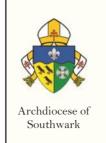




SOPHIA'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATION ON 1ST SEPTEMBER



PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Y

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 17th April 2022



Today's Mass: EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURRECTION of the LORD The Mass of Easter Night

After the seven **Old Testament Readings** (which may be reduced in number), the **Epistle** is from St Paul's *Letter to the Romans*, in which he summarises not only the significance of Christ's resurrection for Christ Himself but also its significance for those of us Baptized in Him.

After a **Psalm** of thanksgiving, the **Gospel** is Luke's account of the empty tomb, first discovered by the two Marys.

Mass of the Day

First Reading: St Peter tells Cornelius and his household how he and the other apostles are witnesses to Christ's resurrection.

Psalm: a psalm of rejoicing and gladness.

The **Second Reading** is either from St Paul's *Letter to the Colossians* (let your thoughts be on heavenly not earthly things) or his *First Letter to the Corinthians* (celebrate the feast by getting rid of the old yeast of evil and wickedness).

The **Sequence** follows, sung if possible (you may find it in hymn books under its Latin title *Victimae Paschali Laudes*).

Gospel: John's account of the empty tomb, discovered by Mary of Magdala, who tells Peter and the beloved disciple (thought to be John).

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 Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

8:30am - 9:30am

Weekday Mass times: 8:00am Monday

Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday 12:00noon Thursday Friday 8:00am

9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday

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) 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



Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG

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

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

Church contacts:

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

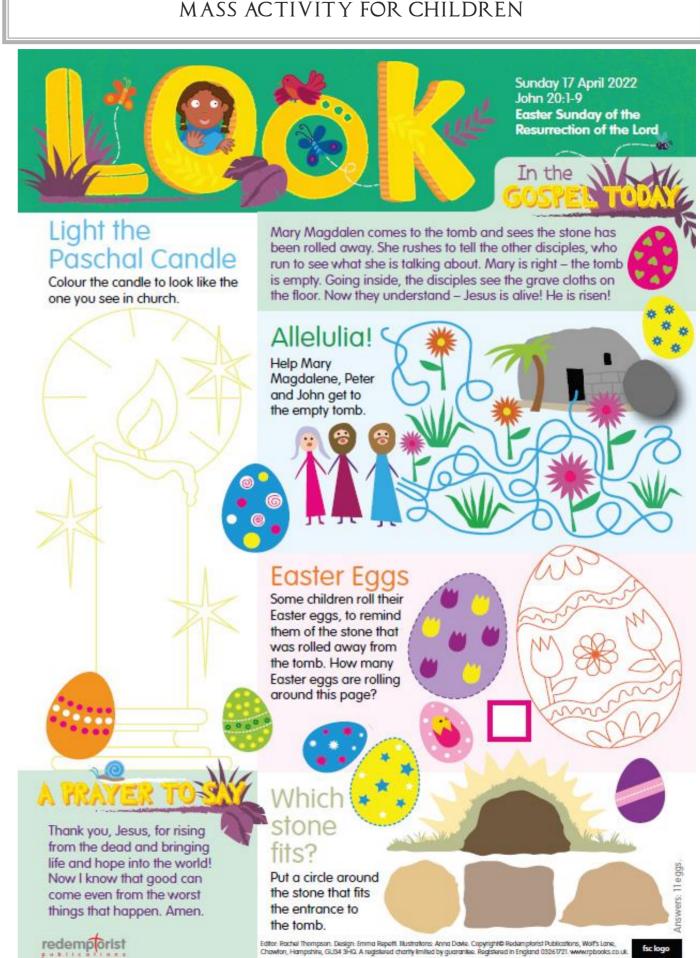


ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

South Park, Sevenoaks. TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk

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

GOD LOVES HIS 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 sevenoakssgl@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

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

*N*ebmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

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TODAY

Supply priests

As ever we are grateful for assistance from Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin friars from Erith.

