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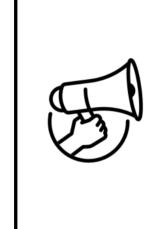
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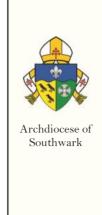


our altar servers at the Confirmation Mass in the Cathedral



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

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.



PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Churches in Sevenoaks, Otford,

Parish Newsletter



Today's Mass: FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (C)

Jeremiah 33: 14-16; Psalm 24; 1 Thessalonians 3: 12 - 4:2; Luke 21: 25-28, 34-36

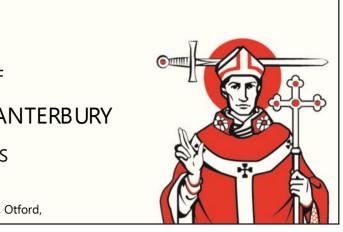
First Reading: *"it is the Lord who speaks"* means that it is God speaking through the prophet. Here, through Jeremiah, God promises that at the end of time a descendant of David will once again rule Israel, a rule marked by honesty and integrity.

Psalm: God is our teacher and saviour. In this psalm we express our humble trust in and faithfulness to God.

Second Reading: in Advent we are meant to think about Christ's second coming, and use the season to make progress in our spiritual lives.

Gospel: amongst other things today's *Gospel* is about maintaining one's faith in the midst of a hostile world: we must *"stay awake"* and pray for faithfulness so that we can face Christ with confidence when He comes again.

Fr David



28th November 2021

St Thomas of Canterbury

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: 8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday Thursday 12:00noon Friday 8:00am Saturday 9:30am

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

Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown

TN15 6JP

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

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

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

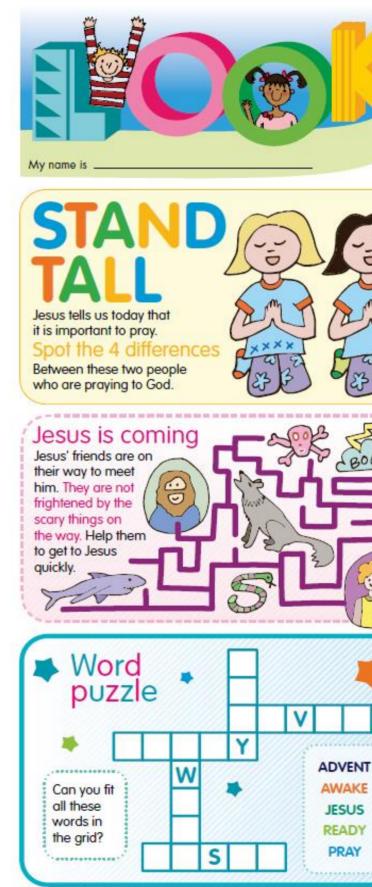
Church contacts: Jill & John Gobel Tel: 01474 853676 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

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



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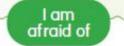
Sunday 28 November 2021 Luke 21:25-28. 34-36 1st Sunday of Advent



Jesus wants us to stand tall and hold our heads high. Bad things might happen, but we don't need to be afraid, because God is with us.

Jesus tells us so often in the Bible. "Do not be afraid"

Write down, or draw some things you are afraid of and then find out at the bottom why you don't need to be afraid any more!



But because God loves me, I am not afraid of these things any more!

Please help me, Jesus, to take the time this Advent to get my heart ready to welcome you. Help me to say my prayers and to be kind and loving. Thank you for taking away my fears and always being with me. 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

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Advent

Today we begin a new Year in the Church, namely Year C, the Year of Luke. Luke has been described as the 'Gospel of Mercy'. A major theme in Luke is Christianity's universal nature and appeal (for example, the Gospel is dedicated to a Gentile). Other themes include discipleship, the importance of prayer, and the kingdom of God.

Advent is the season of preparation, preparation for the festivities of Christmas, when we recall the First Coming of Christ to humanity, and preparation for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of devout and expectant delight.

As a season of preparation, the liturgical colour is purple, there are no flowers in Church, and the Gloria is not sung on Sundays. We count down the Sundays with candles on the Advent Wreath.

Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, offering the 9:15am Mass and to Canon Luke Smith (Fr Darren) offering the Masses at Borough Green and West Kingsdown.

Sausage Roll sale

The SVP are having their annual sausage roll sale, to raise funds for their projects including the baby feeding centre in Sudan. Can you resist the smell of a hand made sausage roll?

First Holy Communions

Zachary Gibbs receives our Lord in Holy Communion for the first time at the Saturday 6:00pm Mass. Max Smeaton receives his first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass.

Amelie Diver, who was unable to attend the Confirmation Mass in the Cathedral, is Confirmed at the 11:15am Mass.

