





Rite of Election at St George's Cathedral on 5th March 2022. Names (from left to right) in the photo with Fr Peter are Steve Webster, Kelly Powell, Hannah-Pippa Gibb and Michael Hardy.

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY Archdiocese of **SEVENOAKS** Southwark

### CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



Today's Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of LENT (Year C) At Masses except the 11:15am Mass: Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15; Psalm 102; 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12; Luke 13: 1-9

First Reading: on Mt Horeb (also known as Mt Sinai) Moses encounters God ('I Am') in the burning bush who promises, in his compassion for his people, to deliver them from slavery in Egypt.

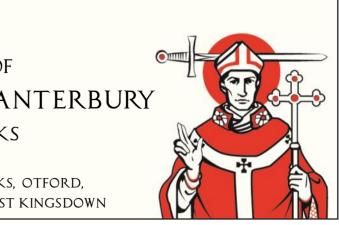
**Psalm:** a psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God, who 'is compassion and love'.

Second Reading: during the Offertory the priest takes the chalice and says the wine 'will become our spiritual drink', a phrase taken from this passage.

Gospel: the parable of the fig tree is one of the many 'parables of mercy' to be found in *Luke*. If we understand the vine dresser to be God, then the parable speaks of how God will give the sinner more time to repent and start doing good works. If the vine dresser stands for the Christian disciple, it encourages us to give offenders a second chance and to expend effort (*'time* to dig round it and manure it) in helping them rehabilitate.

At the 11:15am Mass: Exodus 17: 3-7; Psalm 94; Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8; John 4: 5-42 These Year A readings are used when those on the RCIA programme have their First Scrutiny. The Gospel story of the Samaritan woman at the well - with its themes of water, true worship, belief in Christ, and conversion of others - has a clear meaning to those preparing for Baptism and Reception into the Church, but also for the rest of us these readings speak of profound realities of eternal life and true prayer. The First Scrutiny and Presentation of the Creed - after the Homily - replace the usual Bidding Prayers.

Fr Davíd



20<sup>th</sup> March 2022

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday

Tuesday

Sunday 8:00am (Latin) 9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word) 11:15am 6:00pm

8:30am - 9:30am

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times: 8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday Thursday 12:00noon Friday 8:00am Saturday 9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

10:00am - 10:30am,

5:15pm - 5:45pm

Saturday



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



ST JOSEPH'S

BOROUGH GREEN

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am

(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)

Thursday 10:00am

Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Liturgy of the Word) Wednesday 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

Church contact: Antoni Offert Tel: 07513 041075 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

## Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG



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 Adoration: Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC

PRIMARY SCHOOL

South Park,

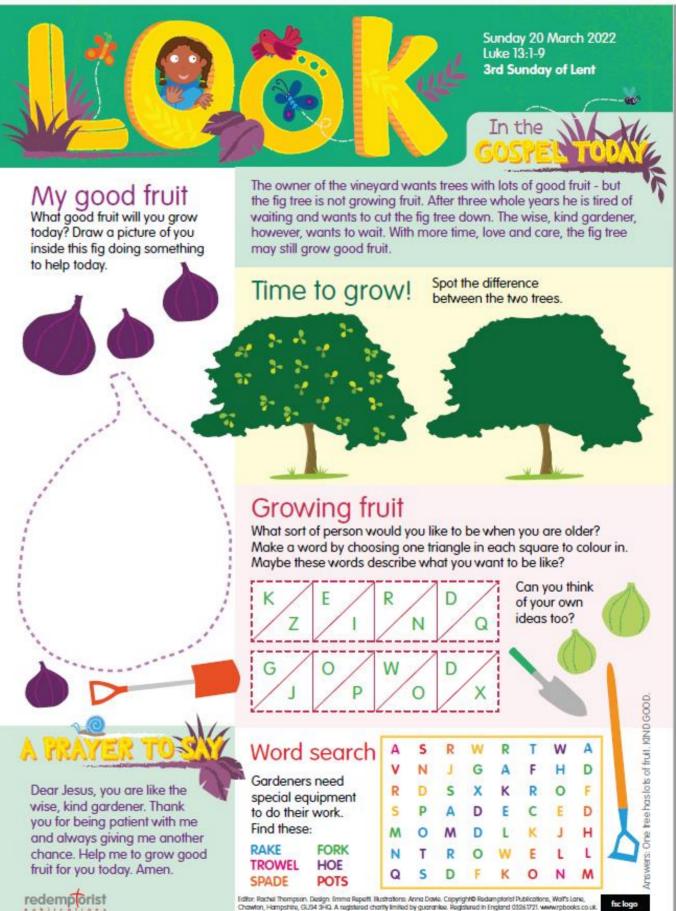
Sevenoaks. TN13 1EH

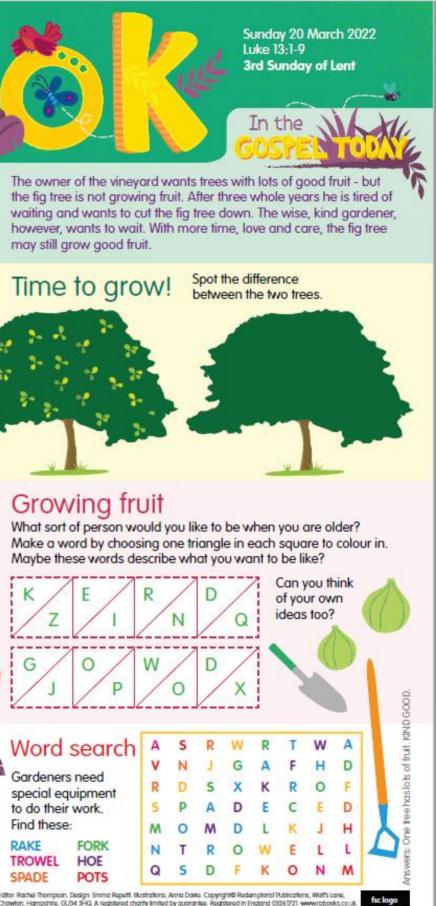
www.saintthomas.co.uk

Church contacts: Jill & John Gobel Tel: 01474 853676 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Executive Head: Mrs Katherine Sexton Academy Principal: Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

# GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN





# 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

Church Flowers (St Thomas's) Maria Boehne mgbseal@hotmail.co.uk

**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

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

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 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 Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

## TODAY

#### Supply priests

Assisting us this Sunday are Fr Bryan Wells and Canon Luke Smith.

#### Adoration & Benediction

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this afternoon (Sunday) at 5:00pm in St Thomas's, with Benediction at 5:30pm.

### THIS WEEK

#### Monday: Listening to You Group

From 10:30am - 12:00noon in the Parish Room, for all navigating bereavement, grief or loss. We offer a warm welcome and a safe, informal space to talk and be heard. Simply drop in, no need to let us know you are coming.

#### Monday: Walking the Church

Fr David is providing the RCIA group with an explanatory tour of St Thomas's Church on Monday at 7:00pm, guiding the group through the full meaning and richness of Catholic Churches as places of the divine presence and worship. Anyone is welcome to attend. You can also view on the parish website (in Parish YouTube Videos) a video called What it means to be Church - walking our Church buildings, prepared as a lockdown alternative.

#### Tuesday

Year 4 attend the 9:30am Mass. As always parents and family members are especially invited to attend.

**Piermario Lichi RIP** 

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's at 11:00am on Tuesday.

#### **Thursday: Catenian Stations of the Cross**

On Tuesday at 8:00pm in St Joseph's, Borough Green the Catenians will lead Stations of the Cross (which they kindly donated to the new church). They will use Monsignor Dicken's devotions and invite everyone to join them. St Joseph's parishioners are especially invited to attend.

#### Friday: Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord

Holy Mass at 8:00am at St Thomas's and at 10:00am at St Bernadette's. Today we genuflect in the Creed at the words and was incarnate.

#### Next Sunday: Mothering Sunday

We look forward to welcoming the mothers of the parish to Mass next weekend on their special day.

# PARISH NOTICES

### LENT

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

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 ?

#### Stations of the Cross

See left for Stations at St Joseph's this week. At St Thomas's on Fridays at 8:00pm. At Most Holy Trinity, Otford on Thursdays at 7:30pm, instead of the usual Holy Hour. At St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown on Fridays at 7:30pm. For those wishing to participate in the Stations of the Cross online, the four recordings from last year (one for each church) are available via the link on the Parish website.

