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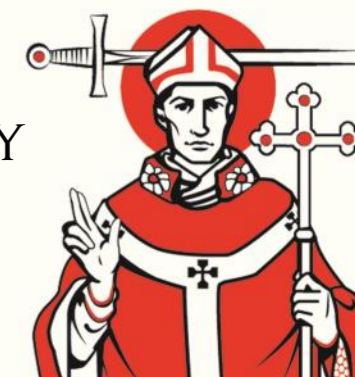
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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

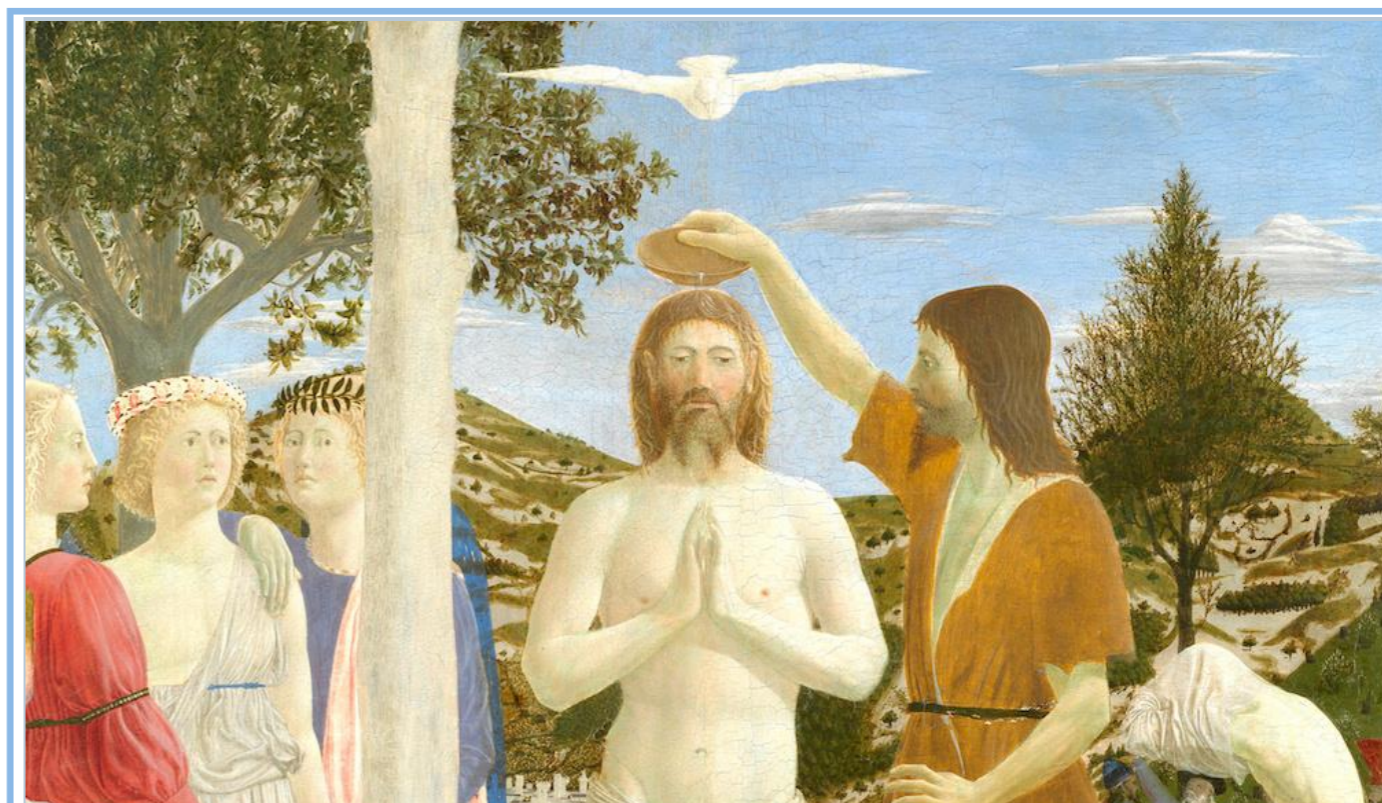


Parish Newsletter

9th January 2022



THE GOLD STAR
MARKING THE PLACE OF THE INCARNATION IN THE CRYPT
OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY IN BETHLEHEM



