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FR PAUL'S INDUCTION AT ST PIUS X, NORBITON



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

5th December 2021



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

Baruch 5: 1-9; *Psalms* 125; *Philippians* 1: 4-6, 8-11; *Luke* 3: 1-6

First Reading: *Baruch*, here making a rare appearance in the Lectionary, was probably written during the exile in Babylon. This Reading is a very poetic and prophetic message of consolation, foretelling the restoration of Jerusalem, the holy city.

Psalm: this is the song of the exiles returned from Babylon. For us it foreshadows the song we shall sing when we return from our exile 'in this vale of tears' to our true homeland, heaven.

Second Reading: we prepare for the second coming ("*the Day of Christ*") by spreading the Good News, increasing in love for each other, and improving our knowledge (of the things of God), so as to become "*pure and blameless*".

The **Gospel** for each year on this Sunday focuses on St John the Baptist. Notice how *Luke* firmly places John in both history (with the rather detailed dating) and in theology (with the reference to *Isaiah* 40: 3-5). St John the Baptist is the 'voice crying in the wilderness, preparing a way for the Lord' predicted by *Isaiah*.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times:

Saturday
6:00pm

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

Adoration:

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

Weekday Mass times:

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday
10:00am - 10:30am,
5:15pm - 5:45pm



Granville Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek
Monday - Friday
9:30am - 12:30pm
Tel: 01732 454177
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
www.sevrcparish.org.uk



High Street, Otford
TN14 5PH

MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am
(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)
Wed 10:00am
Holy Days of Obligation 10:00am
Adoration: Thursday 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

Church 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 Liturgy of the Word)
Thurs 10:00am
Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

Church contact:
Antoni Offert
Tel: 07513 041075
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
TN15 6JP

ST BERNADETTE'S WEST KINGSDOWN

Mass times: Sunday 11:00am, Friday
10:00am
Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am
Rosary: 1st Wed every month at 7:00pm
Adoration: Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

Church 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

LOOK IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Sunday 7 November 2021
Mark 12:38-44
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

My name is _____

BE GENEROUS!

Who will give to charity?

Follow the tracks to find out whether the rich man or the poor widow is going to give money to charity today.

How much money?

The rich man has dropped his bag of money! Some coins have rolled away around the page. Count them and write the number in the box.

money bag

I can share

We can be generous to people in many ways.

Draw yourself sharing your sweets with a friend.

Jesus warns us against putting on a show and thinking we look good while really being mean and nasty. We are living as God asks when we are generous and we trust God, like the poor widow who gives all she has to the Temple.

Follow God's law

Jacob's mum is very busy. Jacob wants to help. Circle the ways that he can be very generous with his time and help his mum.

Put the shopping away
Tidying up
Stay on the laptop
Make his bed
Washing up
Watch TV

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, please help me not to care too much about what people think of me. Help me to care more about how loving and generous I am, so that I grow to be like you. Amen.

Answers: Ten coins - fifteen including the ones on the puzzle!

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Website: www.sevrparish.org.uk **Tel:** 01732 454177

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KHS davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Peter Littleton peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office hours: Monday - Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Safeguarding Rep: Ken Baines sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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

Adoration

Barry Authers adoration@sevrparish.org.uk

Altar Servers (St Thomas's)

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 sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk

Otford, 9:30am Mass:

Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

Fiona Newton - fionanewton321@btinternet.com

Choirs

Music Group:

Lonnie Christophers lonniechr@hotmail.com

Traditional Choir: Barbara Page 01732 454726

Borough Green: Chris Hurl chris.hurl@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)

Jim McSharry jamesmcsarry@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

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

[mddbigs@hotmail.com](mailto:mmddbigs@hotmail.com)

Webmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

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Supply priests

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, offering the 9:15am Mass at St Thomas's, and to Canon Luke Smith (Fr Darren) offering the Mass at Otford and the 11:15am Mass at St Thomas's.

11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir leads the music today.

Alan Edwards RIP

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's on Monday at 11:30am, followed by private Committal. The family would welcome parishioners' attendance at the Mass.

Evelyn Wyeth RIP

Funeral Service at the Greatness Cemetery Chapel, followed by Burial, on Tuesday at 11:00am.

