

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

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

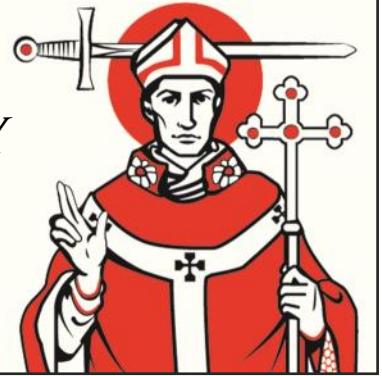
Please email:
sevenoaks@
rcaos.org.uk
for further details.



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

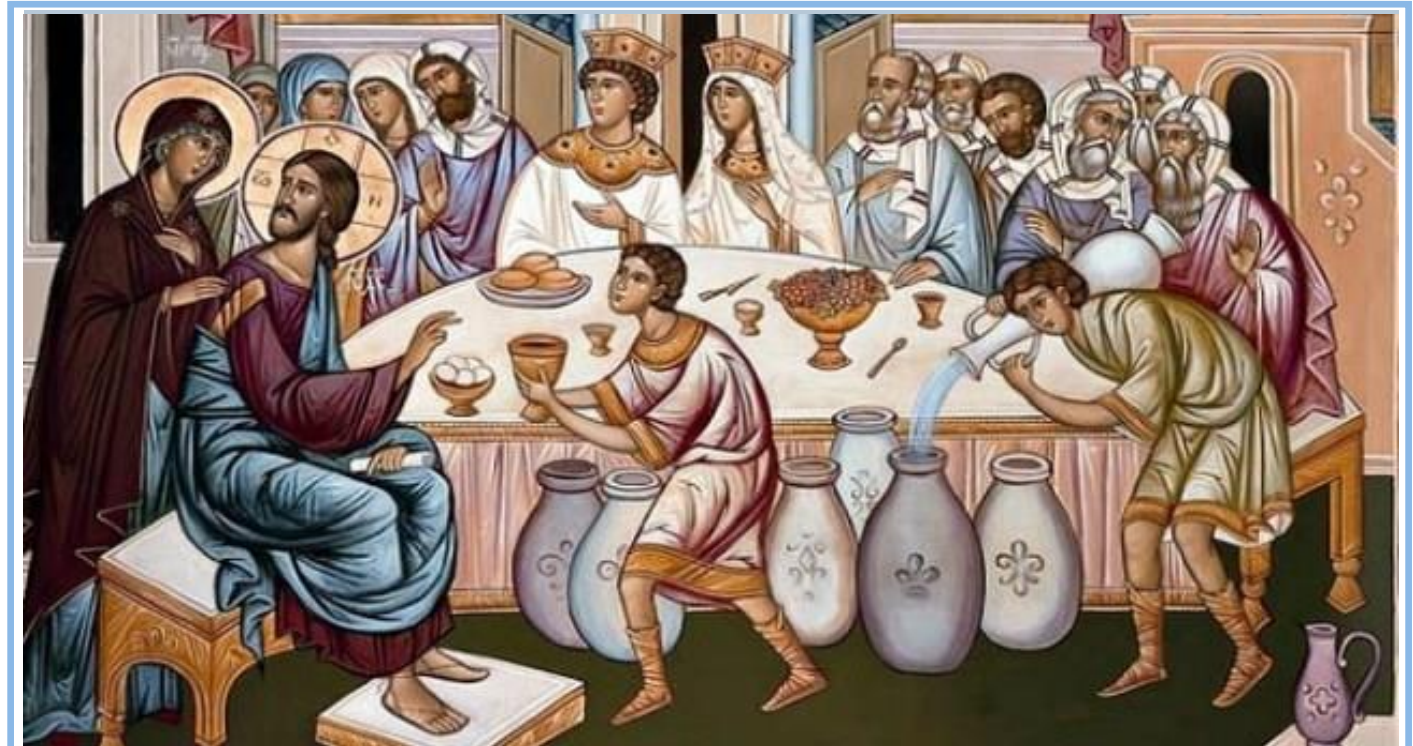


Parish Newsletter

16th January 2022



THE CHRISTMAS CRIB
LOOK CAREFULLY AND YOU CAN SEE THE OX AND THE
ASS AT THE BACK OF ST THOMAS'S CRIB (SEE PAGE 9)



Today's Mass: SECOND SUNDAY of the YEAR (Year C)

Isaiah 62: 1-5; Psalm 95; 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; John 2: 1-11

First Reading: the prophet Isaiah compares God's relationship with his people to that of a husband with his wife. The Old Testament frequently uses Marriage to explain God's covenant with his people.

