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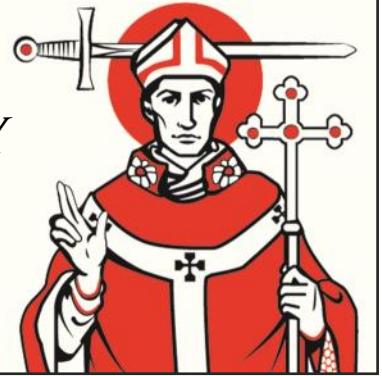
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Archdiocese of  
Southwark

PARISH OF  
**ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**  
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

13<sup>th</sup> February 2022

**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.



**A RARE RECENT  
SNOW FALL  
IN JERUSALEM**



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

*Jeremiah 17: 5-8; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12, 16-20; Luke 6: 17, 20-26*

**First Reading:** speaking through the prophet Jeremiah, God curses those who trust in what is human and who turn away from God (they will die for lack of life-giving water), but blesses those who trust in God, who will flourish like a tree planted beside water.

**Psalm:** this psalm uses very similar language to the *First Reading*. Happiness comes not by following the way of wickedness or sin but by following the way of goodness, the way of God.

**Second Reading:** the Corinthians were probably doubting the idea of a bodily resurrection. Paul counters this by insisting that to doubt the resurrection of the dead is to doubt the resurrection of Christ, which is a cardinal tenet of the Christian creed.

**Gospel:** this is part of what is known as *Luke's Sermon on the Plain* (in comparison with *Matthew's Sermon on the Mount*), and Jesus' teaching is very radical, indeed the opposite of normal thinking then (and indeed nowadays too). The kingdom of God will mean good news for all the people who haven't had any for a long time: the poor, the hungry, those who are hated, blessings on them! Not that there is anything virtuous about being poor, hungry, or persecuted, but God's kingdom will turn this world's injustice upside down.

*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



## Be happy!

Jesus wants us all to be happy.  
Can you draw a picture of you  
when you are happy?



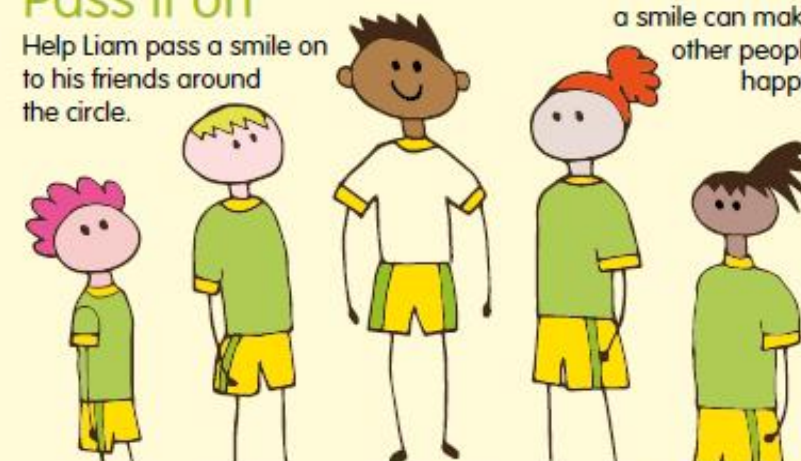
What makes you happy?

People have come from far and wide to be healed by Jesus and hear him speak. Jesus surprises everyone when he explains which people are blessed by God and will be really happy. Anyone who trusts God and puts love first will be truly happy.

