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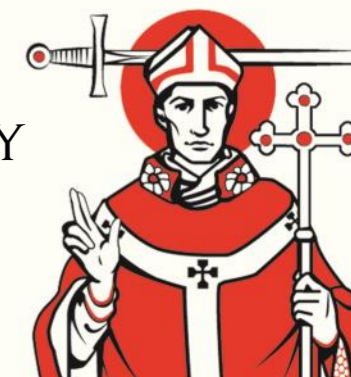
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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

23rd January 2022



THE POPE MET AN ECUMENICAL DELEGATION
FROM FINLAND RECENTLY



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

Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10; Psalm 18; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30; Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21

First Reading: after the return to Jerusalem of the people from exile, Ezra the scribe reads from the Book of the Law from a wooden dais. This would become the way in which the scriptures were read in the synagogue, and the way in which the scriptures are proclaimed from the Ambo at Mass.

Psalm: a psalm of praise of God, of his word, and of the Law which contains his word.

Second Reading: for Paul the Church is not merely like a human body; it *is* Christ's Body. We become members by Baptism. And although we are different parts of the Body of Christ, we are all equally necessary. Preface VIII of Sundays expresses and develops this concept.

Today we start **Gospel** Readings from *Luke* (known as 'the evangelist of mercy'). Jesus quotes from *Isaiah 61* – and applies it to Himself - a passage which is fundamental to understanding who Jesus of Nazareth was, and is: he is the Anointed One ('Christ' in Greek, 'Messiah' in Hebrew).

Notice how Jesus read a passage of scripture from a scroll on the Sabbath in the synagogue, after which He preached to the people. This is the basis for our Liturgy of the Word, the first main part of Holy Mass.

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



Sunday 23 January 2022
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21
3rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

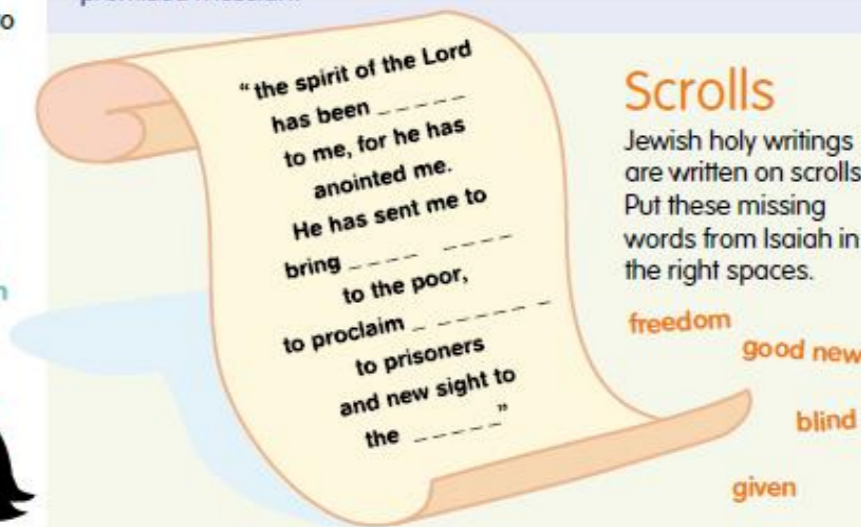
In the
GOSPEL TODAY

We are anointed

I was anointed when I was baptised. That means I am like Jesus. I can share his work. Tick what you will do this week to bring good news to someone.



Jesus comes to the synagogue in his hometown and begins to read from the scroll. He reads God's promise that the anointed Messiah will bring good news and freedom to everyone, especially people who are poor or suffering. Then Jesus tells everyone that he is the promised Messiah!



Maze

Jesus wants to bring everyone to God.



A PRAYER TO SAY

What great news, Jesus! You are God's promise for us! Help me to spread the good news of God's promise by the loving things I do and say today. Amen.

redemptorist
PUBLICATIONS

Make a scroll

You will need a long piece of paper that you can roll up at both sides. Copy the words from Isaiah that Jesus read or chose your own words from the bible.



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isc 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

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 seveoakscconfirmation@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	'Aperuit illis' extract
Page 9	Sharing the Word of God at Home
Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children

Sunday of the Word of God

In the Bishops' Cycle of Prayer, today is a day of prayer for Openness to the Word of God. See my page in the Newsletter for some ideas for sharing the Word of God at home.

Supply priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Fr Mark Odion, MSP, offering the Masses today at the three Chapels of Ease.

Church Unity Octave

The Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is today (Sunday) at The Drive Methodist Church at 4:00pm.

The Otford United Service is at St Bartholomew's Church of England Church at 6:30pm. This will be livestreamed; go to www.stbartholomews.co.uk.

The Octave of Prayer concludes on Tuesday with the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul the Apostle. See below for information about the Unity Indulgence.

St Thomas' School

Year 4 attend the Tuesday 9:30am Mass this week. Parents and family members are welcome to attend; it will not be crowded so you can maintain the safe COVID distance while in the Church.

