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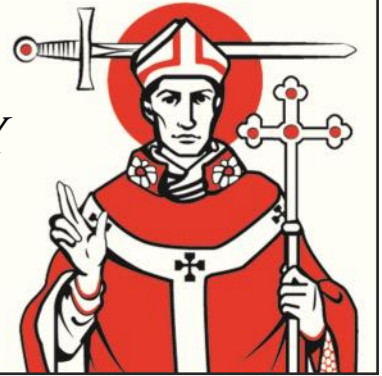
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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

20th February 2022

**MAX'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
ON SUNDAY 18TH NOVEMBER**



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

1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49; Luke 6: 27-38

First Reading: unwilling to harm 'the Lord's anointed', David spares King Saul's life. Instead he takes Saul's spear (the symbol of his royal office) and water jug (a symbol of Saul's life), to prove that Saul had been in David's hands. Here David shows his compassion and his fitness to become king.

Psalm: we live joyfully in the paradox that God is higher than the heavens, and yet like a merciful father he is close to us in love and mercy.

Second Reading: using the comparison or parallel between Adam and Christ, Paul is attempting to explain the two forms of our existence: our present life is earthly, whereas our resurrection life will be heavenly, or spiritual.

Gospel: in giving a radical list of commands - "love your enemies" etc - Jesus is not providing a new rule-book, a new list of dos and don'ts. Rather, He is telling us to be like this **because that is what God is like**. God is generous to a fault, to deserving and non deserving alike, and astonishingly merciful to everyone.

These instructions are incredibly simple and straightforward. And yet how many people actually live their lives following them?

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



Cake sale

Lucas has made cakes and is having a cake sale to help people. Follow the jumbled strings to find out which charity Lucas is helping today.



If Lucas sells all his cakes, how much money will he be giving to charity? £

Jesus tells us to treat everyone we meet with kindness and to love our neighbour, just as much as God loves each one of us.

Love others!

If we love others and do good, then Jesus says we will get a reward! Draw a picture of the reward you would like to get from God and write below what it is.



Here is your heart

In the other hearts write the names of the people you will love this week. Colour them all in.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, please help me to love other people, especially when it is hard and they are not being kind to me. Help me to remember how much you love me and to know that you are with me. Amen.

redemptorist
publications

A puzzle

How many "kind" words can you find? A new word begins with the last letter of the one before it...



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fsa 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 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)

West Kingsdown UCM:

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

Webmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

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TODAY

Supply priests

Assisting us this Sunday are Fr Bryan Wells and either Fr James, OFM Cap or Fr Lixson, OFM Cap.

THIS WEEK

Listening to you Group (formerly Bereavement Support)

All are invited to attend, on Monday between 10:30am and 12:00 midday, in the Parish Room.

Next Sunday

There will be an extra Mass at 3:00pm next Sunday, for those on year's First Holy Communion programme and their families.

Next Sunday: Clergy Support Fund second collection

"Do not reject me in my old age, nor desert me when my strength is failing" (Psalm 71:9)

This important fund provides care and support for priests in their retirement and old age, and in their ill health, after a lifetime of service and devotion to Christ, His Church, and His people.

In 2021 this Fund provided care to 71 retired priests, at a cost of £1.25 million. With the number of priests over 65 steadily increasing so too will the financial obligation to the Archdiocese. Your donations to this worthy fund ensure a dignified retirement for all of our priests. The Archbishop has written to ask you to give the Clergy Support Fund the support it deserves.

Please take an envelope home with you (available with the Newsletters) and return it to the Second Collection box/plate next weekend.

Next Sunday: SVP refugee clothes appeal

Next weekend SVP will be appealing - at all four churches - for the following items for men and boy refugees in Northern France who are living in appalling conditions in the open. Care4Calais charity will transport the items to France; they have sufficient at present for women and girls.

The following are needed (S/M sizes, only new or good as new items please): jogging bottoms or jeans sizes 26 -34 waist, new boxer shorts preferably fitted, socks, hats and gloves, hoodies and jumpers, backpacks, sleeping bags and blankets.

Any queries feel free to phone Frances Smith (07854 814328) or email sevenoakssvp@gmail.com.

NOTICES

Finance

The Crib Offering (sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem for schools in Bethlehem and the West Bank) totalled £854.01. The SPUC White Flower appeal came to £522.19, and the Pax Christi second collection was £302.15. Thank you for your generosity.

First Holy Communion/Confirmation pics

Please email these to Magda (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk) for the back page of the Newsletter.

