

**Classified Ads**  
Advertise here  
and be seen by  
more than  
800 local families  
every week.

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



Excellent monthly  
lectures on art,  
guests welcome  
www.theartsocietyseve  
noaks.org.uk

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

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



MGR MATTHEW DICKEN'S LAST MASS AT ST BERNADETTE'S  
CONSECRATION ANNIVERSARY AT ST THOMAS'S



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

12<sup>th</sup> December 2021



### Today's Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT (C)

*Zephaniah 3: 14-18; Isaiah 12: 2-6; Philippians 4: 4-7, 8-11; Luke 3: 10-18*

The **Entrance antiphon** is taken from today's Second Reading. This is the classic text that gives this Sunday its name: *Gaudete (Rejoice)!* The Collect uses the same word. Rose vestments may be worn and the rose candle is lit on the Advent wreath.

**First Reading:** beset by personal or family problems, economic hardships, and anxieties about refugees, terrorism and war, not to mention the COVID-19 pandemic, we can easily become fearful and 'let our hands fall limp'. But rather we should shout for joy, for the Lord will come again; God himself has promised it.

**Psalm:** unusually this is not a psalm but a psalm-like extract from *Isaiah*, echoing the message of the First Reading: *"sing and shout for joy"*.

**Second Reading:** happiness, says St Paul, comes from tolerance, prayer and thanksgiving, and above all closeness to Christ the Lord, who *"is very near"*.

**Gospel:** like the other Gospels *Luke* portrays St John the Baptist as a forerunner of Jesus Christ, but alone of the Gospels he also recounts John's ethical teaching. And with John the Baptist there is no pussyfooting about: his demands are simple and clear.

*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

**Weekday Mass times:**  
 Monday 8:00am  
 Tuesday 9:30am  
 Wednesday 8:00am  
 Thursday 12:00noon  
 Friday 8:00am  
 Saturday 9:30am

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

**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



Sunday 12 December 2021  
 Luke 3:10-18  
 3rd Sunday of Advent

In the  
**GOSPEL TODAY**

### What must we do?

John told the people how to live as God asks. Find some words that describe how God wants us to live. Start with L and choose every other letter.



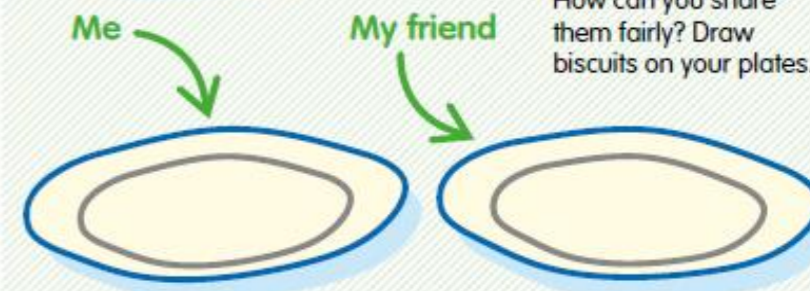
The people asked John the Baptist how to do what God wants. John the Baptist tells them to be fair. God wants us to share our things.



### Share!

Here is a plate with ten biscuits. You would like some and your friend would like some.

How can you share them fairly? Draw biscuits on your plates.



### Pointing to Jesus

Everything John the Baptist does and says is pointing to Jesus. We can point to Jesus by the way we live. Draw yourself in this hand doing something kind or helpful today, or use the back of this sheet to draw.

"I can point to Jesus today when I..."

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

### A PRAYER TO SAY

Please help me, Jesus, to share. Help me to welcome you by treating everyone with kindness. Amen.

### Become better

People ask John the Baptist what they should do in order to be better people. Translate John's words so that you can be a good person too!



redemptorist  
 PUBLICATIONS

Look Edited by Rachel Thompson. Design by Emma Repetti. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications, Wolf's Lane, Chawton, Hampshire, GU34 3HQ. A registered charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbbooks.co.uk

isc logo

Answers: Share with others. Love, share, care, hope, pray



## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### *Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks*

**Presbytery and Parish Office:** 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

**Website:** [www.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk) **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Gibbons, KHS [davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Peter Littleton [peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

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

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines [sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:adoration@sevrparish.org.uk)

#### **Altar Servers (St Thomas's)**

Catherine Ingram [Ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com).