Wednesday: Solemnity of the Immaculate

Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Our Lady under this title is a principal Patron of our Archdiocese. Holy Mass at 8:00am in St Thomas's and 10:00am in Most Holy Trinity. Fr Peter will be available after the Mass at Otford to hear pre-Christmas Confessions; don't be bashful, come and get rid of all your sin before celebrating the great Feast!

Anne Hobbes RIP

Funeral Service at the Thamesview Crematorium on Thursday.

Next Sunday: West Kingsdown

There will be a short congregational meeting after Mass next Sunday, to discuss music at the Sunday Mass. To facilitate this and to comply with COVID requirements (so people aren't in the building too long) the Mass will be said (ie without music).

The Pilgrims: Carols & Readings for Advent

All senior parishioners are invited to this short Service on Tuesday 14th December at 12:00 noon in St Thomas's, followed by refreshments. Sign up in the

Entrance if you can; if you need a lift phone 01732 450197

Next Sunday: Advent Service of readings and carols at Otford

This hour-long service at 7:00pm in Most Holy Trinity will be lead by the Music Group and is open to all parishioners, their families and friends.

Repository in St Thomas's

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

First Holy Communion/

Reconciliation Programme 2022

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 next Sunday.

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 <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/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 Fr David 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 Fr David or Magda the photo, with the name of the child.

Red Missio boxes

Most boxes have been collected in, but if you still have one please return it, with your name and address if you wish to have it back to refill it. Enquiries to the Sevenoaks co-ordinator Pat Harman (01732 453902). We are still needing a replacement as Parish co-ordinator for Peter Ringham.

Parish Funeral Support

We are starting a group of (mostly retired) parishioners, who can be available to assist with

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Funeral Masses. This would entail occasionally helping with tea/coffee beforehand, acting as welcomers, and supporting the Funeral Liturgy especially when family mourners are few. If you can volunteer to go on the list for this, please contact Pat Harman (01732 453902 or bobandpat.harman@gmail.com) or Angela Brunning (465518 or angela.brunning@btinternet.com).

Synodal process

The Holy See has extended the consultation period for the Synodal process, and consequently the deadline for Parish submissions to the Diocese is now later. Accordingly, anyone who wasn't able to participate in the previous parish meetings advertised and who would like to participate is asked to contact David Cooper (dpcoop1963@gmail.com) as soon as possible. If there is demand we can arrange a further meeting. The questions for consideration can be found on the parish website, in the Newsletter for 14th November.

Parish SVP

The SVP is celebrating its 500th meeting in the parish on Thursday, 30 years of serving the needy, the elderly, the homeless, the unemployed, the sick, the housebound, 3 Indian villages and many Indian students, the Sudan and many others in need. Please celebrate with us by praying for our group and for the next 30 years of service. Many thanks for all the support you have always given us over the years.

Kathie Gonzalez

Apprentice Chaplain vacancy

Are you interested in becoming a school chaplain? Would you like to learn more about what being a school chaplain involves? Know someone who would? St Gregory's Catholic School has a really exciting opportunity to join their team as an Apprentice Chaplain, exploring your own call and ministry while sharing the good news with staff and students.

Application deadline 10th December, shortlisting 13th, interviews 15th. For more information visit <https://www.sgschool.org.uk/support-posts>.

Sevenoaks Foodbank (Loaves & Fishes)

This year the Sevenoaks Foodbank is asking St Thomas' to support their Christmas appeal with boxes of crackers and Christmas Cakes. The boxes should not contain more than 6 or 8 crackers. Thank you for your generosity.

Isabelle Mercer

Sevenoaks Climate Action Network

Sevenoaks CAN was launched on 13th November. It was a highly successful meeting of people of all ages and a level of expertise united in a desire to support Sevenoaks and District in Climate action for the common good. Since the initial meeting hubs where info and resources for action may be found have been set up in areas such as energy, waste, housing, food, and education. After the Christmas rush, we'll bring more news about how our Parish could become involved. Wishing everyone eco-friendly Christmas.

Sandie Peters & Pat Harman

'Honouring Sunday'

You can read the Bishops' statement on returning to Mass on the Bishops' Conference website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-statement-honouring-sunday/>.

Another Newsletter blooper

"Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance."