Friday: St Bernadette's local Committee

This Committee will meet on Friday 28th January, after the 10:00am Mass. If any West Kingsdown parishioners have any matters they would like the committee to address, please contact Kathy Buck, the Secretary.

Unity Indulgence

A Plenary Indulgence can be obtained by the faithful who, fulfilling the usual conditions, participate in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity services and who attend Church on the last day of the Octave,

A Partial Indulgence is granted to the faithful who devoutly recite and approved prayer for Christian Unity, such as *Omnipotens et misericors Deus*:

Almighty and merciful God,

who wished to gather the scattered nations into one people through your Son,

grant that those who glory in the name of Christians

may put aside division and become one in truth and charity,

and that all men may be illumined by the true faith

and brought together into the fraternal communion of one Church.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finances

The December Offertory came to £13,300. This includes the cash in the First Collection box/plate in each church, donations via the JustGiving page, donations by the card reader, and Standing Orders and bank transfers. Thank you for your generosity.

The Christmas Offering, to Fr David and Fr Peter, totalled £16,368.00. Again, thank you for your generosity.

Following the Advent carol and readings Service at Most Holy Trinity Otford, a retiring collection was taken in support of the SVP and the Sevenoaks Food Bank. The total collected for these worthy causes was £210.

Getting Married

If you wish to get Married in St Thomas's, Most Holy Trinity, St Joseph's or St Bernadette's, contact me (email is best) in good time to book it in the parish diary.

If you live in Sevenoaks parish but plan to Marry elsewhere you should contact me (email is best) at

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

least six months before the proposed date, to organise the paperwork.

A Catholic is required to Marry in a Catholic Church before a Catholic priest or deacon or obtain a dispensation from the Bishop to Marry in, for instance, the Church of England church of an Anglican fiancé(e).

Order of Service typo

“Christ came to destroy all the works of the evil one”. Does this mean we can’t enjoy a Chinese meal?

Vacancies

We currently have vacancies for a Parish Secretary at Mortlake, a Youth Minister for the Bromley Deanery, an Office Administrator for Safeguarding and a Caretaker for the Cathedral site. More details can be found on the Diocesan Website: Work with Southwark: Archdiocese of Southwark (rcsouthwark.co.uk)

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be meeting on Monday 31st January at 8:00 pm.

Please pray

- for openness to the Word of God;
- for our Mass readers;
- for an end to the pandemic;
- for Christian Unity
(especially during the Octave of Prayer).

Anniversaries

Dorothy Claydon, Marguerite Ogden, Mary Gerrard, Kathleen Kavanagh, Mary Collier, Bernard Burt, Sheila Murphy, Nora O’Neill, Sandra Spokes, Brian Denton, Kathleen Wright, Val Parsons, Nora West, Thomas Moran, Isabella Worsley, Sheila Gill, Molly Wilkinson, Mary Mannelly, Emily Walshe, Bertha Allchorne, Ray Neale, Johnny Lepak, Joan Harris, John Taylor, James Davis, Stephanie Staples.

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

Sharing the Word of God at Home

In the popular TV programme *Antiques Roadshow* people bring their treasures to be evaluated by experts. Sometimes the item is valued higher and sometimes lower than the owner’s expectations. What are the most valuable items in your house? The Second Vatican Council teaches that “the treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly so that a richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God’s Word” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* 51). Do you think of the Bible in your house as a treasure, as among your family’s most valuable possessions? How can you make the Word of God into a treasure which nourishes and strengthens your family life?

Reading, reflecting, renewing

The most essential thing is to dedicate some family time each week for a brief reading of a Scripture passage, perhaps the Sunday Gospel or other Sunday Reading. Given the hectic pace of life nowadays making family time for Scripture reminds us of the need to put God first; it also enables you truly to make your family a ‘domestic Church’.

Choose a comfortable and quiet place in the house, ignoring TVs and online devices. Read the passage aloud, perhaps more than once; allow some time for quiet reflection on it guided by the Holy Spirit; then discuss its meaning and relevance together. Remember that this Scripture reading brings you into a living encounter with Christ, who as the Word of God is present in the Word of God.

Various resources are available to you. Especially useful is the Wednesday Word: simply visit <http://www.wednesdayword.org/> and select the Parents icon. This resource enables you to reflect on the forthcoming Sunday’s Scriptures. Alternatively, you can take the parish Newsletter home with you and use the centre page to re-read the Scriptures from the previous Sunday. Smaller children respond well to Bible stories: books are available for you to take home (and return) in St Thomas’s Entrance.

Above all, consider how the Scripture readings or Bible stories connect to your life and your family life, at age-appropriate levels. Last Sunday’s Second Reading for example might lead you to reflect on how you use your God-given gifts for the benefit of Christ’s Body on earth, the Church; last Sunday’s Gospel might lead you

to pray the *Hail Mary* or to ponder the importance of Marriage in our society.

