

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?

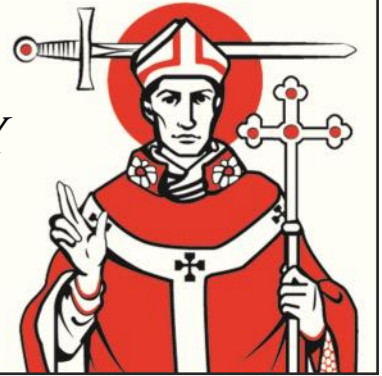
Please email:
sevenoaks@
rcaos.org.uk
for further details.



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

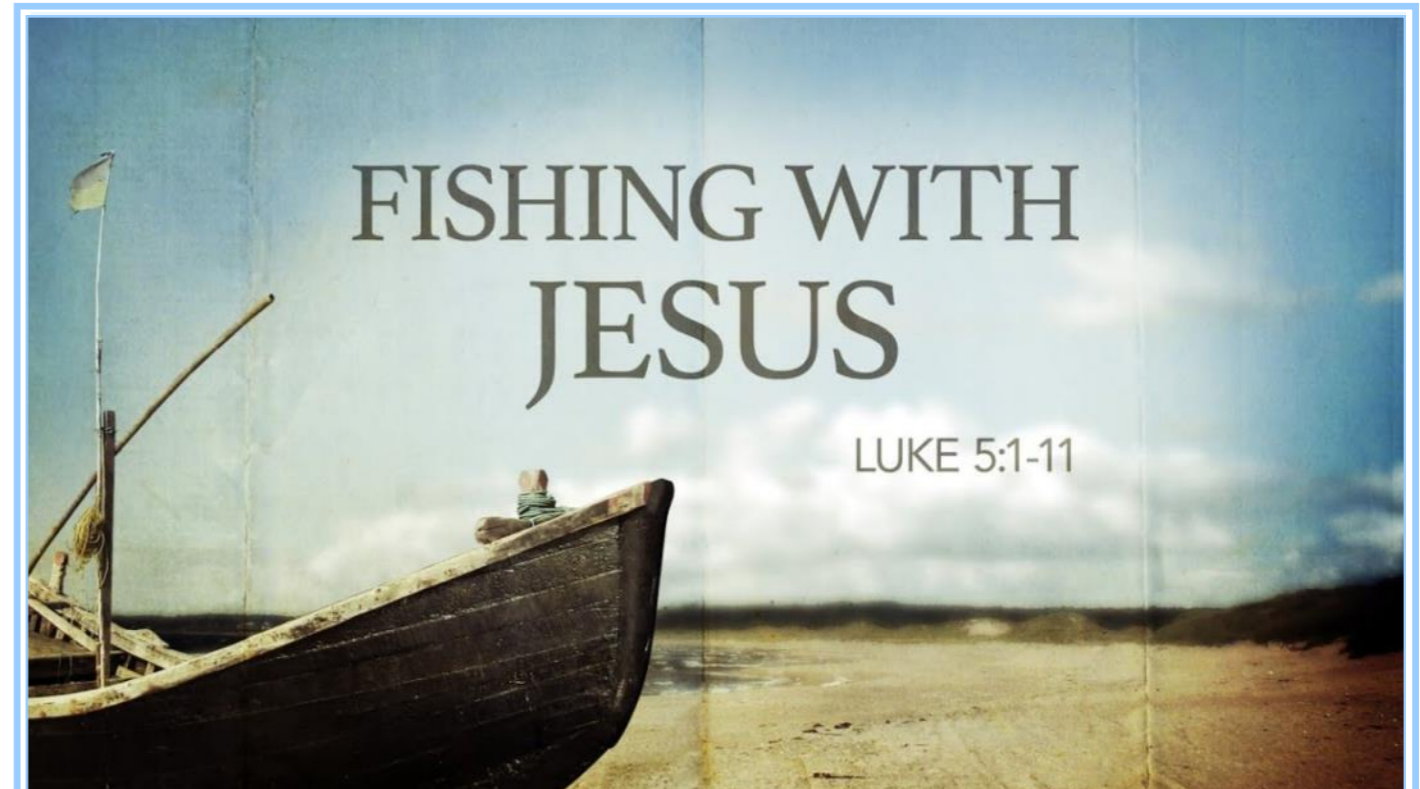


Parish Newsletter

6th February 2022



#actionnotjustwords



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

Isaiah 6: 1-2, 3-8; Psalm 137; 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11; Luke 5: 1-11

First Reading: Isaiah is called to be a prophet, and in the process he has a vision of heaven in which he sees the seraphim make their threefold cry of 'Holy'. This is known as the Trisagion; St John had the same vision in *Apocalypse 4*, and it is of course taken up in the *Sanctus* during the Eucharistic Prayer at Mass.