St Thomas' School PTA

Members will be selling Christmas raffle tickets after Masses this weekend and until the school's Christmas Fair on 10th December.

Monday: Finance Committee

The Committee has its monthly meeting on Monday evening.

Tuesday: Class Mass

Year 3 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. Parents etc are welcome to attend this Mass.

Patrick Thackaberry RIP

Funeral Mass on Thursday at 10:30am in St Thomas's, followed by Interment at the Greatness Cemetery.

Friday: Day of Prayer for Migrants

According to the Bishops' Cycle of Prayer, please pray on Friday for migrants and refugees.

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 12th December.

Carols and Readings

The Pilgrim Group welcome you to a short service of Carols and Readings to anticipate the wonder of the birth of Christ Tuesday 14th December 12.00 noon at St. Thomas's Church. If you need a lift, phone 01732 450197. Sign up in porch if you can. The carols will be followed by a time for greetings and refreshments.

Lift required from Seal

A parishioner who lives in Seal and who is no longer able to drive needs a lift to Mass on a Sunday, preferably to Most Holy Trinity, Otford. If you can help in this way please contact Magda in the Office.

Parish and other NOTICES

St Thomas' School: new admissions 2022

Registration for Reception Year entry 2022 opened on Friday and closes at midnight on Monday 17th January 2022. Parents/carers must apply online: go to the link <u>https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/</u> <u>schools/school-places/primary-school-places.</u> To book a tour of the school please contact <u>office@saintthomas.co.uk</u> 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.

Newsletter back page pictures

If parents of those who have made their first Holy Communion this year or those who were recently Confirmed would like their photo on the back page of the Sunday Newsletter, just email me or Magda the photo, with the name of the child.

'Honouring Sunday'

The Bishops have issued this document about Mass attendance as the pandemic persists. You can read it in the printed Newsletter or on the website of the Bishops' Conference: <u>https://www.cbcew.org.uk/</u><u>bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/</u>.

Do you have skills to offer as a Governor in the Catholic schools in Southwark?

The diocesan Education Commission is looking to build up its list of people able to offer time, expertise and commitment to support primary, secondary schools and sixth form colleges in Southwark. The Diocese needs local people from its parishes to volunteer as foundation governors in Catholic maintained schools and academies. It also needs people to become trustees/directors in their multi-academy trusts. Could you spare a few hours a month? You do not need to be a parent or work in the education Further info: https:// sector. www.rcaoseducation.org.uk/could-you-become-agovernor/.

Another Newsletter blooper

"Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM . Please use the back door."

Ride and Stride Success

Four cyclists from our parish have raised nearly £1200 in sponsorship money as part of Ride and Stride, which took place in September. Half of the money raised

goes to the Kent Ride and Stride funds and the remainder goes to Holy Trinity Otford.

The four cyclists, Charles Sexton, Barry Authers, Bill Farren and Isobel Farren visited up to 39 churches each, as they cycled around Kent. It was an exhausting day for each of them, but they have raised an amazing amount of money, of which they can be very proud. Well done to all of them.

Please pray

- for migrants and refugees;
- for God's help in ending the pandemic;

• for all listed in the Books of Remembrance in each church.

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.

The Angelus

Priest:	The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary:
People:	And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Priest: Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

People: Be it done unto me according to Thy word.

Hail Mary...

Priest: And the Word was made Flesh: People: And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary...

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts; that we, to whom the incarnation of Christ, Thy Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection, through the same Christ Our Lord.



ndulgences get mentioned a lot at this time of year, because of the November Indulgence for the Holy Souls, if you visit a Cemetery etc. And yet I am sure that a lot of people think Indulgences were abolished at the time of the Reformation. But no. Indulgences are still very much part of Catholic teaching and practice. It was the *selling* of Indulgences which upset Martin Luther and others and which was prohibited, not Indulgences themselves.

The present practice of Indulgences can be found in an Apostolic Constitution of Pope St Paul VI called *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* of 1967, which was a response to suggestions made at the Second Vatican Council, and in the resultant collection of indulgenced prayers and works called the *Enchiridion Indulgentiarum*. Fortunately the latter is available in English, as *The Handbook of Indulgences*.

What is an Indulgence?

The Apostolic Constitution gives a definition: "An indulgence is the remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins already forgiven as far as their guilt is concerned, which the follower of Christ with the proper dispositions and under certain determined conditions acquires through the intervention of the Church which, as minister of the Redemption, authoritatively dispenses and applies the treasury of the satisfaction won by Christ and the saints" (ID norm 1).

An Indulgence is either partial or plenary insofar as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sin (ID norm 2). You can always apply an Indulgence to the deceased in Purgatory (as an intercessory prayer) (ID norm 3), but you cannot apply it to any other living person (Code of Canon Law canon 994).