Psalm: like Isaiah in the *First Reading* the psalmist cannot be silent about the wonders God performs for us. Let us too sing heartily 'a new song to the Lord'.

The **Second Reading** today begins a series of passages from St Paul's *First Letter to the Corinthians*. Reading between the lines, it seems that the possession of different spiritual gifts led to pride and rivalry in the church at Corinth. Paul stresses that all forms of work and service are the work of the one Holy Spirit, the humbler forms of service no less than the more impressive.

Gospel: the first miracle (or 'sign' as *John* calls it) contains a depth of meaning. 'My hour has not come yet' shows that Jesus always acted in accordance with the Father's plan, not his own. This miracle is a sign of God's overflowing generosity; it is a prefiguration of the Eucharist; it validates our intercessory prayer to Mary, His mother; the replacement of water with wine in the Jewish ritual stone jars symbolises the replacement of the Old Covenant with the New; and it firmly endorses the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony.

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



Signs Link the sign with the right meaning.



Jesus' sign

Today's story about Jesus is a sign. What does the sign show? Circle the best explanation.

To show God is great

To say "stop"

To show roadworks

Jesus, his mum and his friends are invited to a wedding. Oh no! They have run out of wine. Mary knows Jesus can help. Jesus changes the water in six huge jars into the best wine. The party can carry on!

Jesus changes things!

These people are at a party. To have a really great party they need Jesus. Help him find his way to the party.



A code



Colour in every second letter. What does it say?

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, you turned water into wine and helped everyone have a great time at the wedding. You can turn ordinary things into something special. Be with me this week as I try to bring happiness to the people around me. Amen.

redemptorist
PUBLICATIONS

Water into wine



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

fac logo

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

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 sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk

Oxford, 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 sevenoaksconfirmation@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

Listening to you (Bereavement Support)

Third Monday, 10:30am in Parish Room

Ronnie Campbell 01732 452988, Sarah Harrison 01959

522357, Kate Travers katetravers521@hotmail.com and Ann

Livingston annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk

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

Webmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

Pages 3-4	Parish Notices
Page 5	Mass Intentions
Page 6	Mass Readings
Page 7	Sunday Message
Page 8	Peace Sunday
Page 9	The Three Kings in Scripture
Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children

Peace Sunday

Today is a Day of Prayer for Peace on Earth. The theme this year is "Education, work and dialogue between generations: tools for building lasting peace". See page 8 for more information.

The Second collection is 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, demilitarisation, just world order, religion and violent conflict.

At St Thomas's you can use the card reading machine to donate (select 'Second Collection').

Supply priests

We again welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Canon Luke Smith, offering some of today's Masses.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Dylan Kennedy who receives Holy Communion for the first time today, at the 11:15am Mass.

Church Unity Octave

The annual eight days' prayer for Christian Unity begins on Tuesday, and ends on Tuesday of next week.

Listening to you – formerly known as Bereavement Support

This will take place on Monday in the Parish Centre from 10.30 am to midday. This is an informal group where you can be assured of a warm welcome and some quiet time to talk. You do not need to let anyone

know you are coming, but if you would like any more information then you can contact Mrs Ronnie Campbell bcampac@gmail.com, Mrs Kate Travers katetravers521@hotmail.com, Mrs Sarah Harrison sarah.harrison18@btinternet.com, or Mrs Ann Livingston annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk.

Anna Anderson RIP

Funeral Mass at 11:00am in St Joseph's, Borough Green, followed by Committal at Vinters Park Crematorium. Anna was a parishioner at St Joseph's for many years, and parishioners there are encouraged to attend her Funeral if possible.