## Pass it on

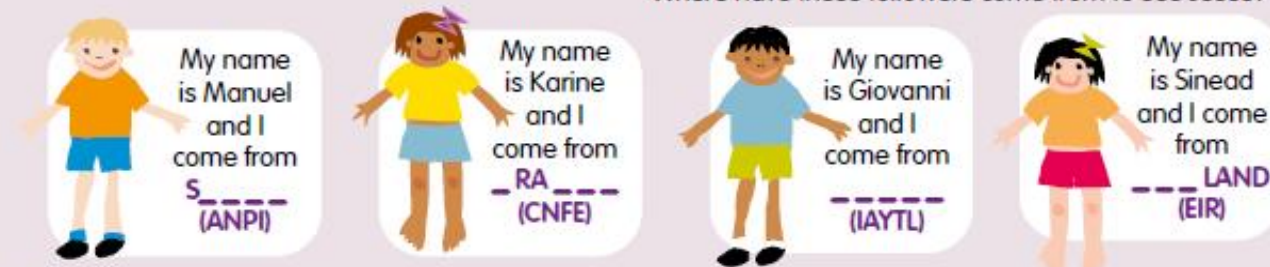
Help Liam pass a smile on  
to his friends around  
the circle.

Sometimes sharing  
a smile can make  
other people  
happy.



## Follow Jesus

People come from very far away to see Jesus.  
Where have these followers come from to see Jesus?



And what about you? Fill in the sentence below using your own name and where you come from:  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I come from \_\_\_\_\_. I am a follower of Jesus!

## A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for all the good things in my life and for all the happiness that I enjoy. Please help me to share with anyone who is not as blessed as I am. Amen.

redemptorist  
publications

## Can you help?

Help these people find what they need so that they can be happy again.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

#### **Adoration**

Barry Authers [adoration@sevrparish.org.uk](mailto:adoration@sevrparish.org.uk)

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

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

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

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

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

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

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

*Otford, 9:30am Mass:*

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

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

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

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

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

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454726

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

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

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

#### **Confirmation Programme**

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

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Gift Aid:**

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

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

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

#### **Lectio Divina**

Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

#### **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](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com) and Ann

Livingston [annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: [h.imercer@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](mailto:dpcoop1963@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

#### **Repository**

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

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic

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

#### **Retreats**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke [ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com](mailto:ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com)

or 01732 450197

#### **Scripture Fellowship**

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson 07847 652846

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

Paul Boyle 07796564018

Kathie Gonzalez [sevenoakssvp@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoakssvp@gmail.com)

#### **Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)**

*West Kingsdown UCM:*

Monica Biggs [mddbigs@hotmail.com](mailto:mmddbigs@hotmail.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## PARISH NOTICES

### **Contents this Week**

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Page 5	Mass Intentions
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Page 8	Synodal process - Parish summary part 3
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Page 10	Contacts & Organisations
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children

### **Racial Justice Day**

The Second Collection today is for the Catholic Association for Racial Justice.

### **Supply priests**

Fr David is taking advantage of a surfeit of supply priests this Sunday to take a few days' break, his first Sunday off for two and a half years. Fr Mark Odion, MSP celebrates the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses at St Thomas's, Fr Bryan Wells the Mass at Most Holy Trinity, and Canon Luke Smith at St Joseph's and St Bernadette's.

### **11:15am Mass**

The Traditional Choir leads the music today.

## THIS WEEK

### **Margaret Reid RIP**

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's on Monday at 11:30am, followed by Cremation.

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

Meets on Thursday after the 10:00am Mass. Parishioners at St Joseph's who have any matters to raise please speak to John Foley (the Secretary) or Antoni Offert (the Chairman).

### **First Holy Communion**

Dolly Anderson receives Holy Communion for the first time at the Mass at Otford on Wednesday.

### **Quiet Afternoon**

As we come up to the second anniversary of the first Covid lockdown you are invited to attend a quiet afternoon which will afford space to reflect on how we move on as life slowly returns to normal, at St Thomas's on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm, to pray,

reflect, learn to spot God at work with us, and to share and enjoy each other's company. The afternoon will be lead by Gilly Fenner. Please email Gilly at [gf58b@icloud.com](mailto:gf58b@icloud.com) to join in.

### **Mass Intentions**

We are getting quite booked up for Mass Intentions. If you want a particular date please book the Intention in good time. Either use the Mass Intention envelope, email Magda, or call in at the Parish Office (Monday—Friday mornings) to book Mass Intentions.

### **Photos of First Communicants and the Confirmed**

Please email photos of those who made their first Holy Communion or who were Confirmed in November to Magda ([sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)) if you would like them to be on the back page of the printed Newsletter. Include the child's name if you would like that to be included.