An analogy

Let me elucidate the above definition. Suppose your young son is wildly throwing a ball around in your back garden, despite you telling him to stop. The inevitable happens: he throws his ball over the fence and it breaks a window in the neighbour's house. You march him round to apologise, and the neighbour, being kindly, forgives him. The boy is now forgiven, but there remains the question of punishment: you stop his pocket money for a few weeks (because you have to pay for a new window pane in the neighbour's house).

Indulgences

When you confess your sins, you are forgiven and your guilt is removed, but the temporal punishment remains (like the naughty boy's punishment remaining, even after he has been forgiven), not because God is vengeful but as an inevitable consequence of the sin. This is what an Indulgence is designed to address and rectify.

The 'usual conditions'

To obtain the Indulgence - that is, to receive the remission of the punishment you have incurred by your sin - you must, 'with a contrite heart', perform the action required by that Indulgence and to fulfil three conditions (usually called 'the usual conditions'):

- sacramental Confession (so you are forgiven for the sin),
- receipt of Holy Communion, and
- prayer for the Supreme Pontiff's intentions.

The latter is satisfied by reciting the Our Father and a Hail Mary, but you can pray any other prayer for the Pope.

When can I get an Indulgence?

There is a list in the *Enchiridion*. You can acquire a Plenary Indulgence in the Parish Church twice a year, on the Feast of the Church's titular saint (St Thomas's day in our case) and on August 2^{nd} (the 'Portiuncula Indulgence').

A Plenary Indulgence - for the Holy Souls - can be acquired if you pray in a Cemetery in November.

Plenary Indulgences can also be acquired by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least a half hour, devout reading of the Sacred Scriptures for at least half an hour, praying the Stations of the Cross, reciting the Rosary in church or in your family.

Works of charity and mercy, abstaining from something pleasing, and trusting in God making a pious invocation all obtain a partial Indulgence.

Why can the Church grant Indulgences?

It is part of the Power of the Keys, the same power by which the Church can forgive sins in the Sacrament of Penance. See *Matthew* 16:19, 18:18, and 28:18. This power was given to St Peter and his successors.

Bishops' statement

During the pandemic, public worship was suspended for a time and there have been restrictions on parish life. As a result, people have been exploring other ways to practice their faith including Spiritual Communion via live streaming.

As people begin returning to more regular patterns of parish life and following the first face to face meeting of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales in Leeds, the bishops have issued the following statement about the importance of honouring Sunday:

Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys, and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

Longing for our Lord

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a "homesickness". We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist, source, and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty, and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds - Friday, November 19th, 2021

Mass intentions

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

SUNDAY 28 th NOVEMBER FI	RST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
6:00pm (Sat)	Marie Mercer RIP
8:00am (Latin)	Joyce Alberta Anyaeg
9:15am	Sharon Pook
11:15am	Rachel Alexander RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am Otford	In thanksgiving (18 th
9:30am Borough Green	Richard Murphy Rip (2
11:00am West Kingsdown	Good estate of Ronald
Monday 29 th Feria	
8:00am	People of Afghanistan
Tuesday 30 th S ANDREW, Ap, Pati	ron of Scotland
9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
Wednesday 1 st DECEMBER Feria	
8:00am	Canon Richard Hearn
10:00am Otford	Fr Paul newly inducted
Thursday 2 nd Feria	
10:00am Borough Green	Patricia Norman Wrig
12:00noon	Suzi Elliot RIP
Friday 3 rd S Francis Xavier, Pr	
8:00am	All Lockyer & Conroy
10:00am West Kingsdown	Thanksgiving for birth
Saturday 4 th <i>Feria</i>	
9:30am	Joyce Alberta Anyaeg
SUNDAY 5 th DECEMBER SE	COND SUNDAY OF ADVE
6:00pm (Sat)	Good intentions of do
8:00am (Latin)	Kenneth D'Souza RIP
9:15am	Amy's Intentions o& I
11:15am	Dec'd members of the
6:00pm	Edward Michael Hibli
9:30am Otford	Kenneth Essex RIP
9:30am Borough Green	UCM Intention
9.30am borough Green	

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Birthday) (1st Anniversary) ld Hewett

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family RIP of Aislinn Grace Smith

gbunam RIP

ENT (C)

lonor's family

her family e Jones 8 Sausman RIP ing RIP

Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially:

Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven and Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor and all in old people's homes.

> Baptism Welcome to

Oliver Kiselovs who was baptised at St Bernadettes, West Kingsdown 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: Ad te levavi animam meam, Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam. Neque irrideant me inimici mei, etenim universi qui te expectant non confundentur.

Communion: Dominus dabit benignitatem, et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.