Psalm: a psalm of thanksgiving to a faithful and loving God.

Second Reading: St Paul asserts the importance of our Christian belief in the death and resurrection of Christ.

Gospel: Peter's miraculous catch of fish leads to his call to be a disciple, along with his colleagues. It also leads to the famous pun about them becoming 'fishers of men' ('men' here is the Greek word for all humanity, not just males). This has always been taken as a metaphor – a directive, even - for evangelization.

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



Spot the fish

There are twenty fish hidden in this net can you find all of them?



Simon Peter trusts Jesus. He does what Jesus says – and catches so many fish that they fill two boats to sinking point! Simon Peter and the other fishermen leave everything and follow Jesus.

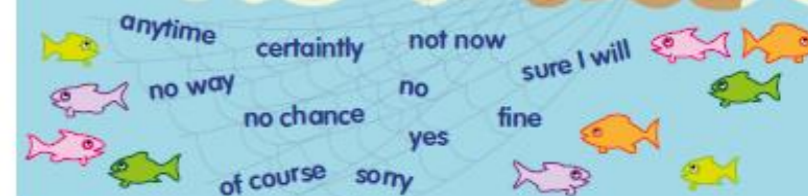
Send me!

How many ways can you think of saying 'YES'? Choose words from the fishing net that mean yes and draw a line to this big YES.

Yes



Fill Peter's boat by drawing fish in it.



Spot the difference

Jesus chose the fishermen to become apostles. An apostle is a messenger for God. How many differences can you find?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to be your messenger. Help me to trust you and to spread the good news about your love by treating everyone I meet with kindness. Amen.



S _ m _ _ (oni)



J _ h _ (no)



J _ m _ _ (sea)

Add your own face and name!

The apostles spread the good news that Jesus loves us all. Unscramble the letters to see the names of the apostles in today's Gospel.

Apostles

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 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

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

Loaves and Fishes Foodbank

Isabelle Mercer: h.imercer@btopenworld.com

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	Synodal process - Parish summary part 2
Page 9	Saved by Hope
Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children

Supply priests

We welcome today Fr Bryan Wells at Otford and Fr Mark Odion, MSP at Borough Green and West Kingsdown.

Baptism

Eric Hoemke Romagna will be Baptized at the 11:15am Mass today.

THIS WEEK

Days of Prayer

Tuesday (the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita) is a Day for Victims of Trafficking.

Friday (Our Lady of Lourdes) is World Day for the Sick. You can find the Holy Father's Message for this day at https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/sick/documents/20211210_30-giornata-malato.html. The theme this year is "Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful" (Luke 6:36) - *Standing beside those who suffer on a path of charity.*

Tuesday: St Thomas' School

Year 6 attend the 9:30am Mass in St Thomas's; parents and other family members are welcome to attend as always.

NEXT SUNDAY: RACIAL JUSTICE DAY

The Archbishop created the Archdiocesan Commission for Racial Justice and Cultural Inclusion in 2021, appointing Fr Victor Darlington, Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Parish in Camberwell, as Episcopal Vicar.