Easter Offering

The collection is your Easter Offering to Fr David and Fr Peter, who thank you in advance for your generosity. If you make your parish contribution by Standing Order, please use your Easter Offering envelope to Gift Aid your donation (the parish gets the Gift Aid refund) or make a bank transfer (put Easter Offering as the reference) to RCAS ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS, Sort Code 60-19-02, A/c No 25782002. Or you can use the card reader in St Thomas's Entrance.

Easter Octave

The Alleluia is restored to the Liturgy, and there is the double Alleluia at the Dismissal during the Octave. The *Gloria* is now sung again on Sundays. The anthem *Regina Caeli* is sung in place of the Angelus. This Friday is not a day of abstinence and fasting.

The Regina Caeli:

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia.

Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia,
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia:
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

THIS WEEK

Fr Peter

is away this week on his post Easter break.

Easter Monday

A Bank Holiday, so Holy Mass is at 12:00 noon.

Parish Office

Closed on Monday and Tuesday; reopens on Wednesday.

Listening to you

There will be no meeting of the above on Easter Monday 18th April. We look forward to seeing some of you on Monday 16th May at 10.30 am in the Parish Centre. Do come along if you are feeling in need of a quiet and confidential space to talk.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

The Second Collection will be for the Maintenance of St George's Cathedral. This collection helps to meet the cost of the upkeep of the mother church of the diocese.

Divine Mercy Novena

Deacon Neil will lead daily Chaplet of Divine Mercy by *Zoom* in preparation for the feast next Sunday. For further details and times and to obtain the *Zoom* link email Deacon Neil - neilphiilipson@rcaos.org.uk

Next Sunday: Divine Mercy Devotions

In St Thomas's for Divine Mercy Sunday:

3:00pm Veneration of the Image & Chaplet of Mercy

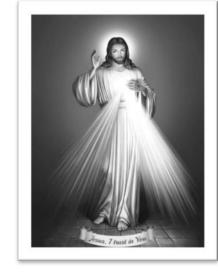
3:20pm Homily on Divine Mercy

3:30pm Exposition & Individual Blessing

4:00pm Solemn Benediction

Confessions throughout.

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PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

NOTICES

Confirmation 2022

Attention all those currently in Year 7 or above: registration for this year's Confirmation programme is now open. Please register online at sevrcparish.org.uk. An outline of important dates is available there. Closing date: Friday 6th May 2022.

Induction of the New Executive Principal

The Induction of Mrs Kathryn Sexton as Executive Principal of St Augustine's, St Margaret Clitherow's and St Thomas' Primary Schools will be in St Thomas's Church on Tuesday 26th April, at the 9:30am Mass. All connected to any of the schools are invited to attend and support our new Executive Principal.

Altar Servers 44th Annual Rally

Monday 2nd May at The Friars, Aylesford; Principal Celebrant the Archbishop. Medals for membership of the Guild of St Stephen will be awarded at the Mass. Arrive for 10:15am to obtain the medals and certificates, or for existing members of the Guild assemble at 11:00am.

Sevenoaks Foodbank

Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank is looking after the poorest around us: those with no home, those who do not have access to internet, those who are illiterate and many others. For the moment, we are desperate for milk, sugar, canned baked beans, tinned custard and rice pudding, rice, rice sauce, men's toiletries, shampoo, conditioner and breakfast spread. Thank you in advance for your generosity. Isabelle Mercer

Finance

The total Offertory for March was £10,575.00. Thank you.

Recent Second Collections:

Racial Justice £418.51
Sick & Retired Priests Fund £3,826.53
Poor Parishes £460.46
CAFOD £1,644 52.

If you use the boxes of envelopes, please collect your new box. If you contribute by Standing Order, please collect the white envelope with your name on. If you don't yet contribute by Standing Order, please do so. Use the form on last week's Newsletter or download it from the parish website. For any queries contact our Gift Aid organiser, Sèan Corrigan, at sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk or 0771 945321.

Advance Notice: Parish Garden Party

The Garden Party is back and will be on Sunday 3rd 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.