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass**

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

Mark O'Prey [sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk)

*Oxford, 9:30am Mass:*

Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

Fiona Newton - [fionanewton321@btinternet.com](mailto:fionanewton321@btinternet.com)

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

Lonnie Christophers [lonniechr@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniechr@hotmail.com)

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454726

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl [chris.hurl@outlook.com](mailto:chris.hurl@outlook.com)

#### **Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)**

Jim McSharry [jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com)

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis [seveoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:seveoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com)

#### **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme**

Ingrid La Trobe [sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Flowers (St Thomas's)**

Jan Gordon [janice.gordon47@hotmail.com](mailto:janice.gordon47@hotmail.com)

#### **Gift Aid:**

Sean Corrigan [sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

Secretary: Barry Authers [sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:dpcoop1963@gmail.com)

#### **RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust)**

MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, [www.racet.org](http://www.racet.org)

#### **Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)**

Andrew Pembroke [st.thomas.rota@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomas.rota@gmail.com)

#### **Repository**

Christine Landon [christinedlandon@gmail.com](mailto:christinedlandon@gmail.com)

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe [andrew.latrobe@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com)

#### **Retreats**

Catherine Roger [c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com)

#### **St Bernadette's Committee**

Secretary: Jill Gobel [jill.gobel@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.gobel@btinternet.com)

#### **St Joseph's Committee**

Secretary: John Foley [johnandmariefoley@gmail.com](mailto:johnandmariefoley@gmail.com)

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke [ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## PARISH NOTICES

### *Contents this Week*

<i>Pages 3-4</i>	Parish Notices
<i>Page 5</i>	Mass Intentions
<i>Page 6</i>	Mass Readings
<i>Page 7</i>	Sunday Message
<i>Page 8</i>	Recent statements by the Bishops
<i>Page 9</i>	Parish Information Document: Part 4
<i>Page 10</i>	Contacts & Organisations
<i>Page 11</i>	Mass Activity for Children

#### **Supply priests**

Welcome to Fr Bryan Wells, offering the Mass at Most Holy Trinity, and to Canon Luke Smith (Fr Darren) offering the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses at St Thomas's. Fr Darren was Assistant Priest here under Canon John Bailey and then Fr Richard Harvey.

#### **West Kingsdown**

There will be a short congregational meeting after Mass today, to discuss music at the Sunday Mass. To allow time and to comply with the COVID risk assessment today's Mass will be without music

#### **Advent Service of readings and carols at Otford**

At 7:00pm in Most Holy Trinity, lead by the Music Group.

#### **Tuesday: The Pilgrims' Carols & Readings for Advent**

The Pilgrim Group invite senior parishioners to this short Service on Tuesday at 12:00 noon in St Thomas's, to anticipate the wonder of the birth of Christ, followed by a time for greetings. If you need a lift phone 01732 450197. **The Bereavement Group are warmly included in this invitation instead of their monthly meeting. Sadly, due to Covid restrictions, there will now be no refreshments in the Parish Room .**

#### **Advent second phase**

On Friday the Liturgy moves into Advent's second phase. The readings at Mass and the Divine Office texts are those for December 17<sup>th</sup> and following.

#### **Friday: St Thomas' School End of Term Mass**

At 9:30am in St Thomas's. One class only will attend; the other classes will watch via the livestream in their classrooms, because of the high COVID rate locally.

#### **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.

#### **Parish Funeral Support**

We are starting a group of (mostly retired) parishioners, who can be available to assist with 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](mailto:bobandpat.harman@gmail.com)) or Angela Brunning (465518 or [angela.brunning@btinternet.com](mailto:angela.brunning@btinternet.com)).

#### **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*

#### **Crib and Flower co-ordinator**

We are still in need of someone to arrange the Christmas Crib in St Thomas's and for someone to co-ordinate the flower arrangers' rota in St Thomas's. Don't be shy! Please, volunteer for these duties if you can, which are not too demanding.

#### **Christmas Liturgies: advance notice**

Please note that because of COVID concerns we are unable to have our customary Christmas Eve services for children, at either St Thomas's or Most Holy Trinity. On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> there will be the normal 8:00am Mass at St Thomas's, but no 10:00am Mass at St Bernadette's. On **Christmas Eve** there will be the Vigil Mass at 6:00pm and the Midnight Mass at 11:30pm in St Thomas's. The Vigil Masses at the 'outstations' will be at 6:00pm at St Joseph's, 7:30pm at St Bernadette's, and 8:00pm at Most Holy Trinity.

**Christmas Day** Masses are at the Sunday morning times: 8:00am (Latin), 9:15am and 11:15am in St Thomas's, 9:30am at both Most Holy Trinity and St Joseph's, and 11:00am at St Bernadette's. There is no 6:00pm Mass on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>.

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> (Feast of the **Holy Family**), Holy Mass will be at the normal Sunday times at all four churches.

## Cribs in shop windows

Pat Harman and Isobel White have enthusiastically been placing Christmas Cribs in shop windows in Sevenoaks. Do look out for them and, if you can, mention to the shopkeepers how pleasing it is to see them.