Parish Registration

If you are new to the parish (and welcome!) or have never registered please go to the parish website (<http://www.sevrparish.org.uk/>) and click on 'PARISH REGISTRATION'. You will then receive the weekly newsmail. It also helps when Fr David has to countersign school forms etc in confirming that you are a registered parishioner.

Sevenoaks Foodbank

Thank you for your generous donations to Sevenoaks Foodbank. Over the last year, 62 new households were referred to the Foodbank and we don't expect the numbers to go down any time soon. We are on the verge of reopening our little café which adds a great socializing dimension to the service we provide. We are forever grateful for St Thomas' Parish continuing support.

Isabelle Mercer

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

ANOTHER NEWSLETTER TYPO

"Applications are now being accepted for 2 year old nursery workers". Preferable to sending them up chimneys, one supposes!

ADVANCE NOTICES

Shrove Tuesday

The Pilgrims invite you to coffee, pancakes and conversation in the Parish Room after the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday 1st March.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins on Wednesday 2nd March. Put it in your diary so you don't forget about it! Holy Mass with imposition of ashes as follows:

St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: 8:00am (Latin), 9:30am (attended by Key Stage 2

from St Thomas' School), 12:00 noon and 8:00pm

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am

St Joseph's, Borough Green: 6:00pm.

Confirmation 2021 – Pizza and Questions Evening

Attention all young people of the parish who were confirmed in November 2021: We are hosting a question-and-answer session on Saturday 5th March 2022 in the parish room from 7:00pm – 9:00pm (immediately after the 6:00pm Saturday vigil Mass) for all the newly confirmed young people of the parish. The evening will begin with pizza and an opportunity for the young people to come together again. Fr Peter will then answer some of the questions, from the question box, asked by the young people throughout the Confirmation course that we did not have the opportunity to address during the programme. Please register online for the evening by emailing Gabrielle Ellis on sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk by **Wednesday 2nd March** stating any dietary requirements.

The Pilgrims:

Events in March and April during Lent

- 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)

Stations of the Cross

At St Thomas's on Fridays at 8:00pm, starting on Friday 4th March. At Most Holy Trinity, Otford on Thursdays at 7:30pm, instead of the usual Holy Hour, starting on 3rd March.

For those wishing to participate in the Stations of the Cross online, the four recordings from last year (one for each church) will be available via the link on the Parish website.

World Day of Prayer 2022

'I know the plans I have for you'. This year the ecumenical service has been written by Christian women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Sevenoaks area service will be held at St Mary's Church of England Church, Kippington, on Friday 4th March at 2:00pm. All are welcome to the service and light refreshments afterwards.

ANNIVERSARIES

Florence Roberts, Monica Knox, Archie Payne, Mrs C Edwards, Mr J Walsh, Mary O'Driscoll, Johanna Kenward, Leslie Stuart, Richard Curtis, Madeleine Raison, Julia Pert, Kathleen Gaunt, Peter Gray, Rev Christopher Bunch, Anne Villemur, John Dean, Mary Corbett, Mary Colton, John Winzinger, Patrick Connolly, Harold Batty, Michael Molloy, Eldon Wright, Arthur Knowles, Frances Brooks, Evie Bell, Michael Neville, Amy Wilkins, Mary Ann Porteous, Carmela Galuszka.

Eternal rest grant unto them...



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Saint of the Week Saint Aethelberht

Saint Aethelberht (other spellings are sometimes used, including Ethelbert) is observed in the diocesan Calendar on Friday. Not to be confused with the probably legendary St Aethelberht, a Kentish prince supposedly martyred in the seventh century, or with Aethelberht King of Wessex, or with St Aethelberht II of East Anglia, our saint was King of Kent when St Augustine arrived in 597 and was the first English king to convert to Christianity.

The son of Eormenric, he married Bertha, daughter of Charibert I, king of the Franks. Besides bringing him an important alliance with a powerful king on the continent, the marriage also brought him the Christian faith, as Bertha was a Christian. It is possible that Queen Bertha was involved in Pope Gregory I's decision to send St Augustine on his momentous mission to these shores; he and his fellow monks landed at Ebbsfleet in east Kent in 597.

Initially Aethelberht was suspicious, and insisted on meeting the missionaries outdoors, fearful of them performing sorcery. But shortly after Aethelberht converted to Christianity, and allowed the missionaries to preach freely and found churches. The church of St Martin's in Canterbury - the king's capital and main city - is said to be the oldest church in the English speaking world. Thereafter where the king went his subjects followed, and thousands were converted in a mass Baptism on Christmas Day, 597. In a letter Pope Gregory claimed that more than 10,000 new Christians had been Baptized; the total may be an exaggeration but it is clear that mass conversions took place.