United Service

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

'Growing in Faith Together'

A follow on course for engaged and married couples: explore faith and enrich your friendship and love. Four weekly online sessions on Tuesday evenings at 8:00pm (starting this Tuesday) or Saturday mornings at 10:30am (starting February 19th). Register at aec.rcaos.org.uk/together.

Order of Service typo

In the Lord's Prayer: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Please pray

- for an end to the pandemic;
- for peace on earth;
- for Christian Unity (*especially during the Octave of Prayer*).

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.

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

Anniversaries

Derek Crofton, John Fortune, David Crook, Jane Regan, Mary Brasher, J.C. Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Goman, Daniel Hassett, Patrick McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson, Dr Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John O'Leary, Thomas Salt, Cyril Gouldstone, Maria Glenister, Rosemary Creagh, Liberato Siuiglia, James Regan, Celia Kinnell, Patricia Rudden, David Cole, Simon Emmerson, Terence Lyons, Bob Kossowski, Eileen Bass, Ethel Whiddett, Oswald Brown

Eternal rest grant unto them...

The Angelus

The Angelus, a prayer which reminds us of the Incarnation of Christ, is traditionally recited each day at 6:00am, 12:00 noon, and 6:00pm. It therefore is normally said before Holy Masses at 12:00 noon and 6:00pm.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared to Mary.
R. 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.**

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary. . .

V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. . .

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ
your 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.
Amen.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Three Kings in Scripture

Several parishioners have asked about the Homily I preached on the Solemnity of the Epiphany, and so here is a Newsletter ready version.

"Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ"

St Jerome famously made this remark, and it may seem a statement of the 'blindingly obvious'! But he wasn't talking about the Gospels, as you might think. He was thinking of what we call the Old Testament, and the prophets in particular. Many features of our observation of Christmas and the Epiphany the ignorant suppose are due to legend or later (probably mediaeval) invention, but are in fact based on Scripture: not the New but the Old Testament.

The ox and the ass (the donkey)

Almost every Christmas Crib - in Church, in school, in homes - contains an ox and an ass. *Luke 2:7* tells us that Mary laid Jesus in a manger (which is a trough for feeding animals), but says nothing of an ox or an ass. So where do they come from? *Isaiah 1:3*: "the ox knows its owner and the ass its master's crib".

The Three Kings

Again, *Matthew 2*: 1-12 tells of the visit of "some wise men from the east", but he does not call them kings or say there were three of them. So why do we portray them as three kings and picture them riding on camels?

From *Psalms 71*, which is the psalm sung at Mass on the Epiphany: "the kings of Tarshish and of the islands will pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba and Seba will offer gifts". From the very earliest days of Christianity the Church has seen in the visit of the wise men (the Magi) the fulfilment of this prophecy, of kings coming from afar to worship the Christ.

You will often hear people these days saying things like 'they were wise persons, not kings, so they could have included wise women'. Unfortunately, sacred Scripture does not support such an interpretation.

One of the kings is always represented as black. I have heard it said often that this is just a later tradition, with the implication that over imaginative mediaeval Catholics simply invented it. But it is not based on a later tradition. The psalm speaks of the kings of Sheba and Seba bringing gifts to the promised Christ. Sheba or Seba were either in what we now call Sudan or Ethiopia or in southern Arabia, so the black king is the King of Sheba. This is mentioned by the first century Roman historian Josephus.

The camels

What about the camels? They come from *Isaiah 60*: 6: "camels in throngs will cover you, and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; everyone in Sheba will come, bringing gold and incense and singing the praise of the Lord".

Remember that this text is part of *Isaiah's* prophecy of the coming of the Messiah, the Christ. It is not some text which the Church has randomly applied to the birth of Christ, but rather that according to the principal Old Testament prophet of the Messiah - *Isaiah* - the camels, along with the gifts of incense and gold, will form part of the Messiah's coming.

Myrrh

Isaiah 60: 6 mentions gold - which has always signified that Christ is the King of the Universe (kings need gold for all their bling!) - and incense - which was used in worship in the Temple, is used in our worship today, and is used in heaven according to *Apocalypse 8*: 4 and signifies that Christ is God.

But *Isaiah* doesn't mention myrrh, which is a fragrant gum resin used in our Lord's day to embalm dead bodies, and is taken to signify that Christ is our Saviour, who saves us by His death.

