

email: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

> Max. 50 signs in black and white



Translator and Copywriter

Contact: transfulness@gmail.com

Looking for: a two bedroomed house or apartment in Sevenoaks, preferably in Eynsford Contact: michaelrphardy@gmail.com



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#### How do I advertise my business or get my ads in the Newsletter?

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Advertising space is now available. 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.

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# ST EDITH'S DEVOTIONS AT THE WELL VESPERS IN KEMSING CHURCH







### PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

#### CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



#### Today's Mass: THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY (Year B)

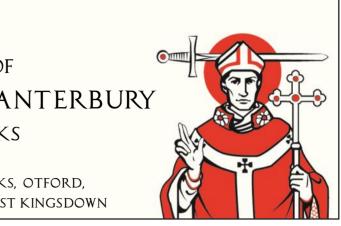
Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm 15; Hebrews 10: 11-14, 18; Mark 13: 24-34

First Reading: this vision of the end of time and what we would call the Day of Judgement contains the first reference in the Old Testament to belief in the resurrection of the dead. **Psalm:** union with God will prove stronger than death.

Second Reading: given this text, why do Catholic priests stand at the Altar each day offering the sacrifice of the Mass? Because they are offering the one sacrifice of Christ, which alone can forgive sins. When everyone is sinless and perfect there will be no more need for the Sacrifice of the Mass or for priests.

Gospel: chapter 13 of Mark is often called the 'Little Apocalypse' as it looks to the end of time. In today's Gospel, using language from the Old Testament (such as today's First Reading from Daniel), Jesus teaches about the coming of the Son of Man, and the need for watchfulness (the parable of the fig tree). That the end will come is certain; but when the Son of Man will return we do not know.

Fr David



14<sup>th</sup> November 202

### ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday

Tuesday

Sunday 8:00am (Latin) 9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word) 11:15am 6:00pm

8:30am - 9:30am

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times:Monday8:00amTuesday9:30amWednesday8:00amThursday12:00noonFriday8:00amSaturday9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

10:00am - 10:30am,

5:15pm - 5:45pm

Saturday



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** 

Church contact:

**Barry Authers** 

Tel: 01959 524362

sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH



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

#### 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

Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG

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<sup>,</sup> CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

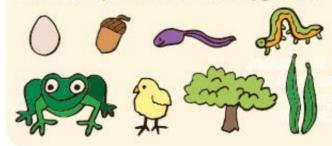
South Park, Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk Executive Head : Mrs Annemarie Whittle Academy Principal : Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

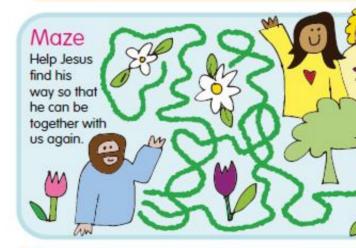
## GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



### BE GENEROUS! Most things change with time. Draw a line from

each of these pictures to show what they grow into.





#### Who does God love? Jesus is always near us, in our hearts and the love we have in our lives. Draw a picture of you standing close to Jesus

redemptorist Look. Design by Anna Davie. Edited by Rachel Thompson. Published by Redemptorist Publications: Chawton Hampshire GU34 3H2.

Sunday 14 November 2021 Mark 13:24-32 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Other things will come and go, but Jesus will always be with us. We are to keep our eyes open because he is coming into our lives again in a special way soon. Just as we know that summer is coming when we see the buds on the trees, we know that Jesus is near. The fig tree ......... The fig tree tells us that summer is near when its leaves come out. Draw the leaves on the tree to show that summer is near. Dear Jesus, thank you for always being with me and loving me. Help me to feel your loving presence in my life. Amen.

### 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) Catherine 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 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

Retreats

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

### Contents this Week

Pages 3-4	Parish Notices
Page 5	Mass Intentions
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#### Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, celebrating the Mass at Most Holy Trinity, and welcome back to Canon Luke Smith - formerly the Assistant Priest known as Fr Darren - celebrating the Masses at St Joseph's and St Bernadette's.