## Another Newsletter blooper

The Times reported this recently: "A Remembrance Sunday pew sheet in a Baptist Church announced "We will remember those killed and injured in conflicts during our morning service". The Battle of the Psalm perhaps?

## SVP - The sausage roll sale

The Sausage roll sale last weekend for Sudan and S. Sudan raise the wonderful total of £479.45 and there is a little more to come when the contactless payments are calculated. Thank you so much to everyone who supported the sale and a special thanks to the chef.

## Please pray

- for all suffering from depression or loneliness;
- for God's help in ending the pandemic;
- for our various parish committees.

*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.*

## Christmas Prayers

### Christmas Tree Blessing

Holy Creator of Trees, bless with your abundant grace this our Christmas tree as a symbol of joy. May its evergreen branches be a sign of your never-fading promises. May its colorful lights and ornaments call us to decorate with love our home and our world. May the gifts that surround this tree be symbols of the gifts we have received from the Tree of Christ's Cross. Holy Christmas tree within our home, may Joy and Peace come and nest in your branches and in our hearts. Amen

— Unknown

### Heaven is my Home

Lord, I thank You for coming to earth so You could redeem me. When I think of the extent to which You were willing to go in order to save me, it makes me want to shout, to celebrate, and to cry with thankfulness. You love me so much, and I am so grateful for that love. Without You, I would still be lost and in sin. But because of everything You have done for me, today I am free; my life is blessed; Jesus is my Lord; Heaven is my home; and Satan has no right to control me. I will be eternally thankful to You for everything You did to save me! I pray this in Jesus' name! Amen

— Rick Renner

### Christmas Prayer for Focus

Dear God, sometimes I get too caught in the Christmas commercialism. OK, a lot of times. Today, I'm going to refocus my heart and remember why I'm celebrating this wonderful day in the first place. I'm celebrating Jesus today...and every day! In Jesus' name, Amen.

— Sharon Jaynes

### Joy as our Redeemer

Almighty God, grant that the new birth of your Son in the flesh redeems us from the old slavery under the yoke of sin, so we may receive him with joy as our Redeemer, and that when he comes to judge we may see Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. Amen.

4 — Wilhelm Loehe



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

## Parish Information Document (part 4)

We are now getting to the end of this survey of the Parish Information Document, which is meant to be a handover document whenever a new Parish Priest arrives.

Section 20 is entitled 'Documentation and Parish Records'. This is mainly concerned with ensuring that records are securely kept, as well as helping a new Parish Priest know where records are kept.

Our Parish Registers - Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, Marriage - are all kept in the Parish Office. You can, incidentally, always consult them (eg if you are tracing your family tree) by making an appointment with the Parish Secretary. Our Death Register is computerised.

If you require a Baptism, Confirmation, Reception or (Church) Marriage certificate, just enquire at the Office. If you require a civil Marriage certificate you must, since a recent change in the law, ask the civil Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

The database of registered parishioners (which is used to send out the weekly email) is kept securely on password protected computers in the Parish Office and my office.

We also have in the Presbytery what is rather grandiosely called the Archive Room. This contains old newsletters, various documents from the past, old Marriage papers and the like, as well as what can only be described as junk. If anyone would like to spend a few days sorting it all out, and properly cataloguing it, let me know.

One question is about a map of the parish. There isn't one: I have never been able to find one and neither has the Diocesan Chancery. The map you may have seen is someone's best guess. We do have a written description of the boundaries, which predates the closure of the Westerham Branch line and the building of the M25, and refers to things that are no longer there or have changed their name. The exact boundaries fall into the category of things only the Holy Spirit knows, I think.

Section 21 - 'Computerisation and Digital Records' - is mainly about GDPR compliance. The parish database,

as I have said, along with financial records, Gift Aid, and First Holy Communion and Confirmation programme data, are all kept on parish owned computers which are password protected. Physical records, such as the DBS checks, are kept in locked filing cabinets.

The next Section - 'Contact information' - would provide very useful, even necessary information for a new Parish Priest, although in our case the Assistant Priest and the Parish Secretary would know most of it. Who maintains the boilers is a most important thing to know when one has broken down!

It lists CCTV - which we have at Most Holy Trinity, with the appropriate signage - and livestreaming - which we do from St Thomas's, again with the required signage.

The document goes on to enquire about the **Diocesan rcaos email system**. The IT experts who introduced it were not very amused when we pointed out that rcaos (which stands for Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Southwark) would inevitably be pronounced 'our chaos'!

The Parish Secretary, the Parish Clergy, as well as the accountant, Gift Aid co-ordinator, and catechetical co-ordinators, all use the diocesan email system. This ensures that emails are secure and that there is no mixing of parish and private matters.