Another Newsletter funny

"The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge -Up Yours."

Sevenoaks welcomes refugees

Information event on Wednesday, 6:45 - 9:00pm, in the Plaza Suite at the Stag Theatre. Hear about Ukraine, the refugee perspective, and the services available to support you and the refugees. Register in advance be sending an email to sevenoakswelcomesrefugees@gmail.com.

PLEASE PRAY

- with rejoicing and gladness
- for the salvation of the world;
- for an end to the pandemic;
- for peace in Ukraine;
- for all our parishioners;
- for all who are sick at this time.

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.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

An Easter Reflection

his reflection is adapted from a reflection written for the KCSP Easter Newsletter.

A few years ago I accompanied Fr Paul Okora to his British citizenship ceremony in the Archbishop's Palace in Maidstone. The ceremony was quite brief, and it was followed - somewhat stereotypically one might think - by a cup of tea and a piece of cake. Each new citizen was also given a pot of Kentish honey.

In the early church new Christians, after their Baptism at Easter, were given a meal of milk and honey, signifying that they were now citizens of a new country or, in St Augustine's phrase were now part of the City of God. The Biblical origin of this is, of course, the Israelites - the People of God - entering the promised land, the land flowing with milk and honey, after their forty years' pilgrimage through the wilderness (see *Exodus* 3:8).

After our forty days in the wilderness - in the season of Lent - we enter into the joyous fifty day season of Easter, the season of celebration of our Lord's Resurrection. This year we might feel there is little to celebrate, what with two years of COVID-19 pandemic with all its concomitant restrictions and difficulties and seeming reluctance for the coronavirus to go away, the invasion of Ukraine, increasingly aggressive secularisation which is opposed to Catholic education, the increasing cost of living crisis we hear so much about, along with the inevitable family, financial and health problems we will have in our own families and places of work.

But we must not give way to despair and depression, because by virtue of our Baptism we are citizens of the City of God, we are incorporated into Christ ('Christened') and are members of the new People of God. And most significantly of all, we know that by His death and Resurrection Jesus Christ has once and for all conquered sin and death. We know that evil and wickedness will never win.

As St Paul puts it in Romans 8:12: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us". See also Hebrews chapter 10.

So we are confident that in the words of Mother Julian of Norwich 'all shall be well'. This does not mean that we go around with a goofy grin all the time, blithely ignoring the difficulties and problems. We do have to engage with the various issues around at the moment. But it does mean that we have a serene, unshakable certainty that Christ has defeated sin and death and that where He has gone we shall follow. His destiny is our destiny, if we remain faithful to Christ. With this Christian hope of eternal life we can face up to, and face down, all the current problems.

Milk and honey might be a bit sickly. I suspect most of us will eat chocolate Easter eggs this Easter. As we do so, let us remember that on the one hand we are citizens of this world, submitting to its laws and regulations as long as they do not conflict with the commands of God. But on the other hand, and more importantly, we are citizens of the kingdom of God, which we can only enter by being born again (that is by Baptism; see *John* 3:3) and this will enable us to celebrate Christ's Resurrection with untrammelled joy.

Let me end with a quote from St Augustine's *City of God*:

"This joy in God is not like any pleasure found in physical or intellectual satisfaction. Nor is it such as a friend experiences in the presence of a friend. But, if we are to use any such analogy, it is more like the eye rejoicing in light."



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WHO AM I? EASTER QUIZ FOR ALL THE FAMILY