#### Remembrance Sunday

Fr David will represent the Parish at the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at The Vine. James McBrien will lay the wreath on our behalf. Adrian Pinington will also lay a wreath from us at the Otford War Memorial.

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

#### Second Collection

This is for the Archbishop's Fund for Diocesan Administration.

#### 11:15am Mass

Isabelle Tan and Jack Ray receive their first Holy Communion today. The music is provided by the Traditional Choir.

#### **Bereavement Group**

There will NOT be the usual meeting for the bereaved this Monday. Next month (December) the group will hold a coffee and mince pie get together. The next bereavement session will be in January.

#### **Tuesday: Class Mass**

Year 5 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. Parents etc of those in Year 5 are welcome to attend this Mass.

#### **Tuesday and Thursday: Parish Synod Meetings**

The second parish meeting is on Saturday, 8:00pm -9:30pm in the Parish Centre. Do attend whether or not you have previously registered your interest. Refreshments on arrival.

A third meeting, by Zoom, especially for those who are shielding/isolating or unable to attend the other meetings, will be on Thursday, 7:00pm -8:30pm. Email David Cooper (dpcoop1963@ gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

#### Saturday: Confirmation Mass

At 12:30pm at St George's Cathedral on Saturday His Grace the Archbishop will confirm over 40 of our young people. Parents and families please note that there are no trains between Sevenoaks and Waterloo East that day: please make alternative arrangements, perhaps going to Elephant & Castle on the Blackfriars train.

#### Next Sunday

The last Sunday in the Church's Year is the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is also Youth Day, and the second collection will be for youth work in the diocese.

A Plenary Indulgence is granted to those who fulfil the usual conditions and on this day recite - in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed - the consecration of the human race to Christ the King and the Litany of the Sacred Heart. Accordingly, next Sunday there will be Adoration at 5:00pm, concluding with Benediction at 5:30pm.

#### Fr Paul's Induction Mass

at St Pius X, Norbiton is on Saturday 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 Pilgrims and friends

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

## PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

#### St Thomas's flower arranging

Jan Gordon is soon retiring from St Thomas' School after some 30 years - and from co-ordinating the flowers at St Thomas's - after 25 years. We thank her profusely and wish her well as she moves away. We now need a new flower rota co-ordinator. Speak to Jan or to Fr David if YOU can volunteer.

#### **Repository in St Thomas's**

The Repository has a selection of Advent and Christmas items on display, including Christmas cards. If no one is minding the Repository, please put your money in the wall box marked 'Repository'.

#### First Holy Communion/Reconciliation Programme 2002

Registration is now open for the 2022 Programme. If your child is in Year 3 or above, please fill in the online Registration Form on the Parish website, where you will find more information. Applications close on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December.

#### St Thomas' School: new admissions 2022

Registration for Reception Year entry 2022 opened on Friday and closes at midnight on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Parents/carers must apply online: go to the link <u>https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/</u>

schools/school-places/primary-school-places. To book a tour of the school please contact office@saintthomas.co.uk or phone 01732 453921. You must also obtain a Supplementary Form from the school; email me to make an appointment to obtain the Parish Priest's Reference.

#### Another Newsletter blooper

"The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday".

#### Please pray

- for our Confirmandi, preparing for their Confirmation;
- for God's help in ending the pandemic;
- for all who gave their lives in the World Wars.

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.

#### Little Short Prayers

#### Guide Me Lord

Guide me lord, you are my heart you are my strength, you are my hope. Teach me Lord, and guide my way I love you more each passing day.

#### A Prayer for Being Grateful

Lord God, may we be grateful for our lot, and compassionate toward all those who are suffering every kind of distress at this difficult time. May we hold back nothing, and hasten to be the ministers of prayer and mercy,

like the disciples of Him who went about doing good in times of need.