### **Calling all poetry lovers!**

A new Facebook page has just been launched called The Pilgrim Poet featuring the spiritual poetry of parishioner Gilly Fenner. Do have a look and if you enjoy the poems please feel free to like, follow and share. The poems are also available on Instagram - poetthepilgrim - and Twitter - @ThePilgrimPoet.

## OTHER NOTICES

### **Images of the Madonna and Child**

The diocese is looking for attractive images of the Madonna and Child, either an icon, picture, or a statue, which reflect different ethnic background; contact Jo Driver ([jodriver@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:jodriver@rcaos.org.uk)) if you can help.

### **Catholic Medical Ethics**

A series of lectures for university students in the healthcare field on Monday evenings - starting Monday - via MS Teams. To sign up or for more information email Laurence Jasper, Catholic Chaplain of King's College London Guy's Campus ([laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:laurence.jasper@kcl.ac.uk)), using a university email account.

### **"Come to Me" (Matthew 11:28) Healing Event in St George's Cathedral**

**10:00am—5:00pm Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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](https://bit.ly/Healing2022) or <https://bit.ly/3rw5UM8>. Teas and coffees will be available in Amigo Hall.

## The Pilgrims:

### Events in March and April during Lent

- 1<sup>st</sup> March, Tuesday: Pancake Day! Please join us in the Parish Room after the 9:30am Mass for coffee, pancakes and conversation.
- Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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, 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March (\*starts at 2:00pm)

### Refugee Appeal 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> February

SVP is holding an appeal for the following items for MEN AND BOY refugees in Northern France who are living in appalling conditions out in the open. Care4Calais charity will transport them to Northern France. They have sufficient at present for women and girls. Only NEW or GOOD as NEW items please.

MEN and BOYS S/M sizes only: coats, jogging bottoms or jeans sizes 26-34 waist, new boxer shorts preferably fitted, socks, hats, gloves, hoodies, jumpers, backpacks, sleeping bags and blankets.

Any queries feel free to phone me.

Frances Smith 07854814328. Thank you

## ORDER OF SERVICE TYPO

In the Bidding Prayers in a service sheet in St Paul's Cathedral:

*"Lord, graciously heat us."* Global warming, perhaps?

## PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for the Queen on the Platinum anniversary of her Accession;
- ◆ for Eric, recently Baptized;
- ◆ for Barry McGirr and all who have died.

*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

Stephanie Catherwood, Adriana Boulter, Alice Farrar, Eugene Emonde, Sister Gertrude, Marie Lady Temple, Mary Barrett, Annie Curtis, Martin Wood, James Lunn, Julia Brooks, William Pragnell, Agnes Duncan, Betty Crawley, Sheila Nettleingham, Charles Hatfield, John & Donald McCarthy, Reginald Palmer, Caroline Doran, James Daly, James Ratchford, Agnes Duncan, Frank Conroy, Elenor Middleton, Joan Edbrooke, Patricia Crosland, Mary Sparshott, Albert Barnes, Nora Kelleher, Patricia Nash, Emily Thorpe, Mary Connolly, Baby Christopher Glanville, Kathleen Rocke, Constance Dumaresq, Norman Woodhead, Daisy Mooney, Jean Carolin, Jon Le Sbirel, James Doherty, Lynn Rayner, Joseph Connor, John Stewart, Albert Munden, James Grigg, Auriol Wheating, Joseph McAdam, Patricia Hills, John Gordon, Edmund Eccles, Teresa Pragnell, Geoffrey Hickey.

*Eternal rest grant unto them...*



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

## The Light of Faith

Pope Benedict's third Encyclical was not the completion of the three about the theological virtues and about Faith, as one would have imagined. It was called *Caritas in Veritate* ('Love in Truth') and was about the Church's social teaching. Benedict had almost completed a draft of a fourth encyclical - called *Lumen Fidei* ('The Light of Faith') - to complete his trilogy when he resigned. His successor Pope Francis published it in 2013 shortly after he became Pope, and so it is technically an encyclical of Pope Francis although Pope Benedict wrote it, with a few additions by Francis.