Today's Mass: The BAPTISM of the LORD (Year C)

Isaiah 40: 1-5, 9-11; Psalm 103; Titus 2: 11-14, 3: 4-7; Luke 3: 15-16, 21-22

Note to readers: the Readings are the alternative readings Ad Libitum for Year C

First Reading: the prophet delivers a message of consolation and hope: the Lord is "like a shepherd feeding his flock".

Psalm: this is the first psalm at the Easter Vigil, the night of Baptisms. It speaks of God the creator and the Holy Spirit the renewer.

Second Reading: this text is the source of the line "as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ" in the prayer at Mass after the Lord's Prayer.

Christ, our Saviour, saves us "by means of the cleansing water of rebirth and by renewing us with the Holy Spirit" (that is, by Baptism).

Gospel: in his brief reference to Jesus' own Baptism, *Luke* emphasises the coming of the Holy Spirit upon Him and the approval of the Father. He also stresses that Jesus was at prayer.

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

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

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
TN15 6JP

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 9 January 2022
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22
The Baptism of the Lord

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

Sharing God's love

After his baptism Jesus began his new job telling everyone the Good News and sharing God's love. When we were baptised we were given this job too.

Jesus comes to his cousin John to be baptised. While Jesus prays, the Holy Spirit comes down on him and God the Father is heard, saying that Jesus is his Son.

A new start!



When Jesus is baptised a voice comes from heaven. Find out what God the Father says about Jesus by completing the puzzle.

First colour in the squares that have dots to find the hidden message, then colour in all the other squares in whatever colours you like.

Symbols in Baptism

Just like Jesus, we are baptised too. Different symbols are used during baptism. Can you unscramble the words to find out what the symbols are?



How will you share
God's love today?
Draw or write your
ideas in the flame.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, after your baptism you began to tell everyone all about God's love. Help me to tell people all about God's love by what I do and by what I say. Amen.

Join the dots

When God the Son, Jesus, is baptised God the Holy Spirit comes down on him. Find out the shape of the Holy Spirit in this story by joining the dots.



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 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' 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)

Paul Boyle 07796564018

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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11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir leads the music today.

Supply priests

We again welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Canon Luke Smith, offering some of today's Masses. Fr Peter and Fr David are both attending mandatory diocesan Safeguarding Training on Wednesday, and so Fr Bryan will celebrate the 10:00am Mass at Otford.

Adoration in St Thomas's

Adoration resumes its previous times: Monday after the 8:00am Mass until 9:30am and Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

Missionary Society of St Paul (MSP)

Having been appointed a Trustee of the MSP - of which Fr Mark Odion, MSP, who used to supply regularly in this parish, is now the Regional Superior - Fr David will be attending his first Trustees' Meeting on Friday.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

The Second collection next weekend will be for Pax Christi England & Wales, part of Pax Christi International, a non-profit, non-governmental Catholic peace movement working on a global scale on a wide variety of issues in the fields of human rights, human security, disarmament, de-militarisation, just world order, religion and violent conflict.

At St Thomas's you will be able to use the card reading machine to donate.

Crib Offerings

All donations placed in any of the Cribbs in the four Churches will be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, earmarked for schools in Bethlehem and the

West Bank. Today, being the last day of the Christmas season, is the last opportunity to donate to this cause.

Collections

The total Offertory in November was £12,254.39.

Second Collections: Catholic Education Service £490.41, Home Mission £453.33, Missio £687.62, Archbishop's Admin Fund £386.73, Catholic Youth Services £313.44.

Baptism of infants

To have a child Baptized obtain a green application form (available in all four churches), fill it in, and return it to me.

St Thomas's flower arrangers

We are grateful that Maria Boehne has agreed to co-ordinate the flower arranging rota. If you can arrange flowers please contact Magda who will pass on your details to Maria. The more people there are on the rota the less frequently it comes round! Nor does it have to be ladies; any gentlemen who are good at flower arranging are welcome!

