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?

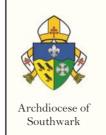
Please email: sevenoaks@ rcaos.org.uk for further details.





JACK'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION ON SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER





PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Y

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 27th February 2022



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

Sirach 27: 5-8; Psalm 91; 1 Corinthians 15: 54-58; Luke 6: 39-45

First Reading: this *Proverbs* like text from *Sirach* speaks of the words of a person as a reflection of that person's character and refers to the fruit of a tree, and doubtless the compilers of the Lectionary selected this to parallel and reinforce our Lord's words in today's *Gospel*.

Psalm: as ever our response to blessings from God should be thanksgiving. Again there is the reference to fruit: the righteous will be like an ancient tree still bearing fruit.

Second Reading: St Paul here imagines death as like a scorpion, with its deadly sting, and the sting which leads to death is sin. Our sin causes our (eternal) death. Fortunately Jesus Christ has remedied this fatal situation.

Gospel: the Pharisees and other religious teachers of our Lord's day were trying to fine tune the law, with lots of rules and regulations, trying to make Israel holier and holier as a way of separating their nation *from* other nations. But in doing this they were missing the point: Israel should be a light *to* the nations.

Jesus' words about fruits and trees indicate that He is inviting us in today's *Gospel* to a completely new way of life, a change which will require a change of heart, a realignment of our fundamental attitude to others.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm Wednesday 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:**

8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 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 Lituray 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 Lituray 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 Principal:** Katherine Sexton Academy Principal: Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN

MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN







Fill this heart with lots and lots of good things - the faces of people you love, flowers, kind words and your own ideas.

Thank you, Jesus, for filling my heart with love. Help me to share your love and goodness by treating the people I meet with kindness, especially if they annoy me. Help me to follow your example. Amen.

redemporist



Look very carefully and copy the eye into the grid. Opposites

Jesus said that good people do good things and bad people do bad things.

happy

sad

Example

cold

good Match up these opposites.

careful

worst little

bad

best

Wordsearch

Look very carefully to find these words in the grid:

careless

EYE LOVE

P	L	A	N	K
D	0	0	G	J
M	٧	E	Y	E
н	E	Α	R	Т
S	E	L	F	N

Look, Edited by Rochel Thompson, Design by Emma Repettl, Copyright © Redemptortal Publications, Walf's Lane, Cha Hampshire, GU34 3HO. A registered chartly limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721, www.rpbooks.

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER Website: www.sevrcparish.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 sevenoakssg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

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

Adoration

Barry Authers adoration@sevrcparish.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 sevenoaksclow@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 Hurll chris.hurll@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

Sean Corrigan sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk

Holy Trinity Committee

Secretary: Barry Authers sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

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

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 andrewwilkos@gmail.com

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Paul Boyle 07796564018

Kathie Gonzalez sevenoakssvp@gmail.com

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)

West Kingsdown UCM:

Monica Biggs mmdbbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

10 Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

TODAY

Day for the Unemployed

In the Bishops' Cycle of Prayer today is a day when we are asked to pray for the Unemployed, and to give thought to the subject. Catholic social teaching tells us we cannot be indifferent to unemployment or condone the use of unemployment as an economic tool.

Clergy Support Fund Second Collection

The Archbishop has written to ask you to support with great generosity this important Collection. In 2021 this Fund provided care to 71 retired priests, after a lifetime of dedicated service to the people of God, at a cost of f1.25 million.

SVP Refugee Clothes Appeal

Please place the items requested last week in the baskets provided by the SVP. They will then sort the items and donate them to Care4Calais who will take them to northern France. Contact Frances Smith (07854 814328 or sevenoakssyp@gmail.com) if you can help in this process.

Supply priests

Assisting us again this Sunday are Fr Bryan Wells and Fr James Boner, OFM Cap.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group lead our music today.

First Holy Communion Mass 3:00pm

Today there is an extra Mass for children on this year's First Holy Communion programme and their families. If your child is on this year's course please make every effort to attend this Mass.

