

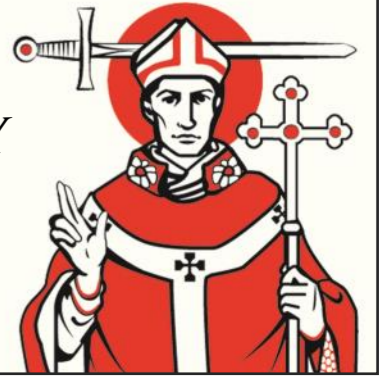
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Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

24th April 2022



POLISH FOOD BLESSING - SWIECONKA

EASTER VIGIL AT ST THOMAS'S



Today's Mass: *SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)*

Acts 5: 12-16; Psalm 117; Apocalypse 1: 9-13, 17-19; John 20: 19-31

First Reading: the Eastertide readings from Acts continue. The early Church was a very effective Church. Things happened. The number of converts "*increased steadily*".

Psalm: a song of thanksgiving for the marvellous works of the Lord, which make us glad.

Second Reading: the first in a series of readings from the Apocalypse, St John's vision of heaven. He sees the risen and ascended Jesus Christ, describing Him as "*a Son of man*" (using the phrase from Daniel 7:13), the "*First and the Last*", and "*the Living One*".

Gospel: the risen Jesus appears to the disciples (minus Thomas the Twin) and gives them the Holy Spirit in order to be able to forgive sins. A week later He appears to them again, and this time Thomas sees and believes.

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

Weekday Mass times:

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

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

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)
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

MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



What gift?

Unscramble the letters to see what gift Jesus gave his friends.

P _ _ _ _



Here is another gift we can all receive. Unscramble the letters to see what it is.

F _ _ _ _



The disciples are sad and scared. They are hiding. Suddenly, Jesus is there with them! He gives them all the gift of peace. Thomas had not been with them and cannot believe Jesus really is alive. Jesus comes back and helps Thomas to believe. Thomas knows it really is Jesus because he can see Jesus' wounds. Now everyone is happy!

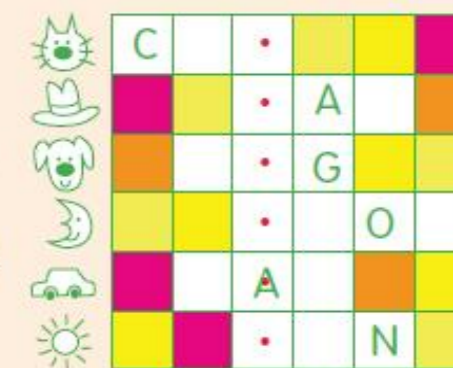
I can bring peace

Jesus gave his peace to his disciples. We can bring peace to people too. Circle something you will do today to spread peace. Cross out all the bad ideas.



Which disciple?

One disciple needed to see Jesus before he could believe it was really him. Write the correct word for each picture. The letters in the dotted squares will tell you which disciple it was.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for giving us all the gift of peace and the gift of faith. Help me to spread your peace today. Amen.

redemptorist
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I am happy!

Thomas believed in Jesus because he could see him. Jesus says those who have not seen him but still believe are happy because we believe! Draw a happy picture of you.

Answers: Peace, Faith, Thomas.

isc 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

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

PARISH NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Feast Days this week

Monday is the Feast of St Mark, Evangelist. The Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England and of our Cathedral is transferred from Easter Week to Tuesday. Friday is the Feast of St Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church and Patron of Europe.

Induction of new Executive Principal and Beginning of Term Mass

The Induction of Mrs Kathryn Sexton as Executive Principal of St Augustine's, St Margaret Clitherow's and St Thomas' Primary Schools will take place at the school Beginning of Term Mass at 9:30am on Tuesday. All connected to any of the schools are invited to attend and support our new Executive Principal.

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 sevrparish.org.uk. An outline of important dates is available there. Closing date: Friday 6th May 2022.

Advance Notice: Mini-Retreat

Originally scheduled for Lent 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic, Most Reverend Kevin McDonald, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, will be leading the Mini-Retreat on Saturday 14th May, beginning with the 9:30am Mass and ending by 12:30pm.

The theme will be Our Lady and St Charles de Foucauld (who is to be canonized the next day). Put it in your diary and don't miss it!

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.

Contents this Week

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TODAY

Supply priests

Fr Bryan Wells and Fr Mark Odion, MSP are assisting today.

Second Collection

The Second Collection is 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.

Easter Offering

The card reader was not working last weekend. If it is working again this weekend the Chair of the Finance Committee has decided that all donations made this weekend via the machine will be included in the Easter Offering to the Priests.

You can still use an 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.

Divine Mercy Devotions

In St Thomas's this afternoon:

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.