The Section about **Parish Social Clubs** does not apply in our case. Diocesan policy does not permit new Social Clubs to be initiated.

The final section is **Any other matters**. I haven't thought of anything, but if you have spotted something which ought to be in a Parish Information Document but hasn't been mentioned, let me know.

This document, albeit very useful when there is a change of Parish Priest, is not always the most gripping reading. On the other hand, I hope you have found some of it at least interesting, as it does provide a snapshot into parish life generally as well as parish administration in particular. Many parishioners will be unaware of the volume of behind the scenes activity, undertaken by so many people, to whom thanks is due.

# WHY I SHOULD GO TO CONFESSION, THIS CHRISTMAS

Confession seems to have become the awkward family secret within the Catholic Church. Deep down, we know that it is a sacrament of the Church that God wants us to have, and, we know that it ought to be a part of our lives; and yet, somehow, for many, it has just dropped out of the experience of faith.

Advent is a traditional time for us, once more, to make a visit to the Sacrament of Confession, or Reconciliation. Almost by definition this sacrament opens our hearts to receive God, and that is exactly what this liturgical season is about. To that end, you will find, at the back of the Church today, a new booklet giving the reasons - **Why I should go to Confession?** It succinctly explains the reasons for this sacrament, followed by an explanation of how to make an examination of conscience and get the most out of this encounter with the mercy of Jesus Christ. What follows is a short extract...

## Why should I go to confession?

*Because God asks you to...*

In the letter of St. James the Bible teaches: *Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects* (James 5.16). In the end, the main reason for going to confession comes down to our being obedient in love to God; knowing that He never asks us to do anything which is not in our (eternal) best interest.

*Because your soul needs it...*

If sin is a choice to reject God, then the decision to confess my sin is the opposite: it means I am rejecting sin and embracing God once more. The more I go to confession, the more I am inviting the life of God to come into my soul.

*Because a spiritual 'check-up' saves lives...*

By making a regular examination of conscience and visit to the sacrament of reconciliation, we are showing our goodwill to God, by giving Him - through the Church - the space to direct us to any place in our lives where our conscience may have become misinformed by "negative influences". If we are doing this, then we can be sure that whatever our level of formation, we at least have an openness to doing God's will.

To be a moral being - which all human beings are - is a weighty matter. Unlike the animals, we bear responsibility for the choices we make, and they have eternal consequences. Entrusting our souls to the care of a confessor is a way of sharing that burden.

*Because it is good to talk...*

As human beings we are spiritual and physical. It is not enough for us simply to believe that we are forgiven - we need to hear it so we can really know it. Furthermore, it is not good for us to merely interiorly, vaguely say that we are sorry; as human beings our hearts, minds and wills are shaped through forming our interior experience in language that can be expressed in words. The very act of putting into words the things for which we are sorry, and saying those words to another person present to me, brings about conversion to God.

If you have not been to confession in a while, please take away a copy of **Why I should go to Confession** and read through it. Please God, you will receive the grace to return to this important encounter with Mercy.

If, however, having read through the reasons and the guide, you decide that you are still going to stay away from Confession, can I encourage you to write to me, and let me know why? Priests exist to reconcile human beings with God. If the faithful are choosing to stay away from the Sacrament of Reconciliation, as priests we really do need to know why. Oftentimes we are left guessing, but it would be really valuable to hear your experience.

You can write to me (**anonymously if you wish**) at the presbytery, or by leaving a comment on the most recent page of [lonelycurate.com](http://lonelycurate.com).

*Fr Peter*

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

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

## 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

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> S Lucy, V M

8:00am

Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> S John of the Cross, Pr D

9:30am

Anne Alexander RIP

## Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am

Hector Serpes RIP

10:00am *Oxford*

Marie Lourdes Radegonde RIP

## Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> Feria

10:00am *Borough Green*

Archie Payne RIP

12:00noon

Joyce Alberta Anyaegbunam RIP

## Friday 17<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am

David & Colleen Lockyer & their children

9:30am

Mattie & Sheila Brennan RIP (Anniversary)

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Michael Wilson RIP & bereaved family

## Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am

Marie Lourdes Radegonde RIP

## SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER

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

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

John Perkins RIP (Anniversary)  
In thanksgiving from Slattery family  
In thanksgiving from Mercado family  
Antonette Quadir-Ali RIP (Birthday)  
Fr Robert Ellis RIP  
People of the Parish  
Norman Kerrigan RIP  
Placid Berrett & Pattie Pluck 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.

**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:** Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est.

**Communion:** Dicite: Pusillanimes, confortamini et nolite timere: ecce Deus noster veniet et salvabit nos.