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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.

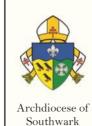
The deadline for next weekend is Wednesday noon.

WEDDING of Stefano capozzi & samira souki in may 2021

Baptism of Lily COOKE in JUNE 2021





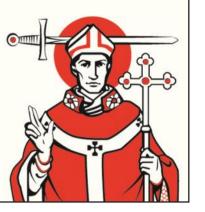


PARISH OF

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY



Churches in Sevenoaks, Otford



Parish Newsletter 7th November 2021



Today's Mass: THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (B)

1 Kings 17: 10-16; Psalm 145; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44

First Reading: the poor widow in Zarephath demonstrates her piety by giving Elijah food out of the little she had. Elijah demonstrates that he is a prophet from God as his prophecy about her reward comes to pass.

Psalm: Almighty God cares for the poor and needy, such as widows and orphans, the hungry and prisoners, the oppressed and *"those who are bowed down"*.

Second Reading: Christ, the true high priest, has once and for all offered the sacrifice (himself) to take away our sins in the true sanctuary in Heaven. 'Once and for all' means that it can never be repeated.

In today's **Gospel** we see a contrast between the false piety of the scribes (who are 'stuffed shirts') and the rich, and the genuine piety and generosity of the poor widow. Which of the two is your discipleship more like?

Fr David

St Thomas of Canterbury

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

11:15am 6:00pm

Adoration: Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am Saturday

Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm 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

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 contact:

Barry Authers Tel: 01959 524362 sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG

St Joseph's

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

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

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



redemptorist Look Design by Anna Davie. Edited by Rachel Thompson. Published by Redemptorist Publications Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ.

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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 sevenoakssg1@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:

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' Pravers

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

Retreat

Catherine Roger c.rodger@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

mmddbiggs@hotmial.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

Parish NOTICES

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Pages 3-4 Parish Notices Page 5 Mass Intentions Page 6 Mass Readings Page 7 Sunday Message Page 8 Office of Readings for All Souls Day From St Ambrose' book on the death of his brother Satvrus From the desk of the Parish Priest -Page 9 November: Month of the Holy Souls Page 10 **Contacts & Organisations**

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, celebrating the Mass at Most Holy Trinity, and to Fr Alexander McAllister, SDS, celebrating the Mass at St Bernadette's.

First Holy Communions

Finley and Jensen Martin receive their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass in St Thomas's today.

Today (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.

Tuesday: Class Mass

Year 6 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. Parents etc of those in Year 6 are welcome to attend this Mass.

Thursday: Deanery Requiem

We shall be joined by Priests and Deacons from the Deanery for the annual Deanery Requiem Mass at the 12:00 midday Mass on Thursday. Do come along and support this Mass.

Garden Tidy-up at Most Holy Trinity, Otford

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

Saturday: Parish Synod Meeting

The first of two parish meetings is on Saturday, 2:30pm - 4:00pm in the Parish Centre. Do attend whether or not you have previously registered your interest. Visit the new diocesan website (https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/media/mslfprt0/3synod

questions.pdf) for the 27 questions we are being asked to answer.

The other parish meeting will be on Tuesday 16th November, 8:00pm - 9:00pm, also in the Parish Centre. 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. Our delegates (David Cooper and Bill Farren) will collate the views expressed and report on to the Diocesan delegates.

Next Sunday: Remembrance Sunday

The traditional Remembrance Service will be held at The Vine in Sevenoaks at 11:00am, at which Fr David will represent the Parish.

To enable parishioners to attend the Act of Remembrance at 11:00am at West Kingsdown War Memorial, Mass at St Bernadette's will be at 11:30am.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

This will be for the Archbishop's Administration Fund. This collection helps to meet the cost of the central administration of the Diocese.

November Books of Remembrance

Each time a Holy Souls Mass is offered in November it is offered for those named in the Books of Remembrance in each Church.

Holy Souls Masses

You may have seen the wall box in St Thomas's Entrance marked Holy Souls. Every so often it is emptied, and (by diocesan rule) every £10 represents one Mass for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them. These Masses tend to be offered by the priests when they are concelebrating, so are not necessarily announced.

It is a worthy tradition to maintain. As well as an act of charity towards the deceased, we hope that the parish will offer Mass for us when we have departed this life!

10 3

Parish and other NOTICES

Second Collections

The Second Collection for the Parish SVP totalled £1,549.30. The Second Collection for the Harvest CAFOD Fast Day was £1,189.86. Thank you for your generosity.

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).

The Pilarims and friends

Wednesday 24th November, 10:30am in the Parish Room. All 'senior' parishioners and friends are invited to coffee and croissants, and we are pleased to welcome Fr Peter who will give a Reflection on the forthcoming season of Advent. If you know of anyone who would like to attend but needs help getting there, please let Jackie know: 01732 450197.