Fr Paul's Induction (see back page pictures)

A group of St Thomas Parishioners enjoyed the hospitality of St Pius X Church in Norbiton at the 'Mass of Welcome' for our friend Father Paul Okora. The Mass was celebrated by Rt Rev'd Paul Hendricks, Auxiliary Bishop of Southwark. St Pius X Church was brimming with a warm and welcoming congregation; the Mayor of Kingston-upon-Thames and her husband were present. The music was uplifting and the refreshments in the hall afterwards were both plentiful and reflective of a rich multicultural heritage of the people of the parish. Father Paul sent his warmest regards to all his friends in "mighty Sevenoaks parish" - to use his words; we could see he is very happy in his new surroundings!

James McSharry

Please pray

- for a closer appreciation of Christ's presence with us;
- for God's help in ending the pandemic;
- for the repose of the souls of Alan Edwards, Evelyn Wyeth, and Anne Hobbes.

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.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Parish Information Document (part 3)

Last time I referred to the difficulties of **Ecumenism**. It is worth adding that there are a number of ecumenical groups which do work together, including Sevenoaks Counselling and the Loaves & Fishes Food Bank. Things are ecumenically better in some of the villages like Otford and West Kingsdown.

Section 14 is entitled '**General Administration of the Parish**'. This is mainly about a Parish Council. When I came to the parish there was a local committee at Most Holy Trinity, and I have established similar committees at St Joseph's and St Bernadette's, although the latter has yet to meet formally because of the pandemic.

When I came, my priority had to be establishing a Finance Committee - as mandated by Canon Law - and getting catechists and others DBS checked - as required by civil law. The creation of a Parish Council was to be the next step, but it has been on hold since the first lockdown. I will most probably return to this in a future article on this page, exploring how we might best institute a Parish Council.

This section of the Handover Form also enquires about a Deanery Pastoral Council, which again we have not got in this Deanery.

Section 15 is about **Finance**. The Parish uses the diocesan Accounts IQ system, an online system for real time accounting of monies received and expended. We do have safes (details of which I am not going to publicise in case burglars are reading!). The safe at West Kingsdown is so tricky to open that you need a doctorate in higher mathematics to do so!

'**Financial Administration**' is the next Section. We have a Parish Finance Committee, which includes a representative from each of the 'outstations'. A financial statement is published, in the Newsletter and on noticeboards, every year. We have five bank accounts: a Current A/c, a Reserve A/c, and one each for the 'outstations'. We also have a good sum on loan to the diocese, which brings in a (very) modest amount of interest. Although people donate more and more by Standing Order or via the card machine we still have people who count the cash collections. As and when

we exit the pandemic we shall probably require some more. Strangely, the Form doesn't seem to enquire about auditing the Accounts, but they are checked annually by an Independent Examiner.

Next comes **Gift Aid**. Sean Corrigan does sterling work maintaining our Gift Aid records, using a diocesan online system called Giftwise. The Gift Aid refund each year is a considerable part of our income.

Section 18 asks about **personnel**. Our parish employees are paid via the diocesan Payroll, and nobody is paid in cash. They are all entitled to work in the UK.

Section 19 - '**Parish Property and Assets**' - goes on for pages, exacerbated in our case by having six premises (the four churches, Presbytery, and Parish Centre). The Parish also owns a plot of woodland in Hildenborough.

Quinquennial Inspections were held in March 2018 at St Bernadette's and in August 2018 at St Thomas's, Most Holy Trinity, and at the Parish Centre. St Joseph's, not yet having had its fifth birthday, does not yet get a Quinquennial Inspection.

Gas and electrical surveys, the lightning conductor survey at St Thomas's, and Health & Safety Inspections are all up to date. We are very grateful to Maria Boehne, who keeps an eye on these things via another diocesan online system, the Health & Safety Toolkit.

The three Chapels of Ease are all in good condition, and only routine maintenance is required. St Thomas's is generally good for its age, although attention will have to be given to the Sanctuary flooring, the lighting, and replacement of the benches which are nearing the end of their life. I remain ever hopeful of a legacy to pay for these!