The primary purpose of the Commission is to engage with the clergy and people of the Archdiocese of Southwark, stating the key message of God's love for everyone, and that there is no place for racism in our parishes, schools and churches. Highlights in 2021

Covid guidance

Following the recent changes in the Bishops' Guidance, note especially

- **If you have COVID symptoms stay at home; medical advice should be sought where appropriate;**
- Face coverings are no longer mandatory; however those attending church may continue to wear a face covering (both nose and mouth);
- Formal 'social distancing' is not needed, but please be sensitive to the needs of others;
- Good ventilation is still necessary [so wrap up well!];
- It is still good practice to sanitise hands on entry and exit;
- Holy water is now available in the stoups at the Entrances;
- Sanitising of benches is no longer necessary; normal cleaning suffices;
- The *Sign of Peace* is reinstated, but please do not physically touch someone not in your household;
- Holy Communion must continue to be under one kind only; ministers will continue to sanitise hands and wear a face covering when doing so;
- Social activities (eg coffee after Mass) may resume, where those involved feel safe to do so.

have included working with Southwark schools to address racism, alongside the Education Commission, and giving presentations to St Thomas Academy Trust in Birmingham and the Education Commission of Westminster Diocese: this is a vision that will be driven further in the years ahead.

You are invited to celebrate Racial Justice Sunday next Sunday and, in particular, to give thanks for this new Southwark Commission and its work. It is the aim of the Commission to remind everyone of our Christian vocation to follow Jesus' Great Commandment to 'love one another', and to live as one in our diversity.

The Second Collection will be the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

OTHER NOTICES

“Come to Me” (Matthew 11:28)

Healing Event in St George’s Cathedral 10:00am—5:00pm Saturday 19th February

The Archdiocesan Catholic Charismatic Team invite everyone to come and experience the healing love of Christ, through worship, talks, prayer ministry, Eucharistic healing service, Confession and Holy Mass. Speakers will include Alice Hall (Sion Community), Rev’d John Ryeland (Christian Healing Mission), Deacon Neil Philipson, and Fr Joseph Edattu VC (Divine Retreat Centre, Ramsgate).

All welcome; donation only; please bring a Packed Lunch. Please register in advance if possible: bit.ly/Healing2022 or <https://bit.ly/3rw5UM8>. Teas and coffees will be available in Amigo Hall.

Going into Hospital, Hospice or a Care Home

If you or someone you know goes into Hospital (for anything serious or for what may be an extended stay), goes to a Hospice, or is admitted to a Care Home, please contact the Clergy or the Parish Office. If the place concerned is in this parish Fr David or Fr Peter will be able to arrange a visit, with Holy Communion and/or the Anointing of the Sick as required. If the institution is elsewhere (eg Pembury Hospital) we will contact the Chaplain or Parish Priest there to arrange it. On entry to a Hospital the patient or next of kin should ask the nurse in charge of the ward to notify the Catholic priest; don’t assume he will somehow know.

Holy Souls Masses

You may have seen the wall box in St Thomas’s Entrance marked Holy Souls. Every so often it is emptied, and (by diocesan rule) every £10 represents one Mass for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them. These Masses tend to be offered by the priests when they are concelebrating, so are not necessarily announced.

It is a worthy tradition to maintain. As well as an act of charity towards the deceased, we hope that the parish will offer Mass for us when we have departed this life!

The Pilgrims:

Events in March and April during Lent

- **1st March, Tuesday: Pancake Day!** Please join us in the Parish Room after the 9:30am Mass for coffee, pancakes and conversation.

- **Friday, 25th March:** The Feast of the Annunciation. We celebrate that great day of decision when Mary accepted her role as the Mother of Christ. Please join us at 2:30pm in the Parish Room

- **Monday, 4th April:** Reflections with Stations of the Cross. Again at 2:30pm in the Parish Room

There will be time for tea and discussion after both these occasions.

We would like to support Pat Harman and Janet Clare who are leading Prayer Group meetings in the Parish Centre from 2:30pm to 3:15pm. A time together for quiet prayer and reflection. Open to all Pilgrims and others in the parish.

- **Monday 7th March**
- **Monday 14th March**
- **Monday 28th March (*starts at 2:00pm)**

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for victims of trafficking (*especially on Tuesday*)
- ◆ for the Sick (*especially on Friday*)
- ◆ for Canon John Bailey RIP, (*on the second anniversary of his death*).