Synodal Process

Last call for the final meeting. If you were not able to attend any of the previous meetings and would like to attend the last one please email David Cooper (dpcoop1963@gmail.com) as soon as possible.

Advance notice: United Service

The Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be on Sunday 23rd January at The Drive Methodist Church at 4:00pm.

Order of Service typo

Opening hymn: *Immoral, invisible, God only wise.*

Please pray

- for an end to the pandemic;
- for all those Baptized in the parish in the last year;
- for Anna Anderson and all who have recently died.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Holydays of Obligation

It is traditional at Epiphany to publicise the dates of the various Feasts in the coming year. Make sure you have written them into your 2022 diary or wall calendar.

- SS Peter and Paul 29th June
- Assumption 14th August
- All Saints 1st November
- Christmas Day 25th December

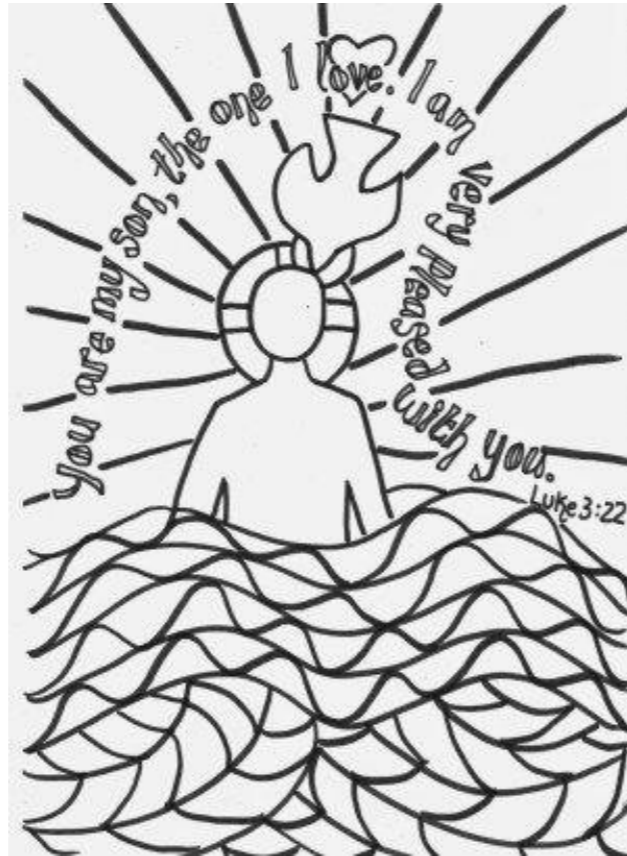
Movable Feasts

- Ash Wednesday 2nd March
- Palm Sunday 10th April
- Good Friday 15th April
- Easter Sundays 17th April
- Ascension Thursday 26th May
- Pentecost Sunday 5th June
- Trinity Sunday 12th June
- Corpus Christi 19th June
- Christ the King 20th November
- First Sunday of Advent 27th November

Anniversaries

Leslie O'Brien, Margaret Rawlins, Mary Mileham, James Conney, Mary Perriam, Lisa Taylor, Martha Jeffrey, Derek Crofton, Marie Fitzgerald, Gertrude Firmin, Mary Hall, Clare Undy, John Fortune, Ida Stapleton, Esther Reekie, Winifred Chinnery, Erna Schwarz, Laura Coyle, Terence Beaumont, Maria Bowditch, Mary Salt, Margaret Ashdown, Jim Coles, Gerald Caruana, Sarah Gallagher, Helen Cheshire, Claire Lund, Mary Blake, Monica Casey, Genevieve O'Donovan, Vicky Parker, Agnes Goodman, Joseph Doris, Patricia Winkley, David Crook, Jane Regan, Mary Brasher, J.C. Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Gomar, Alan Peters, Daniel Hassett, Patrick McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson, Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John O'Leary, Albert Munden, Thomas Salt, Cyril Gouldstone.

Eternal rest grant unto them...