THIS WEEK

Shrove Tuesday

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

Bart McGirr RIP

Bart's body will be received into St Bernadette's on Wednesday at 4:00pm. His Funeral Mass will be at 10:00am on Thursday, followed by Committal at Eltham Crematorium.

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 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to the service and light refreshments afterwards. Also at 11:00am at St George's Church of England Church at Wrotham.

2021 Confirmation - Pizza & Questions Evening Attention all the young people who were Confirmed in November 2021!

We are hosting a Question-and-Answer session on Saturday in the Parish Room from 7:00pm - 9:00pm, immediately after the 6:00pm Mass, for the newly Confirmed only.

The evening will begin with pizza and an opportunity for you all to come together again. Fr Peter will then answer the questions from the question box that we did not have the opportunity to address during the programme.

Please register for the evening by emailing Gabrielle Ellis by Wednesday at sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos. org.uk, stating any dietary requirements.

NOTICES

Diocesan vacancy

A Priests' Welfare Officer is required: more details on the diocesan website www.rcsouthwark.co.uk.

The Passage (the Catholic homeless charity)

St David's Day concert on Thursday at 7:30pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist Ryan Vaughan Davies. Tickets (£20) at passage.org.uk/st-davids-davconcert or telephone 020 7592 1856.

9:15am Mass Children's Liturgy of the Word

For the time being it will run on the first and third Sundays of the month, and initially it will be for children in Years R, 1 and 2.

In order to expand it back to every week and for all pre First Holy Communion year children we need more catechists and parents to assist. The more there are the less frequently it comes around! CLOW catechists must be DBS checked for the parish first. Please contact Mark O'Prey (sevenoaksclow@rcaos.org.uk) if you can possibly help in this way. And please spread the word that it is restarting.

A Newsletter typo

"The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir."

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

ANNIVERSARIES

Eugenie Hopkins, Freda Mead, John Cooney, Rev. Noel Lewenz, Christopher Spellacy, Frances Davies, Anthony Aftergutt, Pauline Vavasour, Alfred Lawrence, James Gannon, Kathleen Mitchell, Maureen Kenny, Bill Keating, Ann Mullan, Anne Jenkins, Jacqueline Turpin, Ellen Clark, Peter Galvin, Becky Simmonds, Mary Oram, Margaret Coghlan, Edith Withers, Germaine Davies, John Phillips.

Eternal rest grant unto them...

PLEASE PRAY

- ♦ for an end to the pandemic;
- for the unemployed and for government policies to end unemployment;
- ♦ for refugees in northern France;
- ♦ for sick and retired priests.
- 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.

LENT

Lent is the season of preparation for Easter. The candidates and catechumens on our RCIA programme prepare for their Reception or Baptism into the Church at the Easter Vigil. The rest of us prepare, by prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, for the great Solemnity of our Lord's Resurrection.

Ash Wednesday (2nd)

The first day of Lent is a day of fasting (going without food) and abstinence (not having alcohol or other luxuries). Holy Mass with the imposition of ashes:

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.

In addition there will be an age-appropriate Liturgy with ashing in St Thomas's School in the afternoon for the children in early years.

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.

Adoration & Benediction on Sundays, 5:00pm in St Thomas's

Starting on the First Sunday of Lent there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 5:00pm every Sunday in Lent in St Thomas's, concluding with Benediction at 5:30pm. Why not make this your extra Lenten prayer?

Lent Course:

A Practical Introduction to Intimate Prayer

Fr Peter will be offering a Lent course on **Thursday evenings at 8:00pm** for the first six weeks of Lent. Each session will consist of a 20 minute talk about the life of prayer, followed by a 20 minute time of silence, in which participants are invited to pray using a different method each week. The evenings will conclude with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and - for those who wish - refreshments and the chance to ask questions or discuss further.

3rd March − Basics of an authentic life of prayer

10th March − Problems in prayer

17th March – Hearing God

24th March – Prayer & our conversion

31st March – Prayer & our salvation

7th April - The Examination of Conscience

It is hoped that the course will offer those who struggle with prayer a 'way in' to this important aspect of the spiritual life. For those who may already be regular and familiar with their life of prayer it will, hopefully, offer the chance to experience some new ways of praying, which can be important, at times, to help refresh and renew way in which we spend time with the Lord.