See the printed Newsletter for more information about the Divine Mercy and about the Plenary Indulgence attached to the devotions.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

St Thomas' School uniform for Ukrainian refugees

If anyone has any spare uniform for two boys aged 9 and 7 (heights 134cm and 126 cm, chest size 67cm and 66cm) and for a 4 year old girl. Please contact caroline.stockmann@gmail.com. Black shoes in size 2 and 2.5 would be very welcome too. They will be arriving soon in Sevenoaks.

Thank you

An enormous thank you to all who cleaned and decorated our churches, the flower arrangers, musicians, Altar servers, Mass readers, welcomers, RCIA catechists and everyone who helped to make the Holy Week and Liturgies go so well.

Hospital

If you, or someone you know, are admitted to hospital, ask the nurse in charge to contact the Catholic priest. Only the designated Chaplain can visit you - for Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, and prayers - and he will not know you are there if you do not ask to see him.

Getting Married

At least 6 months' notice is required. If you live in Sevenoaks parish you should contact Fr David (email is best) at least 6 months before the proposed date. If you live elsewhere you should contact the Parish Priest where you live.

Easter Encounters

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 21st May at The Poul House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity to reflect on the gifts of the Easter season and how we encounter the risen Christ in our daily lives. The day will be led by Sevenoaks parishioner Gilly Fenner, who has worked as a spiritual director for 19 years. Please bring a camping chair (or similar) and a packed Lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear

weather appropriate clothes and shoes as part of the day will be outside. Suggested contribution £5. All are welcome though numbers are limited to 20. If you wish to attend please email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com.

Another Newsletter funny

"The class on prophecy has been cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances". This is on a par with "the Healing Service is cancelled because of the indisposition of the Minister".

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for those Baptized, Received into Full Communion and Confirmed at Easter;
- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for peace in Ukraine;
- ◆ 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.

ANNIVERSARIES

Matilda Dwyer, Robert Dwyer, Charles Hopkins, Pamela Clifton, Brandon Gough, Edmund Player, Frank Emmerson, Marian Dzierla, Peter Player, Thomas Barnes, Caroline Muir, Mary Tobin, Miriam Pemberton, Sheila Nicholls, Mayzell Dunster, Frank Markelis, Elizabeth Horgan, Samuel Krempasky, Herbert Salt, Mary Lewis, Ludwick Pilorz, Doreen Barber.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

What's wrong with 'We Baptise'?

Fr David answers another parishioner's query. 'Why were the Baptisms in America when a priest said 'We Baptise you ...' declared invalid and the people had to be Baptised as if they had never been Baptised?'

I do not know why the priest concerned, in Phoenix, said 'we' rather than the correct 'I Baptise ...'. Perhaps he wanted to say that the Christian community was welcoming the child into the Church by Baptism, not just the priest. Perhaps he wanted to remove hierarchical distinctions between clergy and laity.

Or perhaps he was wanting to emphasise the idea that every act of the Church, the Body of Christ, is an act of the whole body. But in drinking a cup of coffee while I type this article I am not using every part of my body; my feet are totally uninvolved and I am only using one hand to hold the cup.

The 'I' is Christ, not the community

But the point to stress is that in Baptism it is not the community, the parish or diocese, which Baptises the child: it is Christ. The 'I' who Baptises is Christ, whom the priest is Ordained to represent or act for (or, better, act as). This applies to all the sacraments. The 'I' in 'I absolve you of your sins ...' is really Christ. The 'I' who says 'This is my body' is really Christ. So the priest who Baptises does not do so in the name of the community but in the name of and by the power of Jesus Christ. 'We Baptise ...' hides rather than reveals that Jesus is the true High Priest and celebrant of every sacrament.

Improper form

A second reason why this error renders the Baptisms invalid is because it is not the proper form. In sacramental theology, St Thomas Aquinas made a distinction between matter and form. Matter is what something is made of (we can see/hear/touch it), form is its unchanging nature (it is what it signifies or means). Thus a statue of the Sacred Heart's matter may be wood or fibre glass, while its form is the self-sacrificing love of Jesus for us. In Baptism water is the matter, washing away of sins is the form.

If the priest had Baptised in something other than water, such as champagne, it would be invalid by reason of defect of matter, just as a Mass in which the priest used a coconut rather than bread and wine would be invalid. When the priest used the theologically and liturgically incorrect 'We' it made the

act invalid, because he did not use the prescribed proper words (the form).

Is this a common problem?

Fortunately it is rare in the Catholic Church, but there have been other instances of invalid Baptisms, mostly in America. Some people wanted to replace the language to make it 'inclusive', and Baptised 'in the name of the Creator, the Redeemer and the Holy Spirit'. This of course contravenes the prescribed words given us by Christ himself in *Matthew 28:19*.

In one case a priest poured the water over the baby and a religious sister said the words (or it may be the other way round). This was ruled invalid, for the reason above that the priest performs the ceremony as Jesus Christ.