Praying the Scriptures

Parents and children can choose to integrate family prayer time with Scripture Reading. The Liturgy of the Hours is, after all, Biblical through and through. Go to <https://universalis.com/> and click on the appropriate prayers for the time of day. Or the traditional Catholic prayers - such as the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and the Holy Rosary - are taken from Scripture.

Lectio Divina

This is another traditional and practical way to break open God’s Word. Through a series of steps - reading, meditation, contemplation, and prayer - Lectio Divina allows the Word of God to speak to you in your situation. Note what Lectio Divina is *not*: it doesn’t mean simply reading a passage and then talking, saying what *you* think should happen; rather it means prayerfully listening to what God the Holy Spirit is saying to you.

Food for the Soul

I invite you, as a family, to try Scripture reading *as a family*. When we read Scripture we encounter the Word of God, which “is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”. It is no mere intellectual exercise but a spiritually nourishing feast; the Word of God “serves the children of the Church as strength for their faith, food for the soul, and a pure and lasting fount of spiritual life” (*Dei Verbum* 21). And remember the old adage: ‘the family that prays together stays together’.



'APERUIT ILLIS' EXTRACT

The Second Vatican Council gave great impulse to the rediscovery of the Word of God, thanks to its Dogmatic Constitution *Dei Verbum*, a document that deserves to be read and appropriated ever anew. The Constitution clearly expounds the nature of sacred Scripture, its transmission from generation to generation, its divine inspiration embracing the Old and New Testaments, and the importance of Scripture for the life of the Church. To advance this teaching, Pope Benedict XVI convoked an Assembly of the Synod of Bishops in 2008 on "*The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church*", and then issued the Apostolic Exhortation *Verbum Domini*, whose teaching remains fundamental for our communities. That document emphasizes in particular the performative character of the Word of God, especially in the context of the liturgy, in which its distinctively sacramental character comes to the fore. It is fitting, then that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness.

3. Consequently, I hereby declare that the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the word of God. This Sunday of the Word of God will thus be a fitting part of that time of the year when we are encouraged to strengthen our bonds with the Jewish people and to pray for Christian unity. This is more than a temporal coincidence: the celebration of the Sunday of the Word of God has ecumenical value, since the Scriptures point out, for those who listen, the path to authentic and firm unity. The various communities will find their own ways to mark this Sunday with a certain solemnity. It is important, however, that in the Eucharistic celebration the sacred text be enthroned, in order to focus the attention of the assembly on the normative value of God's word.

4. The return of the people of Israel to their homeland after the Babylonian exile was marked by the public reading of the book of the Law. In the book of Nehemiah, the Bible gives us a moving description of that moment. The people assembled in Jerusalem, in the square before the Water Gate, to listen to the Law. They had been scattered in exile, but now they found themselves gathered "as one" around the sacred Scripture (*Neh 8:1*). The people lent "attentive ears" (*Neh 8:3*) to the reading of the sacred book, realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience. The reaction to the proclamation of was one of great emotion and tears: "*[The Levites] read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep'. For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, 'Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength'"* (*Neh 8:8-10*). These words contain a great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. It belongs above all to those called to hear its message and to recognize themselves in its words. At times, there can be a tendency to monopolize the sacred text by restricting it to certain circles or to select groups. It cannot be that way. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people.

Pope Francis *Aperuit Illis* 2019

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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
Good health of Mary Scott
Anne Knight (Birthday)
Our Priests
Patrick Bunton RIP

Monday 24th S Francis de Sales, BD

8:00am Fr Joe Andradi

Tuesday 25th The CONVERSION of S PAUL the APOSTLE

9:30am Good estate of Jim & Mary Hardiman

Wednesday 26th SS Timothy & Titus, BB

8:00am Dec'd members of the Andradi-Brown family
10:00am *Oxford* Dolores O'Gorman - recovery from COVID

Thursday 27th Feria

10:00am *Borough Green* Donor's Intention
12:00noon All ill and suffering

Friday 28th S Thomas Aquinas, Pr D

8:00am Ronald Hewett RIP
10:00am *West Kingsdown* David Bunton RIP

Saturday 29th of Our Lady

9:30am June Hicks RIP (9th Anniversary)

SUNDAY 30th JANUARY

6:00pm (Sat) Donor's Intention
8:00am (Latin) Bill Sherratt RIP (anniversary)
9:15am William Moore RIP
11:15am George Rizza RIP
6:00pm Douglas Booth RIP
9:30am *Oxford* Gizela Golda (Birthday)
9:30am *Borough Green* Holy Souls
11:00am *West Kingsdown* People of the Parish

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

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

Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Frank Haggarty, Ken Holmes, Mary Scott, Barry McGirr 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: Cantate Domino canticum novum, cantate Domino, omnis terra. Confessio et pulchritudo in conspectu eius, sanctitas et magnificentia in sanctificatione eius.

Communion: Ego sum lux mundi, dicit Dominus; qui sequitur me, non ambulat in tenebris, sed habebit lumen vitae.