St Augustine founded a monastery of SS Peter & Paul (later known as St Augustine's Abbey) and established Canterbury as his episcopal see. The rest, as they say, is history.

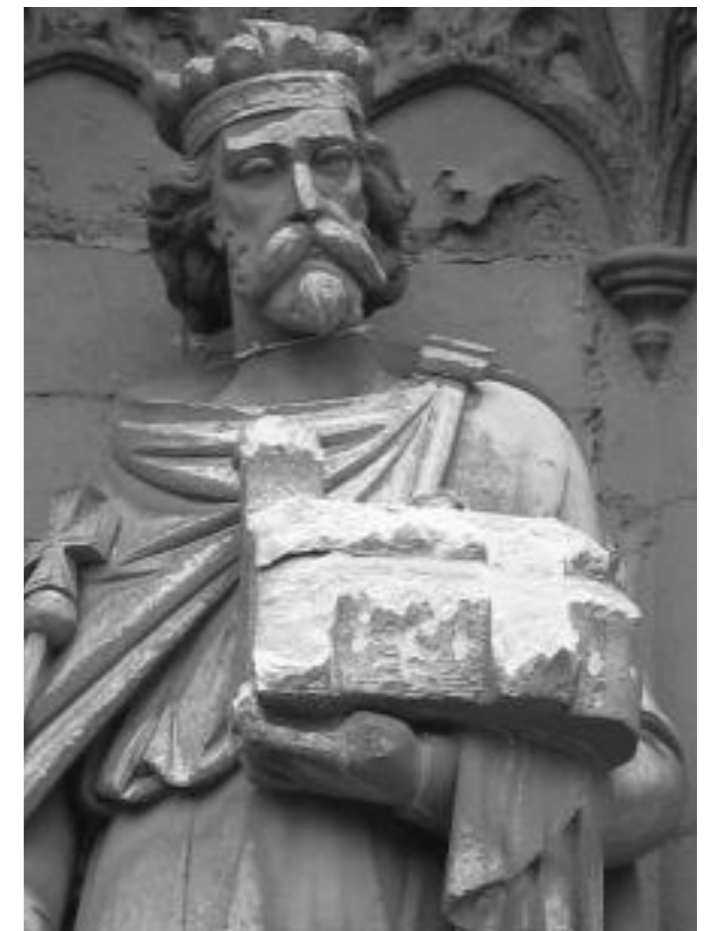
In fact there were already Christians in Kent before Queen Bertha arrived, and as the historical records don't say when Aethelberht was converted, only that he was the first English king to convert, it is possible that his conversion happened a little before St Augustine's arrival. Alternatively, it is possible that St Bede has got the dates wrong in His *Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, since the dates given would give our saint an extraordinarily long reign. Bede says that Aethelberht died in the fifty-sixth year of his reign, but he probably means fifty-sixth year of his life. He died in 616 AD.

In other achievements Aethelberht - presumably through his marriage - increased trade, not least in luxury items, across the English channel with the Franks. Grave goods of this period which have been excavated are richer and more numerous than elsewhere in the country. It would appear that Aethelberht was the dominant king, at least in the south of England, in his day. However, there is no record of him converting other kings to Christianity, other than king Sæberht of Essex.

He issued coins - gold shillings - thought to be the first minted in England since the Romans left.

St Aethelberht also issued a law code, among the earliest in any Germanic country and among the first documents written in Anglo-Saxon. Literacy, of course, spread after the arrival of Augustine's missionaries.

Aethelberht is canonised as a saint because of his role in establishing Christianity among the people of England. There is a statue of him in Canterbury, near the Cathedral and on Canterbury Cathedral itself and he is one of the jewels in the crown of the church in Kent.



ARCHDIOCESE OF SOUTHWARK CLERGY SUPPORT FUND

Father Frank O'Sullivan Ordained: 1956, Retired 23 years

A few years ago you kindly agreed to donate to a fund providing for the needs of Sick and Retired Priests – priests like me! I was ordained a priest sixty-five years ago. I have served in five parishes, and have worked in Marriage and Family life Ministry for forty years. I have learned so much from working with married couples. I retired aged 77, but for the last twenty-one years I have continued working in parishes and giving talks. In the last year I have had a few falls, and now have some medical problems. So the Archbishop decided that I deserved a bit of TLC – some tender loving care! Your generosity has made it possible for me to live in a care home while continuing to serve the local parish. The Care Home are pleased to have a priest living here. I am able to provide Catholics with a weekly Eucharist, and I offer spiritual support to the residents and staff, many of whom are Christians. Death is an ever present reality here, where there are so many sick and aged persons. So I look forward to providing the wonderful spiritual help the Church offers to those who are dying, and to their families. Thank you once again for the support your generosity is giving to Sick and Retired Priests.