#### Hold my Hand in Weakness

Lord God, you are my strength. Hold my hand in my weakness and teach my heart to fly. With you, there's nothing to fear, nothing to worry about. Hold me tight in your embrace, so that I can be stronger than the challenges in my life. Amen.

#### A Short Prayer to Jesus

May the grace of Christ, our Saviour, And the Father's boundless love, With the Holy Spirit's favour, Rest upon us from above. Thus may we abide in union With each other and the Lord And possess, in sweet communion, Joys which earth cannot afford.

#### Amen.

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Front page image Good and Evil Angels by William Blake

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# From the Desk of the Parish Priest Parish Information Document

ecently I received from diocesan HQ a 44 page document to complete, namely a 'Parish Information Document'. As you might imagine, having to undertake this piece of bureaucracy did not fill me with undiluted pleasure! It is, however, a useful document, because it serves as a Handover document for an incoming Parish Priest. Were I to be run over by a bus tomorrow my successor would have access to all sorts of information I did not. You may find some of the questions and answers interesting.

The first section is about the composition of the Parish and numbers. According to my calculations there are approximately 70,000 people living in the parish, of whom 95.5% are white and 4.5% the rest. 65% are Christian. At 4% of the population, the number of Catholics is estimated at 2,800.

Sevenoaks is among the least deprived areas, although deprivation does exist. Residents are overwhelmingly in Group A (well off country living), B (upmarket prestige lifestyle) or D (domestic success).

93% of the Parish is Metropolitan Greenbelt, and 60% in the Kent Downs AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty). The significance of this is that planning constraints are severe, and so there will not be significant increases in housing developments and, therefore, population.

If anyone has better statistical skills than me and wishes to correct these figures, please let me know.

In the 2019 Mass Count (ie pre COVID) the Sunday Mass attendance was 815. In 2021 it was 540, almost exactly 66%.

The second section is about Safeguarding, and we can be reassured that we have all the required systems in place. There is, however, one exception: we need a Safeguarding Rep for St Thomas's. Can YOU volunteer?

Third is a list of the Clergy. This is straightforward: me (Parish Priest), Fr Peter (Assistant Priest) and Deacon Neil (Parish Deacon). There are no religious houses in the Parish (section four).

4

The next section asks about Institutions in the Parish. There are two hospitals (Sevenoaks and Cygnet Godden Green), which the priests visit when requested.

There are 12 homes for the elderly or disabled: Rivermere, Westbank, Chipstead Lake, Lavender Fields, Alpine, Emily Jackson, Gloucester House, Kippingtons, Rockdale, Weald Heights, Manordene, Harpwood. Please let me know if I have missed one out. Normally we ensure residents receive Holy Communion weekly, but things are not yet back to normal after the pandemic.

Fr Peter and I will, of course, visit a Home or a person's home to anoint with the Last Rites at any time, day or night.

There are around 30 sick or housebound parishioners at a time. Again home visits for Holy Communion or whatever are not yet back to normal.

The seventh section is about Liturgy and Spirituality. We have 8 Sunday Masses, spread over the four churches. There are only 7 Masses on Holydays of Obligation. There are 9 weekday Masses (not including any additional ones such as Funerals or School End of Term Masses).

Confessions are heard on Saturday mornings and afternoons at St Thomas's or at call. We normally have Children's Liturgy of the Word at 3 of the Sunday Masses.

At the last count we have 69 commissioned Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. This seems a very high number, but of course we have 8 Sunday Masses in 4 churches to cover. As and when we are free of the pandemic I will have to recruit some new Ministers, as many on the present list have retired or are about to retire from this ministry. Only the Holy Spirit knows how many Mass Readers we have. Would anyone like to hazard a guess?

So far, I have completed 7 of the 24 sections. Those to come include Catechesis and Formation, Schools, Ecumenism, Parish Administration, Finance, state of Parish assets, .....