Isaiah thought of a Messiah who would be a new King David, a military leader, and even Jesus' own disciples failed to understand His suffering and death. And yet the suffering of Christ was foretold in the prophets, not least in the book of *Isaiah* itself, in the Suffering Servant songs in chapters 42, 49, 50 and 52.

The gift of myrrh, although not named in the Old Testament prophecies, is nevertheless foretold in the Scriptures, for example in *Isaiah 53*: 4: "and yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. ... Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins".

Conclusion

All too often Christians will assert that the details in our Cribs - the ox, the ass, the three kings, the camels - are unbiblical and simply examples of Catholic invention. On the contrary, I hope I have demonstrated that Catholic practice has the weight both of tradition and Scripture behind it. The Church retained the Old Testament, including the prophets, for a reason: the Old Testament texts help us to understand and interpret Jesus Christ. But do the texts say anything about a midwife being present ?

PEACE SUNDAY

The Bishops of England & Wales invite you to make today a Day of Prayer for Peace, and to reflect on this year's theme. The title of Pope Francis' Message for World Peace Day is "Dialogue between Generations, Education, Work: Tools for Building Lasting Peace". You can find the text of the Holy Father's Message for yourself at <https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/World-Peace-Message.pdf>.

It's time to **read, reflect and plan**. **Whom** might you share the message with? Parish, school, J & P group, peace network ...? **How** might you share it? **When?** and **where?**

Message from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon

In his message to parishes Pax Christi National President, Archbishop Malcolm McMahon says: *This year has been one of unprecedented and continuing challenges. We are all conscious of the need to restore and rebuild our communities here and around the world, accepting that we need new ways of working and relating to each other. The Christian message of peace, through reconciliation, justice and nonviolence, can offer hope and direction in these times. I invite you to seriously consider facilitating a collection for, or making a donation to, the work of Pax Christi at this time as a way to make a practical contribution to continuing the work of peace.*

Visit <https://paxchristi.org.uk/> for more information and where you can donate online. You can also find there

- a podcast to listen to
- activities and prayers for children, including a Tree of Peace placemat to colour in and how to make a peace cube.

Questions for younger people

- What do you think are the key ideas in Pope Francis' message?
- What is peace? Is peace possible?
- What do you think creates peace? Who creates peace?
- How could you encourage inner peace (inside yourself), interpersonal peace (peace between people) and global peace (no war or conflict)?
- Could you
 - ✓ create a peace garden
 - ✓ raise awareness of peacemakers
 - ✓ create an anti-bullying campaign?
- Why is it important to talk and listen to people who are different from us?
- What can you do to make the world more peaceful?

A prayer for all the family

Almighty God

When we look around at our world we sometimes see fights and wars.

Help us to try to bring peace to every situation.

Help us to take one small step for peace today, in the way we treat each other, our families, friends, our earth.

Help us to be really involved in making peace. Amen.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

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*

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

Monday 17th S Anthony, Ab

8:00am David & Colleen Lockyer & children

Tuesday 18th Feria (Christian Unity Octave begins)

9:30am Margaret McCluskey RIP

Wednesday 19th Feria

8:00am C.P. Varghese RIP
10:00am *Oxford* Kenneth Connole RIP

Thursday 20th Feria

10:00am *Borough Green* Peter Strickland RIP
12:00noon Alison RIP and the comfort of her family

Friday 21st S Agnes, V M

8:00am Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
10:00am *West Kingsdown* Peter & Stephanie Catherwood RIP
11:00am *Borough Green* Funeral Mass - Anna Anderson RIP

Saturday 22nd of Our Lady

9:30am John Gerard Lappin RIP

SUNDAY 23rd JANUARY

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 ORDINARY TIME (C)

Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
Donor's Intention
People of the Parish
Teresa and Michelle Jones & family
Holy Souls
Anne Knight (Birthday)
Our Priests
Patrick Bunton 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 care and nursing 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: Omnis terra adoret te, Deus, et psallat tibi; psalmum dicat nomini tuo, Altissime.

Communion: Nos cognovimus et credidimus caritati, quam Deus habet in nobis.