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Questions from Parishioners

I attend one of the Chapels of Ease; can I go to Mass at St Thomas's if the time is more convenient?

Yes, of course. You can attend Holy Mass anywhere it is being celebrated in a Catholic Church or Chapel.

Normally (that is to say when we are not in the midst of a pandemic and the Bishops haven't suspended the obligation) "on Sundays and other holydays of obligation, the Faithful are obliged to assist at Mass" (Canon 1247). In other words you are obliged to attend Mass - unless you are ill, caring for someone who is ill, you have no transport, or have to work as, for instance, a nurse - but you are not obliged to attend a particular church or a particular Mass.

Naturally, if you normally attend a specific Church or Chapel, you feel part of that community and feel a loyalty to it. But you can always attend Mass elsewhere, and may have to if, for example, you are travelling and may need to attend a Saturday or Sunday evening Mass.

Naturally also Fr Peter and I would prefer you to attend Mass in one of the four Churches in our parish, but the important thing is to attend Mass on a Sunday and holyday, not where.

The questioner was asking about attending the Christmas Midnight Mass at St Thomas's, rather than the less convenient Mass at their usual Chapel of Ease. Answer: yes, of course.

Can I receive Holy Communion a second time in a day?

You should normally only receive Holy Communion once a day. There are special rules for priests, who may (and may have to) celebrate more than once on certain days such as Sundays and when there is a Funeral or Nuptial Mass.

There are two exceptions to the once a day rule. Canon 921 states that a person in danger of death *should* receive Holy Communion again - the strengthening by Holy Communion known as Viaticum - even if he or she has already received Holy Communion. Suppose on your way back from Mass, at which you received Holy Communion, you collapse with a serious heart attack or stroke: you should on admission to hospital ask for the Catholic Chaplain to come and give you Holy Communion again.

The other exception is stated by Canon 917: you *may* receive Holy Communion a second time *providing it is in the course of Mass*. Suppose you visit a person in hospital and find yourself receiving Holy Communion with them; if later you attend Mass in Church you may receive a second time. But you can't do it the other way round.

I have also been asked about receiving Holy Communion during the pandemic.

One concern expressed to me is about following someone who has received in the mouth. One suggestion is that where possible those who receive Holy Communion in the mouth could come forward at the end of the Communion Procession.

The important thing, and I cannot stress this highly enough, is to take great care when you receive.

"The important thing is to take great care when you receive Holy Communion"

I am not talking about being very, very reverent; that should go without saying. But when you form the Communion Procession, please

- come forward maintaining a distance between you and the person in front;
- if you receive in the normal way in the mouth, take great care to keep still, so that the priest doesn't touch your mouth;
- if you receive in the hand, again keep your hand still with the palm open until the host is safely placed by the priest, so the priest doesn't touch you;
- like the Wise Men return by a different way (that is by a one way system) so you are not coming face to face with people.

Under the current Bishops' COVID regulations the administration of the Precious Blood is suspended. Do, however, remember that if you receive under one kind you are receiving the fullness of Our Blessed Lord; you are not being short changed by receiving only half of Jesus!

Any further questions? Send me an email.

CHRISTMAS IN MALAWI

The Christmas Season has arrived. Some shops started Christmas adverts in October. There are Christmas decorations with Christmas trees in a few shops with radios playing Western Christmas songs, in the main cities of Blantyre, Lilongwe and Mzuzu where some Western traditions have been adopted by the well-to-do. On Christmas day and a few days prior to it, a few Santa Clauses will be spotted at the entrances of some food shops giving out some gifts to kids. Santa Clauses do not visit homes to cheer up children for it does not happen here.

Christmas decorations are only found in the cities, not in the villages. There is nothing like Christmas decorations or Christmas trees, except in the local parish Church. Very few out-churches can afford such a luxury. Decorations in parishes are done on 24th December in the morning ready for the evening Mass.