### Lent Course: A Practical Introduction to Intimate Prayer

Fr Peter's Lent course is on Thursday evenings at 8:00pm. Each session will consist of a 20 minute talk about the life of prayer, a 20 minute time of silence, in which participants are invited to pray using a different method each week, and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Refreshments afterwards.

This week – Praver & our conversion

31<sup>st</sup> March – Prayer & our salvation

7<sup>th</sup> April - The Examination of Conscience.

### Friday: Afternoon Lent Prayer Group and Pilgrims

There is no prayer group this Monday as it is transferred to Friday afternoon, so that we can celebrate in prayer the Solemnity of the Annunciation. At 2:30pm, followed by tea. Please join us if you can. The next Monday afternoon Prayer Group will be on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm.

#### 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.

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## NOTICES

#### Most Holy Trinity, Otford Prayers for Ukraine

You are invited to join in the Rosary after each Sunday Mass until Easter to pray for peace in Ukraine. If the weather is fine we will congregate in the garden at Our Lady's shrine or, if wet, remain in the church.

#### SVP Palm Sunday Second Collection

The parish SVP is making the whole focus of this year's Palm Sunday second collection those who are suffering in Ukraine from the tragic events resulting from the invasion of that country. The collection will be sent to DePaul International, the world umbrella body for national SVPs. They, and most other charities, believe that it is important to provide money to organisations on the spot, rather than trying to collect and ship clothes and other supplies, as they are in the best position to know what is needed and where. This will also get round the problems of shipping sometimes bulky goods across Europe, with the delays that that will entail.

If you would like to know more about DePaul International and their Ukraine appeal, this link is to their website: https://int.depaulcharity.org/. For bank transfer donations to the parish SVP, please use the following bank details (payment reference Ukraine appeal):

Sort code: 60-60-04

Account no: 46076484

Account name: St Vincent de Paul Society. Apart from the recent CAFOD collection this will be the main parish collection for Ukraine.

#### A parishioner reflects on her faith

The latest in our series of interviews by Andrew La Trobe is now on the parish website: an interview with Gina Hartnett. On the home page of the website (http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/) click on 'Parish YouTube Videos' and you can watch it.

#### Mothering Sunday cards

The Repository in St Thomas's has a good selection of Mothering Sunday cards, to buy before next Sunday. Price as marked; please put the money in the wall box marked 'Repository'.

#### **Calling all volunteers:**

#### **Deanery Day for Parish Volunteers**

Via your group's leader you should all have received an invitation to join a special event to meet your local Deanery Mentors and hear more about the Archbishop's vision for the diocese, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April at 2:00pm at Corpus Christi, Tonbridge. A fun afternoon meeting other amazing Catholics like you 4 who support all the great things our parishes do, big and small. Find out how we can support you and ways you can work together to help our parishes grow and flourish. RSVP please to Liz Corcoran (Deanery Formation Mentor): fdmtunbridgewells@rcaos.org.uk.

### Presbytery and St Thomas's Church internet and phones

We have been experiencing numerous internet connection and phone problems in the last two weeks. Apologies if you have been inconvenienced. We hope the internet in the church and the livestreaming are now back to normal. Last time this happened BT blamed squirrels jumping on the telephone lines!

#### **Post Confirmation session**

On 5th March 15 young people came and enjoyed a Q&A session (and pizza) with Fr Peter, a reunion since their Confirmation last November. Along with some of the Catechists they enjoyed a really fruitful conversation around some fundamental questions that young Catholics (as well as the not so young!) find challenging to grapple with - many of which had come up during the course of the Confirmation Programme. It was wonderful to spend time - with thanks to both the young people who came and Fr Peter for a really good evening - in dialogue with younger members of our Parish to help them feel confident in their relationship with Christ. We will schedule more of these: watch the newsletter!

#### Advance Notice: Parish Garden Party

The Garden Party is back and will be on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, in the Presbytery garden, from 12:30pm. Save the date now! Free food and drink as usual. If you can run a stall, children's games, make food, generally help etc please contact Ben Andradi: Ben.Andradi@gmail.com.

#### Lenten Quiet Day

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 10:00am - 4:00pm at the Poult House Barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU, led by Gilly Fenner. Please bring a camping chair and a packed Lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes. Suggested contribution: £5. To attend please email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ♦ for an end to the pandemic;
- ♦ for peace in Ukraine;
- ♦ for God's help in observing prayer, fasting and almsgiving this Lent;
- ♦ for the catechumens and candidates on our RCIA programme.