Aside from an Introduction and a Conclusion the document has four main chapters. Starting with *John 12:46* ("I have come as light into the world, that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness") Benedict says that there is an urgent need to see faith as a light, "for once the flame of faith dies out, all other lights begin to dim" (§4). Faith is so powerful it can only come as a gift from God.

Chapter 1 is entitled *We have believed in Love* (cf *1 John 4:16*). This chapter looks at the history of faith,

## FAITH IS SO POWERFUL IT CAN ONLY COME AS A GIFT FROM GOD

starting as one might expect with Abraham, our father in faith, continuing with the people of Israel (and noting their temptation to unbelief: the opposite of faith is idolatry), and culminating in the fullness of Christian faith. Christ's saving death and resurrection mean that "Christian faith is thus faith in a perfect love, in its decisive power, in its ability to transform the world and to unfold its history" (§15). As the risen one Christ is deserving of faith: "if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile" (*1 Corinthians 15:17*). "Christ is not simply the one in whom we believe ... he is also the one with whom we are united precisely in order to believe" (§18). As faith is a gift of God we believe in salvation by faith (see *Ephesians 2:8*) and that faith means a life lived in the Church.

Chapter 2 is *Unless you believe, you will not understand*, a quote from *Isaiah 7:9*. Truth is central to faith: "faith without truth does not save" (§24). This understanding is needed more than ever, given the crisis of truth in our age. Truth is also inseparable from love (not an ephemeral emotion but as an experience of the truth): "without love, truth becomes cold" (§27).

Faith comes from hearing (*Romans 10:17*) and sight (see *John 11:40*). Faith is not opposed to reason, and Benedict refers to Pope St John Paul's Encyclical *Fides et Ratio*: faith and reason strengthen each other. Faith illuminates our search for God and gives rise to Christian theology.

Chapter 3 is *I delivered to you what I also received* (cf *1 Corinthians 15:3*). The Church is the mother of our faith, and faith is transmitted "through the apostolic Tradition preserved in the Church with the assistance of the Holy Spirit" (§40), and is especially passed on in the Creed, the celebration of the Sacraments, the Ten Commandments, and prayer. The faith of the Church has a unity and integrity which means that to deny even one aspect of it distorts the whole.

The fourth and final chapter is *God prepares a City for them* (cf *Hebrews 11:16*). *Hebrews* highlights that for the righteous men and women of the Old Testament (Noah, Abraham, etc) faith was a journey but also a process of building a place where human beings can live together. Faith thus serves the common good, and also is "at the service of justice, law and peace" (§51). Faith helps us to appreciate the union in love of man and woman in marriage and the richness of begetting children. It is so important that in families parents encourage faith in their children so they gradually mature in their own faith.

Faith provides a light for life in society and, by revealing the love of God the Creator, enables us to respect nature all the more. Quoting T S Eliot, the Pope says that "when faith is weakened, the foundations of life also risk being weakened" (§55). Finally, faith gives us consolation and strength amid suffering and, as ever, Mary is the model for our faith.



# SYNODAL PROCESS PARISH SUMMARY

## PART 3

### 4. Prayer and community /example

4.1. Is our prayer life as Catholics deep enough? Several emphasised the importance of the depth of prayer. Some can pray whilst others can work on the practicalities of extending the Church's mission. Non-Catholic ecclesial communities were seen by some as an example in this area (both commitment to prayer and commitment to practical action).



4.2. Many other churches are open all day whereas ours is/ are closed. Prayer and the example of prayer (including devotion to the Blessed Sacrament) are seen as tools of evangelisation in themselves.

4.3. We need to have *"concern for the sacred in our midst"*; our actions and initiatives need to have that at the forefront of all planning and execution. Are we really clear *"whom we are accompanying"*?

4.4. Could we offer a post-pandemic retreat to reach out to the marginalised or the 'unchurched'? The view was expressed that not enough has been done during the pandemic to reach out to people who were alone, fearful, unwell etc. We need to have a way of organising ourselves to make this sort of thing happen. The "we want you back" cards are not a substitute for this – especially for those who felt 'cut-off' during the height of the pandemic.