The month of December is a difficult time for most people in Malawi. People sustain themselves by growing the food they eat. Over 80 percent of the population is unemployed. They till the ground and wait for rains to plant their crops. They last harvested their crops 7 to 8 months ago. Most homes have run out of the food they harvested. The traditional hunger season begins late October to March every year when the crops are ready for harvest. When rains come in good time, the land is all green in December with the crops that have germinated. This year is a different story. The climate has indeed changed. We had some rains in November, many planted and the rains have not come again till this day. The weather is unusually hot. We look up to heaven with our fingers crossed.

Normally December is the month for weeding. Many children would prepare for Christmas in the village by hiring themselves out for weeding in the fields to get some money to spend on Christmas day. The parents who have no food in their homes would be hiring themselves out in the fields to work for food for the day. In December, people have nothing and that is why there is not much of the culture of giving gifts to others in the villages. It happens among the very wealthy in the cities. Various Church groups organize themselves to cheer the sick or the elderly on Christmas day with some little gift. In the cities some Church groups organize lunches for street children and those in prison.

Christmas day is very important, parents will do their best so that on this day their children can have a decent meal, at least rice and meat. Many parents work hard to spare a little something for the meal that day, a departure from the usual daily meal of nsima (hard porridge) and vegetables, beans or matamba/bonya (very small fish). On Christmas day, people wear their best clothes and go to Church. Churches are packed to the full with beautiful songs and a lot of jubilation celebrating the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Lunch is the main Christmas meal. After lunch children and young people go for outdoor dances in the village. There are also beer parties with locally brewed beer and local gin (kachasu) for the elders. Others go to visit their friends. At Christmas, many who have gone to the city for employment come back to the village to be with their families.

The years I was able to come to Sevenoaks, I would arrange for Christmas parties for the children by giving a little something to the orphanages we support. On Christmas day they were assured of a decent meal. Last year some parishioners through Benedict Andradi sent me some money and I bought bags of maize which we distributed to old people and vulnerable children around Christmas with some little cash given to them to grind the maize into flour and buy some meat for themselves. A bag of maize lasts a month for a family of four. Last year we bought 100 bags of maize which we distributed to a hundred families. Last year a bag (50 kg) of maize was costing 10 pounds but this year it is slightly cheaper, it costs 9 pounds.

The Covid-19 situation is not as bad as it was earlier this year. For the past three months we did not have anybody being hospitalized for it. Now the numbers are rising, especially in the City of Blantyre most probably due to people coming back from South Africa. So far three people have been diagnosed with the new variant, omicron. As a country very few were vaccinated and at the same time we do not have functioning hospitals due to lack of equipment and drugs. If omicron spreads, it will wipe us out. Government has relaxed the strict regulations we had over Covid-19 but we are all urged to wear masks and sanitize from time to time.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Fr. Boniface Tamani (Malawi)

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 9th JANUARY

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
3:00pm
6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 10th Feria

8:00am

Tuesday 11th Feria

9:30am

Wednesday 12th Feria

8:00am
10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 13th Feria

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

Friday 14th Feria

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

Saturday 15th of Our Lady

9:30am

SUNDAY 16th JANUARY

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

Joseph Fumihide Shoji RIP
People of the Parish
A swift end to the pandemic
Marie Fitzgerald RIP (Anniversary)
First Holy Communion Candidates
Marie Mernock RIP
In Thanksgiving
The Archbishop
The Homeless

Emily and successful treatment for cancer

Mary & Henry Parr RIP

Welfare of Beryl, Davies & family
Margaret Mary Healey RIP

Our Priests
Welfare of John O'Brien & family

Our Priests
Donor's Intention

Sharon Cameron RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

Donor's Intention
Barbara de Havilland
John Fleming RIP
People of the Parish
Our Priests
Kath Booth
Health of Sarah Boyle
Patrick O'Grady RIP

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

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

Departed

Please pray for the souls of

**Kathleen Frazer
Anna Anderson**

who have recently departed.



**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: Baptizato Domino, aperti sunt caeli, et sicut columba super eum Spiritus mansit, et vox Patris intonuit: Hic est Filius meus dilectus, in quo mihi bene complacui.

Communion: Ecce de quo dicebat Ioannes: Ego vidi et testimonium perhibui, quia hic est Filius Dei.