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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Elaine Viner, Denis Threlfall, Ivan Jones, Pike Carey, Claude Hopkins, Gwen Lumsden, Margaret Remnant, Gillian Carlton, Hilary McNabb, Elsie Waine, Kathleen Galvin, Des Donegan, Maureen Smith, Antoni Stanislaw-Kozlowski, John O’Grady, Madeleine Campbell, Mai Jordan, Joseph Drummond, Peter Devaney, Michael Lynch, Denise Epsley, Theresa Corry, Derick Goldsmith, George Piper, James Elliott, Bill Keating, Elizabeth Murphy, David Van Hesteren, Fr Douglas Morris, Yvonne Haggarty, Louise Comerford, John Havercan.

Eternal rest grant unto them...



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Saved by Hope

Pope Benedict XVI’s second Encyclical, called *Spe Salvi* (‘Saved by Hope’), was published in November 2007 and - as the name suggests - is about the theological virtue of hope. The title comes from the phrase in *Romans* 8:24. It has an Introduction and eight chapters.

Hope is closely connected to faith in the New Testament, where - says Pope Benedict - we see as “*a distinguishing mark of Christians the fact that they have a future: it is not that they know the details of what awaits them, but they know in general terms that their life will not end in emptiness*” (§2).

Christian hope is about our redemption, and this affects the present as well: “*the one who has hope lives differently; the one who hopes has been granted the gift of a new life*” (§2). The encyclical tells the story of St Josephine Bakhita as an example of the new hopeful Christian life after her conversion Catholicism. Benedict then contrasts the hope that Christ gives us with various failed socio-political revolutionaries such as Spartacus, Barabbas and others.

SO WHAT IS IT THAT WE HOPE FOR?

So what is it that we hope for? Eternal life. We need to be clear what we mean by this; it is not mere prolongation of existence but the blissful existence in perfection, in eternity. To live for eternity as we presently are would be “*monotonous and ultimately unbearable*” (§10). What we actually hope for, and want, is what St Augustine called the ‘blessed life’, or, simply, happiness. Incidentally, this Christian hope of eternal life is not just individualistic; we hope for a social or communal salvation. Benedict here is drawing on the teachings of both St Augustine and Henri de Lubac (the French twentieth century theologian).

By contrast Marxism does not afford true hope, because it has nothing to put in place after the revolution, and human structures (however good) alone will not create heaven on earth. Nor does science (which can do much good but also much harm) redeem mankind; the perfect state of affairs will never be established in this world. “*It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love*” (§26), by Christ. Our “*great hope can only be God, who*

encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain” (§31).

The encyclical continues with ‘settings’ for learning and practising hope. These are

- I. prayer as a school of hope
- II. action and suffering as settings for learning hope
- III. judgement as a setting for learning and practising hope.

Prayer is the first essential setting for learning hope: “*when no one listens to me any more, God still listens to me. When I can no longer talk to anyone I can always talk to God*” (§32). Secondly, we cannot build the kingdom of God by our own efforts - it is a gift - and we do not merit Heaven by our works, but if we have hope then we can open ourselves to God and allow God to enter, and thus our good actions in this life give us and others hope. Suffering is also part of our existence, partly because of our finitude (ie our limitations) and partly because of our sin; we must do everything we can to reduce suffering but we will never eliminate it; consequently it is the sufferings of Christ to which we should unite ourselves in hope. Thirdly, the Day of Judgement gives us hope, hope in God’s justice.

Spe Salvi ends with the customary peroration on Mary, who is the ‘Star of Hope’. Why not find it on the Vatican website and read it in full for yourself? I can only give the briefest of summaries in this single page in the Newsletter.

Next week: *Lumen Fidei*, the Encyclical on Faith.



SYNODAL PROCESS PARISH SUMMARY PART 2

3. The role of laity in the Church

3.1. Several felt that mission and outreach could be better achieved if a parish council were formed. The importance of that body being focused on evangelisation and outreach (as opposed to administration) was emphasised. *“Parish structures [in general across the Church] are not effective”*. A number of years ago the parish held a ‘parish mission’ which bore some fruit including the advent of retreats etc. What happened in respect of other achievements resulting from the mission is unknown.

3.2. There was a feeling amongst a number of contributors that the role of women in the Church needs to be enhanced. *“The Church needs to look and feel relevant to the modern age: women priests, married priests; talking to the world as we find it”*. *“The structures of the church are inherently sexist”*. On the other hand it was acknowledged and recognised that *“women have always been the lifeblood of the Church”*.