4.5. 'Big moments' in the life of faith (particularly when young) are seen as important: children's liturgy, open air masses etc as a key means of instilling and sustaining the faith.

4.6. It was recognised that our parish has an infrastructure of voluntary groups, including outreach groups: for the bereaved, St Vincent de Paul, Lectio Divina etc. At the same participation is low and/or is disproportionately dependent on the 'older' generation.

4.7. Do people know enough about what these groups are (and aren't) and how to get involved? Could we do more to provide information? *"We must ensure that the groups aren't 'cliques'"*.

4.8. *"One's own example is all-important"*. A kind word, or a "personal invitation" to the marginalised or person who has been outside the church community for whatever reason.

4.9. The greatest witnesses to the faith are *"the real stories of holding people in love"* at the deepest moments of despair or loss.

4.10. A need to *"rediscover the zeal and enthusiasm of the early disciples"* was identified. Be joyful and unafraid; always have in mind: "I have called you by your name; you are mine".

4.11. Our mission is the *"spread of God's love. Nothing else"*. *"We must channel God's compassion.....as distinct from our own"*.

4.12. *"Liturgy is the means not the end – outreach to the poor/marginalised/vulnerable/excluded must follow"*.

4.13. *"We need a more visible presence outside the confines of the church building"* – for example old people's homes, refuge centres, masses in parts of the town or parish – not just the four churches – including outdoors.

4.14. *"Could we be more 'imaginative' with the mass so that we reach out to and engage the young?"* Considerations around style and timing are very important.

4.15. *"Communion is us as a community – with Jesus Christ"*. That requires us to know each other – share skills, knowledge, help each other – only then can we achieve the goal of mission. *"We are a pilgrim people journeying together: that journey requires a true community of faith"*.

4.16. Promote the use of prayer apps, Zoom/Teams rosary sessions etc – which are accessible/convenient and can cross parish (and even international) boundaries. Our social media presence is seen as weak and it is this that can appeal to many these days. The newsletter needs to include more on *'spiritual nourishment'* – it is seen by some as 'textbook' and not inspirational.

4.17. Grandparents have a role to play in passing on the faith; conversations with grandchildren (including adult grandchildren) can sometimes have a resonance that a parent/child conversation cannot (for whatever reason) achieve. How can we nurture this?

4.18. Given the size and geographical spread of our parish, we need to work hard at maintaining the feeling of community. This is not helped by not having a parish hall. There is also a feeling that the sense of community is likely to be much stronger at the outstations than at St Thomas's; we need to think carefully about the position at St Thomas's.

4.19. There is room for a lot more 'statesmanship' at the Diocesan level (and/or Bishops' Conference level) on regional/national and international issues. The voice of the Church should be heard and not confined to the faithful.

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

### SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

### SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

In loving memory of Canon John Bailey RIP (3rd Anniversary)

Beryl Pluck RIP (Anniversary)

Racial Justice

Patricia Fleming RIP

George Rizza RIP

Frank Easterbrook (90<sup>th</sup> Birthday)

Martin & Vivienne Andrews RIP

In thanksgiving for those who have retained their health through the pandemic

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> SS CYRIL, Mk & METHIDIUS, B Patrons of Europe

8:00am

11:30am

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

9:30am

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

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

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

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

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

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

### Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> of Our Lady

9:30am

### SUNDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

Good health of Mary Scott

People of the Parish

People suffering from hunger

Rev'd Sam Gyepi-Garbrah RIP

Holy Souls

Martin Rodger (Birthday)

Archie Payne RIP (Anniversary)

And end to the pandemic 5

*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 **Eric Hoemke Romagna** who was baptized at St Thomas's last weekend.



### LATIN ANTIPHONS

#### Entrance Antiphon:

Esto mihi in Deum protectorem, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias. Quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu, et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me.

#### Communion Antiphon:

Manducaverunt, et saturati sunt nimis, et desiderium eorum attulit eis Dominus; non sunt fraudati a desiderio suo.