Confessions

Every Saturday in St Thomas's, 10:00am - 11:00am and 5:15pm - 5:45pm. For COVID safety we are using the side Chapel rather than the Reconciliation Chapel at the moment.

Confessions can also be heard after any Mass (at both St Thomas's and at the outstations). Don't be shy about asking one of the visiting priests to hear your Confession. Remember: Confession is not an optional extra for the pious; it is required for all Catholics at least once a year.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

St Thomas Aguinas on Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving

To help us to formulate our Lenten discipline of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving I have been looking at what the 'Doctor Angelicus' St Thomas Aquinas has to say about them.



Praver

St Thomas wrote more about prayer than anything, and is known as the 'theologian of prayer'. Prayer he says is **the petitioning of honest things from God**. Prayer is not complicated but rather very simple: it is the prayer of a mother who lights a candle for her child's well-being, it is the prayer of a hermit praying for the salvation of the world, it is the prayer of a drug addict pleading to get out of the vicious cycle in which he is trapped.

What does prayer do? We must avoid two extremes: that prayer has no effect whatsoever or that prayer can in some way change the eternal dispositions of God. Against the first many passages of Scripture (eg *Luke* 18) speak of the efficacy of prayer. Against the second error we must remember that God is immutable (*Malachi* 3:6).

Prayer is part of man's participation in God's governance of the universe; our prayer is not intended to change God's will but "to implore what God has disposed to accomplish through prayer". It is rather like a father who does not need his small son's help in a project nevertheless out of love getting him to join in. And prayer brings us many benefits: it reminds us that we need God's help and teaches us humility, and it enables us to glorify God, the source of all goodness and mercy.

Prayer is one of the pillars of Lent, but truly it is a necessary pillar of the entire Christian life. If prayer isn't an integral part of your life, now is the time to start!

Fasting

St Thomas in his *Summa Theologica* reminds us about virtuous acts and then gives three important reasons for fasting: "an act is virtuous through being directed by reason to some virtuous good. Now this is consistent with fasting, because fasting is practised for a threefold purpose".

The first reason is **to conquer lust**. "Fasting is the guardian of chastity" he says. Lust is cooled by abstinence in meat and drink. That is to say, denying ourselves food and drink helps us to control our other appetites and passions. Practising self-denial in one area helps us to practice temperance in other areas.

Secondly, fasting helps our minds rise above material things and contemplate heavenly realities. He quotes *Daniel* 10, in which we read that Daniel received a revelation from God after fasting for three weeks. When we are not distracted by a preoccupation with food and drink, or lulled into inertia after a good meal, we can more readily focus our attention on God.

The third reason is **to atone for our sins**. There are, says St Thomas, few better ways to offer repentance for our sins than by fasting. We need good, healthy food and it is a blessing. But at times (especially in Lent and on Fridays, the day of our Lord's death) it is good to fast and offer the discomfort and pangs of hunger to God, in reparation for our sins.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is necessary for salvation. Love of neighbour, says St Thomas, is a matter of precept (that is, a commandment of God). And love of neighbour means not just wishing one's neighbour well, but being also his well-doer. To love one's neighbour we must succour his needs. We will be judged on our almsgiving. To refuse help to the needy neighbour is to refuse Christ.

He makes the sensible point that the recipient should be in real and serious need, else there would be no reason to give him alms. And we can't relieve the needs of all, only those we can help. If you ask 'how much should I give' it sounds as if you are trying to squeak by with the bare minimum; it is not a question of the amount but of one's interior motive and generosity. Almsgiving must not hope for anything in return, and alms can be in forms other than money. The more you try sacrificial giving the deeper the joy you will receive. Aquinas considered almsgiving the general and principal work of mercy.

WHAT I DO IN MY DISCIPLESHIP IN CHRIST

The first in an occasional series by parishioners about their particular ministry or service of Christ and His Church is by Catherine Rodger. In the parish Catherine organises the annual Women's and Men's Retreats. If you would like to write an article for the Newsletter about your ministry please email it to Magda.