St Thomas' School Executive Head

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Katharine Sexton as the new Executive Head at St Thomas' School, along with St Margaret Clitherow's and St Augustine's. Mrs Sexton was previously Headteacher of St Michael's Catholic Primary School, Chatham. Her predecessor, Mrs Annemarie Whittle, is now CEO of the KCSP (the Multi Academy Trust which runs the Catholic Schools in Kent).

New Diocesan Website

Have you visited the new Diocesan website yet? You can check it out at https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/.

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

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

Another Newsletter blooper

"This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin".

Please pray

- for Fr Paul in his new apostolate at Norbiton;
- for God's help in ending the pandemic;
- for all departed Clergy and parishioners.

Please take the copy of the Newspaper home

Book Recommendation of the Month

THE BETTER PART: A CHRIST CENTERED RESOURCE FOR PERSONAL PRAYER

The Better Part is the perfect starter book for any Catholic looking to go deeper into the life of intimate prayer with our Lord. The book contains a concise, thorough and very practical quide to meditating on Sacred Scripture. Then, it offers a meditation for every passage of all four Gospels. Each passage (which is conveniently given in the same translation as we hear at Mass) is followed by 3 meditations – one focussing on Christ the Lord, the second on Christ the Teacher and third Christ the Friend. Next comes somes words of prayer to stimulate your own further conversation with the Lord. Finally, each section concludes with discussion questions, if you wish to pray in a group, and followup references in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. All in all, I cannot recommend highly enough!

Sophia Institute Press (2020)

ISBN: 1644131366

Available in a four volume set, with individual volumes available for around £12 or the complete set for £42.56. However, for *Kindle* users it is an absolute steal at £6.52 (see amazon.co.uk).





From the Desk of the Parish Priest

November: Month of the Holy Souls



ovember is traditionally, in the Catholic Church, the month of remembrance and of the Holy Souls. This goes back to the 11th century, when St Odilo of Cluny started an annual day of commemoration of all the faithful departed on the day after All Saints Day. This day consisted of almsgiving, prayer, and sacrifices for the relief of the suffering souls in purgatory. This gradually spread to other Benedictine monasteries and then to the wider church.

The Dominicans instituted the practice of each priest offering three Masses on All Souls Day. During World War 1 Pope Benedict XV extended this privilege to all priests, mindful of the huge number of war dead and the destruction of so many churches (where Mass could no longer be offered). It is, perhaps, a coincidence - or should one say, Providence - that since 1918 Armistice Day or Remembrance Sunday has also fallen in November.

Remembrance of the dead, and often prayer for the dead, is a very common human practice in most cultures. This is why we have our Books of Remembrance in each of the four churches. At St Thomas's it is located on the St Joseph Altar.

But although simple remembrance of those who have gone before us is an element of our November observance, in particular All Souls Day and the month of November are dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory (known as the Church Penitent). The Church teaches that the purification of the souls in Purgatory can be hastened by the efforts of the faithful in the Church Militant (that is, us). This teaching goes back to the 2nd Book of the Maccabees in the Old Testament (see 2 Maccabees 12: 42-45, where the practice having a sacrifice offered for the departed is described as "an altogether fine and noble action" and "holy and devout"). Many of the early fathers of the Church,

such as Tertullian and St Cyprian speak of the practice of the early Christians of praying for the dead.

This is closely connected with the doctrine of Purgatory. Purgatory is the place or state of temporal purification, where those who have died in the grace of God but who are not yet perfect (for only what is perfect can exist in heaven) undergo cleansing (or we might say, decontaminating) of their sins, before they can be admitted to the Beatific Vision. Our Lord's words in Matthew 12:32 and St Paul's in 1 Corinthians 3: 11-15 also suggest this concept. The concept of Purgatory, and thus of the efficacy of praying for the souls there, has been long held by theologians in both the Latin West and the Greek East. St Epiphanius (a bishop in Cyprus who died in 403) even reckoned the denial of the usefulness of prayers for the dead to be a

St Thomas Aguinas, as so often, clarifies the situation for us: it would truly be bad news if our good works and prayers could not help our beloved dead. That would mean that death is stronger than love. The basic purpose of Purgatory is rehabilitation, not retribution: the perfection of souls, not punishments for sins. God created Purgatory out of love and mercy, not merely justice.

Aguinas uses an analogy. In our bodies lungs do not directly touch the kidneys, yet each helps the other and are essential for good health. Likewise the Church - on earth, in Purgatory, in Heaven - is one spiritual organism. Our good deeds and prayers for the Holy Souls are, in this understanding of the communion of saints, a necessary part of the good health of the whole church.

In St Thomas's entrance you will see a wall box marked 'Holy Souls'. By diocesan rule, every £10 received makes up a Holy Souls Mass, Alternatively you can book Holy Souls Masses in the usual way, using the Mass Intention envelopes in each church. Sometimes these are listed in the Mass Intentions in the newsletter, sometimes they are offered by the concelebrating priest, and so are not announced. The practice of Holy Souls is a laudable one to keep up. Not only does it benefit the souls currently in Purgatory, we shall want our successors when we have died and are in Purgatory to maintain the practice, for our own good.