3.3. Do the clergy (generally or locally) stifle the endeavours of lay people too much? For example depending on personal style or preference. *“A working assumption is that the answer to any suggestion of a different or new initiative will be ‘no’”*. We must be less reliant on clergy (they cannot do everything); the lay faithful need to provide support to the clergy and at the same time all (lay and clergy) must recognise that permission is not needed from clergy for every potential activity or endeavour. Clergy have their role; the laity have their role also.

3.4. Do we have a *“sufficient feeling for adventure or are we too inward-looking?”* *“Do we see ourselves as disciples?”*. *“Has the Church [church locally] lost its soul – how do we recover that?”*. *“We must not only be churchgoers because we are ‘obedient’ – has to be much more than that.”*

3.5. There should be *“far more opportunities to learn from – and discuss matters with - our clergy, including matters of doctrine /faith”* (not just social occasions).

3.6. The view was expressed that an issue is *“apathy of the laity [in connection with ‘getting involved’] – this needs to be addressed. Not ‘clericalism’”*.

3.7. If we could twin with another parish quite different from our own – for example an ‘ethnically diverse’ parish in the South London area of the Diocese – we would potentially be enriched by that. Alternatively, a local parish has a well-developed twinning arrangement with a parish in Africa – around which fundraising, social activity and prayer are centred locally (this was cited as a good example to follow).

3.8. There was a feeling that not having a resident priest is sometimes an impediment to ecumenical activity at the outstations.

3.9. *“Small groups can be a very powerful way of building communion”*; ie start small and build from there. *“Everybody should feel they have somebody they can talk to – about their faith, or for counsel generally, within the parish community”*. *“Other communities [especially evangelical/non-conformist communities] have the structures in place to reach people – whether the youth / those in need / the vulnerable”*. [Bromley deanery are currently advertising for a Youth Minister]. *“There is too much emphasis on email and on the parish newsletter which doesn’t reach everyone (certainly those not attending mass or ‘registered at the parish’) and is ineffective”*.

3.10. *“Laity can and should take a greater role; we need to seek to use all the talents in the Church. The answers do not, however, lie in what is described as a “liberal agenda” – we must be true to the faith of the original disciples. We have everything we need from the teachings of the Church”*.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 6th FEBRUARY

8:00am (Latin)	Kathleen Dallas RIP (1 st Anniversary)
9:15am	John Rafferty for success in his treatment and strength for his wife Kathleen and family
11:15am	Donor’s Intention
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Edmund Thomas Watts RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	John & Peggy Corrigan RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Health & wellbeing of the Parishioners

FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

Monday 7th Feria

8:00am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
--------	------------------------------

Tuesday 8th Feria (Day for Victims of Trafficking)

9:30am	Vicky Lapore & Aileen Edwards
--------	-------------------------------

Wednesday 9th Feria

8:00am	Michael M ^c Brien RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Wellbeing of Anne & Tom Rochforte and family

Thursday 10th S Scholastica, V

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Donor’s Intention

Friday 11th Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day for the Sick)

8:00am	Marie Lady Temple RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Anthony Kirwan RIP & comfort of his family

Saturday 12th of Our Lady

9:30am	Holy Souls
--------	------------

SUNDAY 13th FEBRUARY

6:00pm (Sat)	Canon John Bailey RIP (3 rd Anniversary)
8:00am (Latin)	Beryl Pluck RIP (Anniversary)
9:15am	Racial Justice
11:15am	Patricia Fleming RIP
6:00pm	George Rizza RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Frank Easterbrook (90 th Birthday)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Martin & Vivienne Adnrews RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	In thanksgiving for those who have retained their health through the pandemic

SIXTH 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 and all in care and nursing homes

Baptism

Welcome to **Timothy Wotton** who was baptized at St Thomas’s last weekend.

Departed

Please pray for the souls of **Nadia Durr** **Barry McGirr** who have recently departed.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance: Venite, adoramus Deum, et proclaudamus ante Dominum, qui fecit nos; quia ipse est Dominus Deus noster.

Communion: Beati qui lugent, quoniam ipsi consolabuntur. Beati qui esurient et sitiunt iustitiam, quoniam ipsi saturabuntur.