I have spoken with Fr David about the vivid ecumenical work I have seen as a parishioner in Sevenoaks and in my work over the last 14 years as a Family Therapist at Sevenoaks Counselling. He has asked me to share some of this with you.

16 years ago I met a child counsellor at a Lent ecumenical group who told me about what was then known as Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service. The service had an inspirational beginning as it was set up in response to perceived need for affordable open ended counselling in the area by the Christian community. It serves anyone who lives in the local area and has grown from being one counsellor to a team of people who offer a range of counselling and therapeutic services to the local community. Most generously the United Reform Church (Christchurch) gives us our accommodation for free.

I work there one day a week; other counsellors do the same or sometimes 2 days a week. The counsellors and myself are self employed and are paid a fixed lower rate for each sessions which allows those who can afford it to pay more and those who cannot to pay less. The counsellors have a range of different religious backgrounds and spiritualities. It is a privilege to work there. We have some impressive volunteers who work as administrators on a rota and a separate team of trustees who offer support and wisdom to our Head of Service. Most of the Christian churches in Sevenoaks contribute to the upkeep of the service, often by having a collection or special event for us. There is no evangelical mission involved in our work at Sevenoaks Counselling other than one of service.

I have witnessed the excellent work provided by the Befrienders group which visits individuals who have said that they would value this contact. People are given training and supervision when they take on this commitment. Again this is held ecumenically across the Christian churches.

A more recent offshoot from this is Sevenoaks For Families which has been operating for the last few years offering a similar service to families on a regular basis. I offer supervision to this impressive group of volunteers who come from different Christian churches. The food bank is another initiative which is supported by volunteers from all the Christian churches as well as from other committed members of the community. While our own SVP offers support on an ecumenical basis to the whole community. I feel I have only scratched the surface.

I am very thankful to be part of some of this and thank you to all the people who quietly get on with doing their bit whom I have failed to mention. I know there are many.

Catherine Rodger

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Julia Pert RIP

8:00am (Latin) Good intentions of the donor's family

9:15am The Unemployed

11:15am Jacques de Villoutrey RIP

Natalia Hearn RIP

3:00pm Children attending FHC Programme

6:00pm People of the Parish

9:30am *Otford* Those in care & nursing homes in our Parish

9:30am Borough Green Jon Le Sbirel RIP 11:00am West Kingsdown Maria Meaney RIP

Monday 28th Feria

8:00am Mary Caldwell RIP

Tuesday 1st MARCH S DAVID, B Patron of Wales

9:30am Fr Joe Andradi

Wednesday 2nd ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00am (Latin) Michael McBrien RIP

9:30am World Peace

12:00noon Barry Griffiths RIP

8:00pm Kathleen Connelly (Birthday)

10:00am *Otford* Private Intention 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Nora Kurowski RIP

6:00pm Borough Green Well-being of Deidre & David Thomas

Thursday 3rd Thursday after Ash Wednesday (World Day of Prayer)

10:00am Borough Green Phillis Kilpatrick RIP

12:00noon Fr William Cunningham RIP

Friday 4th Friday after Ash Wednesday

8:00am World Peace 10:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Saturday 5th Saturday after Ash Wednesday

9:30am Marie Stevenson RIP SUNDAY 6th MARCH FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Donor's Intention

8:00am (Latin) Barbara de Havilland RIP (Birthday)

5

9:15am People of the Parish
11:15am George Rizza RIP
6:00pm Fr David Hutton
9:30am Otford Peace in Ukraine
9:30am Borough Green Michael Smith RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown Barry McGirr 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

Baptism

Welcome to

Ralph Jerry Castillo

&

Luna Wisniewska

who were baptized at St Thomas's last weekend.

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: Factus est
Dominus protector meus,
et eduxit me in
latitudinem, salvum me
fecit, quoniam voluit me.

Communion: Cantabo Domino, qui bona tribuit mihi, et psallam nomini Domini Altissimi.