum sollemnitate gaudent Angeli, et collaudent Filium Dei.

Communion:

Beati mundo corde, quoniam ipsi Deum videbunt; beati pacifici, quoniam filii Dei vacabuntur; beati qui persecutionem patiuntur propter iustitiam, quoniam ipsorum est regnum caelorum.