- 1. I betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Matthew 26:14-15
- 2. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on me. *Matthew 21:7*
- 3. I denied Jesus three times before the cock crowed. John 18:15-27
- 4. The people called for me to be set free instead of Jesus. Matthew 27:17
- 5. I was crucified beside Jesus. *Matthew 27:38*
- 6. I told the women at the tomb not to be afraid and that Jesus had risen. Matthew 28:5-6
- 7. When Jesus was on the cross, I was asked to take care of His mother. John 19:26
- 8. I laid Jesus in my own tomb. Mark 15:43-44
- 9. I was the High Priest who accused Jesus and wanted Him dead. John 11:49
- 10. I anointed Jesus with expensive perfume. John 12:1-8
- 11. They brought Jesus to me for trial, but I found no guilt in Him. John 19:4
- 12. I cut off the ear of the High Priest's servant. John 18:10
- 13. I carried the cross for Jesus when He could no longer. Luke 23:26
- 14. I went early to the tomb and saw the stone rolled away. John 20:1
- 15. My book in the Bible prophesies that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem. ? 5:2
- 16. I was the High Priest's servant who had his ear cut off. John 18:10
- 17. I went with Joseph to bury Jesus in the tomb. John 19:39
- 18. I saw Jesus after His resurrection on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:18
- 19. I was not present with the other apostles at Jesus' first Resurrection appearance John 20:24
- 20. I was the first Deacon. Acts 6:5

Answers

1 Judas; 2 donkey/colt; 3 St Peter; 4 Barabbas; 5 thiet; 6 angel; 7 St John; 8 Joseph of Arimathea; 9 Caiaphas; 10 Mary (Lazarus' and Martha's sister); 11 Pontius Pilate; 12 St Peter; 13 Simon of Cyrene; 14 St Mary Magdalene; 15 Micah; 16 Martha's sister); 12 Cleopas; 19 St Thomas; 20 St Stephen

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 17th APRIL EASTER SUNDAY of the RESURECTION of the LORD

8:00pm (Sat) *Otford*9:00pm (Sat)
People of the Parish

8:00am (Latin) Edward and Marguerite Maxwell RIP

9:15am June RIP & Andy Hicks (Wedding Anniversary)

11:15am George & Anne Ball RIP

6:00pm Sadie Gleeson RIP 9:30am *Otford* Peace in Ukraine

9:30am Borough Green Margaret Vinson RIP & her family, friends

and for the congregation of St Joseph's

11:00am West Kingsdown All parishioners

Monday 18th Monday within the Octave of Easter

12:00noon G. D'Souza RIP

Tuesday 19th Tuesday within the Octave of Easter

9:30am Jay Simmons RIP

Wednesday 20th Wednesday within the Octave of Easter

8:00am All dec'd members of Andradi-Brown family

10:00am *Otford* Private Intention

Thursday 21st Thursday within the Octave of Easter

10:00am Borough Green Peace in Ukraine

12:00noon Wellbeing of John Smoker

Friday 22nd Friday within the Octave of Easter

8:00am Niall Hickey RIP (1st Anniversary)

10:00pm West Kingsdown Carol Stone RIP

Saturday 23rd Saturday within the Octave of Easter

9:30am Good health of Eileen Moynahan

SUNDAY 24th APRIL SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)

6:00pm (Sat) Margaret M^cGeehan RIP

8:00am (Latin) Elizabeth Sherratt (90th Birthday)

9:15am Private Intention

11:15am Aileen Edwards and Vicky Lepore

6:00pm Good health of Michael Mills

9:30am *Otford* Frank Haggarty RIP

9:30am Borough Green Archie Payne RIP (Birthday)

11:00am West Kingsdown People of the Parish

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

Angela Griffiths, Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken Holmes, Mary Scott, Sean Cloke and all in care and nursing homes.

Anniversaries

Arthur Stubbs, Joseph McGrath, Stephen Gill, Denis Leigh, Ingrid Kolli, Frederick Byrne, Frederick Pert, Eileen Manville, Isobel Joyce, Margaret Hickey, John Evans, Kate Turner, Lucien Benard, Malcolm Chapman, Stanley Dine, Janet Brett, Bob Clifford, Amy Player, Annie Hearn.



Prayer for All
The Faithful Departed.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Surrexit Dominus vere, alleluia. Ipsi gloria et imperium per universa æternitatis sæcula.

Communion

Pascha nostrum immolatus est Christus; itaque epulemur in azymis sinceritatis et veritatis, alleluia.

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