### SYNOD QUESTIONS

#### Communion

The Church is Catholic because she is sent to all, in order to gather the entire human family from every nation and culture, under the Lordship of Christ and in the unity of his Spirit.

What are the ways in which your parish most successfully brings people together?

In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc) does your parish feel and act as one?

In which areas of parish life (Liturgical, charitable, social etc) are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?

How is the Holy Eucharist the main focal point for your parish?

Is the parish the sole locus for Communion in your area?

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? Are there other reasons that you gather together?

In what ways can you help to build up communion effectively and authentically in the coming months and years? How do you relate to members of the Church who have drifted away from practice?

How does your parish relate to other parishes nearby and the diocese as a whole?

#### Participation

Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. The authority of pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the Head for the building up of the entire Body.

### Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in your parish been affected? Were these issues there before?

How can participation be strengthened moving forward into the future?

What are the means by which different voices can be heard in your parish (particularly those on the periphery of parish life)?

Which groups and individuals are least included in your parish?

How can you broaden the way you include people whilst keeping always true to the Gospel and our core Christian identity?

How do you currently participate, personally, in the life of the Church? How much responsibility do you have as an individual?

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

How does your parish effectively identify and use the gifts of its people?

How do families and young people effectively participate in the life of your parish? What do you do to support them?

#### Mission

The People of God are on pilgrimage through history towards the heavenly homeland. Each one of the Baptized is to be honoured with the same dignity as children of God and appointed to the same mission, the proclamation of the Good News and the building of the Kingdom of God.

Given what you see of the Church (words and actions), in the parish and beyond, what would you say is the Church's mission?

How might we find a shared understanding of mission in the different parishes and Catholic institutions in the Archdiocese of Southwark?

#### Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?

From a missionary perspective, how would you characterise both the local situation and local needs in your parish and community?

How is your parish set up for evangelization? How does your parish reach out to the broader community with the Good News?

Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to mission and service today?

In what ways do you already intentionally and actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?

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

How can the call to holiness and the call to mission be reflected in different aspects of parish life?

# $\underset{\text{All masses are at st thomas's church unless otherwise stated}{\mathsf{MASSES are at st thomas's church unless otherwise stated}$

SUNDAY 14 <sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER	THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY (B)
6:00pm (Sat)	Constance Mary Edwards RIP
	(Anniversary)
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
11:30am West Kingsdown	Fr Tomas Creagh-Fuller RIP
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> Feria	
8:00am	John Farren RIP
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> Feria	
9:30am	Joyce Alberta Anyaegbunam RI
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	
8:00am	Neil D'Souza RIP
10:00am Otford	Peacemakers
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> Feria	
10:00am Borough Green	Doris Rackley RIP
12:00noon	Christine Hallam & family
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Feria	
8:00am	Angela Murphy RIP
10:00am West Kingsdown	Health and wellbeing of Barry McGirr and his family
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> of Our Lady	
9:30am	People of Afghanistan
SUNDAY 21 <sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER	THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (B)
6:00pm (Sat)	All Holy Souls
	and Mullaly family & friends
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Pam & Stan Allen RIP
11:15am	Jones & Sausman family RIP
6:00pm	Judy West RIP (Birthday)
9:30am Otford	Richard Bunce RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Silvia Hogg RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	
	in Celebration of our 100 <sup>th</sup> mee

### Please remember the sick ards RIP who have been commended to our prayers, especially: Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven and Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor and all in old people's homes. iversary) Prayer for All ler RIP The Faithful Departed. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. gbunam RIP amily his family \* an (B) LATIN ANTIPHONS Entrance: Dicit Dominus: Ego cogito friends cogitationes pacis, et non afflictionis; invocabitis me, et ego exaudiam vos, et reducam nily RIP captivitatem vestram de cunctis day) locis.

**Communion:** Amen dico vobis, quidquid orantes petitis, credite quia accipietis, et fiet vobis, dicit Dominus.