And a priest, watching one day a video of his own Baptism, realised that the Deacon who 'Baptised' him did not say the correct words. This meant that as he was not Baptised his Confirmation and Ordination were not valid either. He had to be Baptised, Confirmed, Ordained Deacon and Ordained Priest. Notice I do not say 'Baptised again', because he wasn't Baptised in the first instance.

A fundamental problem

The sacred liturgy is not a blank page on which we can write our own, creative script. Instead of being formed by the liturgy of the Church some people seek to form it, according to modern tastes and thinking. The sacred texts after all have been fashioned over centuries, are based on Scripture and the teachings of Christ's Church, and have been composed by learned people. It is not fair or just to lay people to gratuitously make changes to the liturgy which leave them confused and uncertain as to the validity of the sacraments.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

St Faustina Kowalska

The Divine Mercy devotion originated with St Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who lived between 1905 and 1938. She had apparitions of and conversations with Christ, which she recorded in her diary. She commissioned an artist to paint the Divine Mercy image, as instructed by Jesus, with the message "Jesus, I trust in You".

In the image Jesus has his right hand raised in blessing and his left pointing to His Sacred Heart, from which two rays flow forth. The red one symbolises His blood and the pale one stands for the water which justifies souls. St Faustina said that Jesus stressed the importance of the image in the Divine Mercy devotion.

Pope St John Paul II

For a while the Divine Mercy devotion had a mixed history. On the one hand it spread rapidly, especially in Poland but then elsewhere. On the other hand, Rome was suspicious and for a while banned the devotion. But the then Archbishop Karol Wojtyła of Krakow, having investigated St Faustina and the devotions, persuaded the Vatican to rescind the ban.

He, of course, became Pope and he beatified and canonized St Faustina and in 2000 officially designated the Second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday (Dominica de Divina Misericordia), following the wish of Jesus as reported by Faustina in her visions. John Paul II was himself beatified on Divine Mercy Sunday 2011 by Pope Benedict XVI and canonized on Divine Mercy Sunday 2014 by Pope Francis.

Since the designation of this Sunday as Divine Mercy the devotion spread rapidly and is now widely celebrated.

The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

This is a set of prayers using rosary beads, often accompanied by veneration of the Divine Mercy image. The Chaplet may be prayed at any time, but is especially prayed on Divine Mercy Sunday, often with a novena leading up to it beginning on Good Friday, and on Fridays at 3:00pm. You can easily find the prayers online.

Plenary Indulgence

Since 2002 a Plenary Indulgence is obtained by

- participation in the prayers and devotions of Divine Mercy in a church or chapel, including the Our Father and Creed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, adding the prayer "*Merciful Jesus, I trust in you*",
- sacramental Confession,
- Holy Communion, and
- prayer for the Pope's Intentions.

Jesus' wish for the Feast of His Divine Mercy

St Faustina recorded in her diary many sayings of Jesus in her apparitions, including:

"I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day, the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain the complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to Me, even though its sins be as scarlet." (Diary 699)

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 24th APRIL

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

SECOND SUNDAY of EASTER (or of Divine Mercy)

Margaret M^cGeehan RIP
 Elizabeth Sherratt (90th Birthday)
 Private Intention
 Aileen Edwards and Vicky Lepore
 Good health of Michael Mills
 Frank Haggarty RIP
 Archie Payne RIP (Birthday)
 People of the Parish

Monday 25th S MARK, Ev

8:00am Lionel & family Edwards

Tuesday 26th S GEORGE, M, Patron of England

9:30am Brandon Gough RIP

Wednesday 27th FERIA

8:00am Peace in Ukraine
 10:00am *Otford* Donal Nolan RIP & Mary Nolan and family

Thursday 28th FERIA

10:00am *Borough Green* Holy Souls
 12:00noon Donor's Intention (AC)

Friday 29th S CATHERINE of SIENA, VD, Patron of Europe

8:00am Good intentions of the donor's family
 10:00pm *West Kingsdown* Holy Souls

Saturday 30th FERIA

9:30am Holy Souls

SUNDAY 1st MAY

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

THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

Private Intention
 Joseph Ronald Sherratt RIP
 Holy Souls
 Frank Haggarty RIP
 People of the Parish
 Mary Catherine O'Connell RIP
 Mary Duputron RIP
 Holy Souls

Baptized at Easter

Hannah Gibb
 Michael Hardy
 Daisy Webster
 Jasmine Webster
 Amber Webster
 Philippa Webster
 Henry Webster
 Arthur Grigore

Received into Full Communion

Kelly Powell
 Stephen Webster

Confirmed at Easter

Hannah Gibb
 Christine Landon
 Michael Hardy
 Laura Moulton
 Kelly Powell
 Stephen Webster

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Accipite iucunditatem gloriæ vestræ, gratias agentes Deo, qui vos ad cælestia regna vocavit, alleluia.

Communion

Mitte manum tuam, et cognosce loca clavorum, et noli esse incredulus, sed fidelis, alleluia.

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.