Office of Readings for All Souls Day From St Ambrose' book on the death of his brother Satyrus

We see that death is gain, life is loss. Paul says: For me life is Christ, and death a gain. What does "Christ" mean but to die in the body, and receive the breath of life? Let us then die with Christ, to live with Christ. We should have a daily familiarity with death, a daily desire for death. By this kind of detachment our soul must learn to free itself from the desires of the body. It must soar above earthly lusts to a place where they cannot come near, to hold it fast. It must take on the likeness of death, to avoid the punishment of death. The law of our fallen nature is at war with the law of our reason and subjects the law of reason to the law of error. What is the remedy? Who will set me free from this body of death? The grace of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

We have a doctor to heal us; let us use the remedy he prescribes. The remedy is the grace of Christ, the dead body our own. Let us then be exiles from our body, so as not to be exiles from Christ. Though we are still in the body, let us not give ourselves to the things of the body. We must not reject the natural rights of the body, but we must desire before all else the gifts of grace.

What more need be said? It was by the death of one man that the world was redeemed. Christ did not need to die if he did not want to, but he did not look on death as something to be despised, something to be avoided, and he could have found no better means to save us than by dying. Thus his death is life for all. We are sealed with the sign of his death; when we pray we preach his death; when we offer sacrifice we proclaim his death. His death is victory; his death is a sacred sign; each year his death is celebrated with solemnity by the whole world.

What more should we say about his death since we use this divine example to prove that it was death alone that won freedom from death, and death itself was its own redeemer? Death is then no cause for mourning, for it is the cause of mankind's salvation. Death is not something to be avoided, for the Son of God did not think it beneath his dignity, nor did he seek to escape it.

Death was not part of nature; it became part of nature. God did not decree death from the beginning; he prescribed it as a remedy. Human life was condemned because of sin to unremitting labour and unbearable sorrow and so began to experience the burden of wretchedness. There had to be a limit to its evils; death had to restore what life had forfeited. Without the assistance of grace, immortality is more of a burden than a blessing.

The soul has to turn away from the aimless paths of this life, from the defilement of an earthly body; it must reach out to those assemblies in heaven (though it is given only to the saints to be admitted to them) to sing the praises of God. We learn from Scripture how God's praise is sung to the music of the harp: *Great and wonderful are your deeds, Lord God Almighty; just and true are your ways, King of the nations. Who will not revere and glorify your nature? You alone are holy; all nations will come and worship before you.* The soul must also desire to witness your nuptials, Jesus, and to see your bride escorted from earthly to heavenly realities, as all rejoice and sing: All flesh will come before you. No longer will the bride be held in subjection to this passing world but will be made one with the spirit.

Above all else, holy David prayed that he might see and gaze on this: One thing I have asked of the Lord, this I shall pray for: to dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, and to see how gracious is the Lord.

Mass intentions

All masses are at st Thomas's CHURCH unless otherwise stated

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

9:15am Fr Ignatius Lazzari RIP

11:15am Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP
6:00pm George Rizza RIP (1st Anniversary)

9:30am *Otford* People of the Parish

9:30am Borough Green Deceased members of the UCM

11:00am West Kingsdown Peggy Spiers RIP

Monday 8th Feria

8:00am David & Colleen Lockyer

and their children

Tuesday 9th DEDICATION of the LATERAN BASILICA

9:30am People of Afghanistan

Wednesday 10th S LEO the GREAT, P D

8:00am Welfare of Emma's & her family

10:00am *Otford* All participants of COP26

Thursday 11th S Martin of Tours, B

10:00am Borough Green Aiden O'Leary's mother RIP

12:00noon Hubert Jamnitzky RIP

Friday 12th S Josaphat, B M

8:00am Well-being of Victoria Lepore (Birthday)

10:00am West Kingsdown Canon John Reaford RIP

Saturday 13th S Frances Xavier Cabrini, Rel

9:30am Welfare of Helga Chadwey & the family

SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm (Sat) Constance Mary Edwards RIP

(Anniversary)

5

8:00am (Latin) People of the Parish 9:15am Richard Latter RIP 11:15am George Rizza RIP

6:00pm Jim Cairney RIP (Anniversary)

9:30am *Otford* Richard Bunce RIP 9:30am *Borough Green* Fr Paul Okora

11:00am West Kingsdown Fr Tomas Creagh-Fuller

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

Maya & Jack Mulqueen

who were baptised at St Thomas's last Sunday

and Lucia Torre

who was baptised at Most Holy Trinity 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: Intret oratio mea in conspectu tuo; inclina aurem tuam ad precem meam, Domine.

Communion: Cognoverunt discipuli Dominum Iesum in fractione panis.