Since writing this, Fr Frank has died, at the age of 99½.

Canon Michael Cooley Age: 81, Ordained: 1962, Retired 2 ½ years

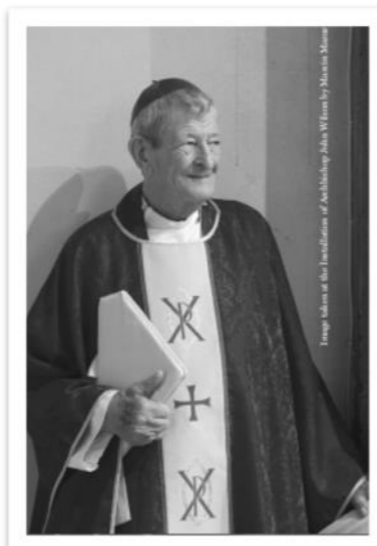


Before I retired I was the parish priest at Our Lady of La Salette & St Joseph Church near London Bridge for over thirty years. Nearing my time to take retirement, I began to explore all possible avenues: perhaps I would enjoy going to Rome a few months a year to work in the archives. I certainly wanted to keep busy whatever I did and remain in learning, as I had been a teacher before I joined the priesthood. If I was to stay within the Diocese I wanted to remain in London. I am a Londoner after all and have earned my freedom pass. It was Archbishop Peter who asked me whether I would be Chaplain for St Peter's Care Home. I was delighted to accept. It gave me a focus, a community, a central London location. It has been

ideal; I could never have worked it out myself. There are eight other retired clergy here and a wonderful sense of belonging. I say Mass every day and am joined by my fellow retired priests, who concelebrate with me. I would like to express my gratitude to those people who supported the Clergy Support Fund to ensure we are cared for once we leave parish life. Thank you!

Bishop Howard Tripp Age, 92 Ordained: 1953, Retired: 13 years

I was a parish priest many years ago from 1953 to 1971. In 1971 I became Chief Officer of the Catholic Children's Society and had the pleasure of working there for ten years. I thought I would return to parish ministry, but instead I was made an Auxiliary Bishop in 1980 for South West London. I reached my retirement age in 1997 but continued on as a Bishop until 2004, as I was still capable, and we were in need of an Auxiliary Bishop here in Southwark during that time. I retired from being a Bishop in 2004, aged 77, but continued to support parishes and local convents in Wimbledon until last year. When I broke my leg in 2016 I was amazed at the concern shown to me. After an operation I went for a rigorous course of physiotherapy and a short period of convalescence with the Little Sisters of the Poor, supported for and funded by the Diocese. I thank, most sincerely, all those who have supported the Clergy Support Fund. I have been retired for 13 years and I am truly blessed that so many people are generous in their support of us, their clergy.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 20th FEBRUARY

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
6:00pm
9:30am *Otford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown* An end to the pandemic

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)

Monday 21st Feria

8:00am Tim Kelly RIP

Tuesday 22nd The CHAIR of S PETER, Ap

9:30am John Anthony Gordon RIP
Baby Niamh Olivia Glynn RIP

Wednesday 23rd S Polycarp, B M

8:00am Michael McBrien RIP
10:00am *Otford* Margaret Sherrott RIP

Thursday 24th Feria

10:00am *Borough Green* Frank Haggarty RIP
12:00noon Marie Lourdes Radegonde RIP

Friday 25th S Æthelberht, King

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

Saturday 26th of Our Lady

9:30am Private Intention

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

Julia Pert RIP
Good intentions of thee donor's family
The Unemployed
Jacques de Villoutrey RIP
Children attending FHC Programme
People of the Parish
Those in care & nursing homes in our Parish
Jon Le Sbirel RIP
Maria Meaney RIP

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

Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken Holmes, Mary Scott and all in care and nursing homes

Departed

Please pray for the souls of
Bart McGirr
Frank Haggarty
Bridget Jones
who have recently departed.

*Prayer for All
The Faithful Departed.*

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual
light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance: Domine, in tua misericordia speravi. Exsultavit cor meum in salutari tuo, cantabo Domino, qui bona tribuit mihi.

Communion: Domine, ego credidi quia tu es Christus Filius Dei vivi, qui in hunc mundum venisti.