## From the Desk of the Parish Priest





oday's Gospel (except when the Year A Readings are used for the Scrutinies) is the Parable of the Fig Tree. What lessons does it give us as we continue our Lenten iournev?

The Gospels aside, we know that Pontius Pilate, the Governor of Judaea, was a nasty piece of work. The Jewish historian Josephus recounts many episodes in which Pilate trampled on the people's sensibilities. One of these was an incident when Pilate had some pilgrims offering sacrifice in the Temple slaughtered, perhaps fearing a riot. The Gospel speaks of the pilgrims' blood being "mingled with that of their sacrifices". On top of the human tragedy this polluted the very holiest of places for the Jews.

We don't know of the other incident, to which Jesus refers, but presumably there was some sort of building accident at Siloam (which is just south of the Temple) which killed many people.

"Some people arrived and told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with that of their sacrifices". The people are not just telling Jesus the latest news. Remember, He has come up to Jerusalem from Galilee, at the head of a group of pilgrims. They are really asking if Jesus intends to continue His journey, despite what might happen to Him. Secondly they are also asking what this all means: were the Galileans punished and is there worse to come?

In His reply Jesus addresses the second of these unspoken questions. (We know the answer to the first unspoken question: of course Jesus will and must continue, even to His death.) The pilgrims killed by Pilate, like the victims of the tower collapse, were no more sinful than anyone else. This, incidentally, gives us our belief that if something horrible happens to a person it is not because God is punishing them for some transgression.

Jesus' reply is the key to understanding this passage: "unless you repent you will all perish as they did". Jesus isn't talking about perishing in hell after they die. What He means - in this and other passages in this section of the Gospels - is that those who refuse his summons to repent, to change direction, to abandon the fight against the Roman occupiers, will suffer the consequences. If the people of Jerusalem ignore His call to repentance they will perish by the sword at the hands of the Romans or perish in the inevitable siege

which would follow an armed rebellion. Those who take the sword will perish by the sword.

Jesus' warning about the consequences of not heeding his call is elaborated by the, at once humorous and sinister, parable of the fig tree in the vineyard. Fig trees were often planted in vineyards, as they help the grapes. There are two ways of understanding the parable.

Jesus Himself could be the vineyard-owner, and the three years could refer to his period of public ministry, in which He has preached repentance but found very little of it. He is prepared to give the people of Jerusalem one last chance to repent. If they refuse, their doom is sealed.

Alternatively, perhaps the vineyard-owner is God, seeking fruit, and the man who looks after it is Jesus. In this case God's patience is wearing thin but Jesus is trying to restore the tree to life in one last attempt to avoid its final verdict.

Either way, the end result is the same: "if not, then you can cut it down". We know that - after declining to follow the way of peace Jesus advocated - the people of Jerusalem suffered the destruction of the Temple in AD70.

Today's Gospel asks many questions of us. What is going on in our world today? How is God involved? What is God doing in our own lives? Are we bearing fruit for God's kingdom? Do we repent and turn away from earthly ways so as to follow the way of Christ, the way of self-sacrificing love?



# THE 12 MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

from the diocesan website

1. Disciples are called - Jesus invited the fishermen to leave their nets and follow him. God always initiates the relationship and pursues us first, for he 'came to seek out and to save the lost.' (Lk 19:10).

2. Disciples accept Jesus' call - The choice to be a disciple is an intentional one, which one must make in response to God's love for us.

3. Disciples trust God - Just as Peter and Andrew 'left their nets and followed him'. discipleship often means leaving our past behind and following Jesus with faith. (Mt 4:20).

4. Disciples love others - Jesus said that 'by this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another. (Jn 13:35)

5. Disciples bear spiritual fruit. The fruit in our lives proves that we are disciples of Christ, as we continue to abide in him, the true Vine.

6. Disciples obey their master - Jesus said that we are his friends if we do what he has commanded (Jn 15:14). Obedience deepens our intimacy with the Lord.

7. Disciples are docile - This means that disciples of the Lord are teachable. Whatever they learn from Jesus, they try to implement in their own lives.