It is the Parish Centre which is in need of a serious refurbishment. The plan is to create a Working Party of stakeholders (the groups which use the building) and draw up a plan. Amanda Buttinger has agreed to convene this. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

RECENT STATEMENT BY THE BISHOPS

Migrants' death

Following the tragic death of at least 27 migrants in the Channel – the worst-ever migrant tragedy in that body of water – **Cardinal Vincent Nichols** said:

“The terrible loss of so many lives in the Channel is a tragic summons to action. This event illustrates graphically both the ruthless evil of the traffickers and the desperation of those trying to escape poverty, conflict or persecution in search of a better life.

Every one is a child of God, with an innate dignity and worth. Focussed international cooperation, safe routes to sanctuary and joint efforts to tackle poverty are all needed in the face of a global flood of desperate humanity.”

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Migrants and Refugees, also commented on the tragedy:

“Everyone knew refugees were crossing the Channel in unseaworthy craft. It happened yesterday and the day before and in increasing numbers in recent weeks. It will happen again tomorrow and will continue unless determined concerted action is taken immediately. Concern for and a desire to protect refugees from life-threatening danger is our duty at all times, not only when a tragedy occurs.

Yesterday's loss of life is a reminder of the desperation of those who are willing to risk everything as they seek a better life in a desire to escape appalling experiences and circumstances. A remedy needs to be found immediately to prevent more tragedies and, at the same time, address the underlying causes which force refugees to flee their homeland, war, poverty, persecution and climate change need to be recognised and addressed. The depth and sincerity of belief in the value and sanctity of every human life will be seen in the response to what happened. May those who perished rest in peace.”

On Saturday 25th September, the day before the World Day of Migrants and Refugees, Bishop Paul McAleenan led a service of reflection and prayer on the seafront in Dover. The group gathered to pray at the Migrants Memorial on the front that was installed in memory of those who have lost their lives seeking sanctuary in the UK.

'Assisted killing'

Politicians in Jersey have voted in favour of the proposition of legalising assisted suicide in the States of Jersey. On 25th November 2021, 36 voted in favour, 10 against with three absent. There will be further debate in 2022 and a draft law could be voted on in 2023.

In reaction to this 'in principle' decision, the **Bishop of Portsmouth**, the Right Rev'd Philip Egan, said:

“I was shocked and saddened by the results of the vote on euthanasia and assisted suicide in Jersey. It demonstrates a woeful lack of interest in protecting the most vulnerable people in our society. If passed, it would also change fundamentally the role of doctors and medical staff.

However, this is only the first step in the process of legalising 'assisted suicide'; as such, we will continue to scrutinise and challenge any proposed legislation in the months ahead.

The Catholic Church is clear that we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it. Killing people and committing suicide is against God's law. All human life is a gift to be safeguarded from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for continuing investment in high quality palliative care, in order to preserve the dignity of some of our most vulnerable, at such difficult moments in their lives.”

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 5th DECEMBER

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 6th S Lucy, V M

8:00am

Tuesday 7th S John of the Cross, Pr D

9:30am

Wednesday 8th Feria

8:00am
10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 9th Feria

10:00am *Borough Green*
12:00noon

Friday 10th Feria

8:00am
10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Saturday 11th Feria

9:30am

SUNDAY 12th DECEMBER

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Good intentions of donor's family
People of the Parish
Amy's Intentions & her family
Dec'd members of the Jones & Sausman RIP
Edward Michael Hibling RIP
Kenneth Essex RIP
UCM Intention
Canon John Bailey RIP in loving memory

Canon Philip Donnelly RIP

In thanksgiving

Well-being of James McGuigan
Gwen and all the family

Kay Mangan RIP
Heather Murray RIP

Joyce Alberta Anyaegbunam RIP
Holy Souls

Fr Joseph Phillips

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

Thomas Healey RIP (Birthday)
Kenneth D'Souza RIP
Fr John Slater RIP
Winifride Matthews RIP (Anniversary)
Patrick Curren RIP
James Farrell RIP
Chin Kimee Ayoung-Chee RIP
People of the Parish

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.

Departed

Please pray for the souls of

Anne Hobbs
Alan Edwards
Evelyn Wyeth

who have recently departed.



**Prayer for All
The Faithful Departed.**

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light
shine upon them.*

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance: Populus Sion, ecce Dominus veniet ad salvandas gentes; et auditam faciet Dominus gloriam vocis suae in laetitia cordis vestri.

Communion: Ierusalem, surge et sta in excelso, et vide iucunditatem, quae veniet tibi a Deo tuo.