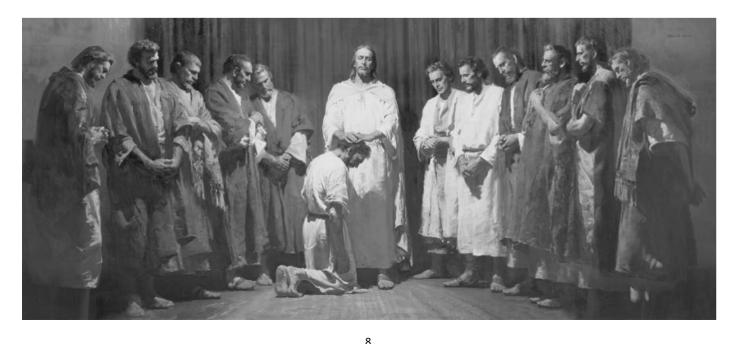
8. Disciples spend alone time with Jesus - The disciples were Jesus' closest friends. They shared some of their most intimate moments with him. As disciples, we are called to invest in our relationship with the Lord, by spending quality time with him in prayer and Eucharistic Adoration.

9. Disciples carry their cross - Jesus said 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.' (Lk 9:23) Suffering is part of the cost of discipleship.

10. Disciples serve others - When feeding the five thousand, the disciples volunteered to distribute the food. In the same way, disciples are called to serve others through the seven corporal acts of mercy.

11. Disciples are committed - Discipleship requires that no one looks back when following Jesus. Disciples set their eyes on the treasures of heaven and keep an eternal perspective.

12. Disciples evangelise - Disciples share the gift of the Gospel and make other disciples. The joy of knowing Jesus overflows in their lives that they feel compelled to share the Good News of what Jesus has done for them with others.



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

SUNDAY 20 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)
6:00pm (Sat)	World Peace
8:00am (Latin)	Peace in Ukraine
9:15am	Private Intention
11:15am	Frank Griffiths RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am Otford	World Peace
9:30am Borough Green	Benjamin Shaw RIP (1 <sup>st</sup>
11:00am West Kingsdow	n Barry McGirr RIP
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> Feria	
8:00am	All deceased of Andrad
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feria	
9:30am	Eamonn Murphy RIP
11:00am	Funeral Mass - Pierma
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feria	
8:00am	Peace in Ukraine
10:00am Otford	Frank Haggarty RIP
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> Feria	
10:00am Borough Green	Peace in Ukraine
12:00noon	Donor's good health
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> The ANNUNCIATIO	N of the LORD
8:00am	Fr Derek Grafton RIP
10:00am West Kingsdow	n Peace in Ukraine
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria</i>	
9:30am	Lionel L. R. Edward RIP
SUNDAY 27 <sup>th</sup> MARCH	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C
6:00pm (Sat)	Conrad RIP (Birthday)
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Peace in Ukraine
11:15am	Margaret Griffiths RIP
6:00pm	World Peace
9:30am Otford	Peace in Ukraine
9:30am Borough Green	Joseph McDermott RIP
11:00am West Kingsdow	n UCM, Mothers and car
	n



### Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially: Deidre Thomas. Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken Holmes, Mary Scott, Ssenogga Frank and all in care and nursing (1<sup>st</sup> Anniversary) homes Anniversaries Iradi-Brown family Rosie Gilbert. Barbara Spencer, Malcolm McCulloch, Doreen Curtis, William Cook, Joan Gregory, Fr mario Lichi RIP Derek Grafton, Dr Lionel Edwards, Winifride Pearce, John Capeling, Col Patrick Creagh, Hubert Cramer, Grahame King, Edward Kenny, Margaret Mooney, Josephine Adair, Joan Errity, Herbert Boak, Stanley Campbell, Mariano Lobo, Elizabeth Pope. Eternal rest grant unto them... RIP (Anniversary)

IT (C) iy)

RIP carers everywhere

## LATIN **ANTIPHONS**

Entrance Oculi mei semper ad Dominum, quia ipse evellet de laqueo pedes meos. Respice in me et miserere mei, quoniam unicus et pauper sum ego.

**Communion** Passer invenit sibi domum, et turtur nidum, ubi reponat pullos suos: altaria tua, Domine virtutem, Rex meus, et Deus meus! Beati qui habitant in domo tua, in sæculum sæculi laudabunt te.