How do I advertise my business or get my ads in the Newsletter?

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



Experienced and qualified now available

transfulness@gmail.com







Shin Sei Do Karate Club

Welcomes new members!

No experience required!

Who: Anyone from 12 to 112 years old

When: Tuesday evenings

Where: Solefield School Hall (Fiennes Way),

Solefields Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1PH

What time: 8:00 pm - 9:15 pm

Why:

Learn a traditional beautiful Japanese Martial Art.

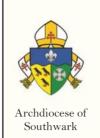
Learn Self-defence. Improve fitness/balance/coordination/lose weight.

Club Instructor: James McSharry

Email: jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

Mobile: 07917032024



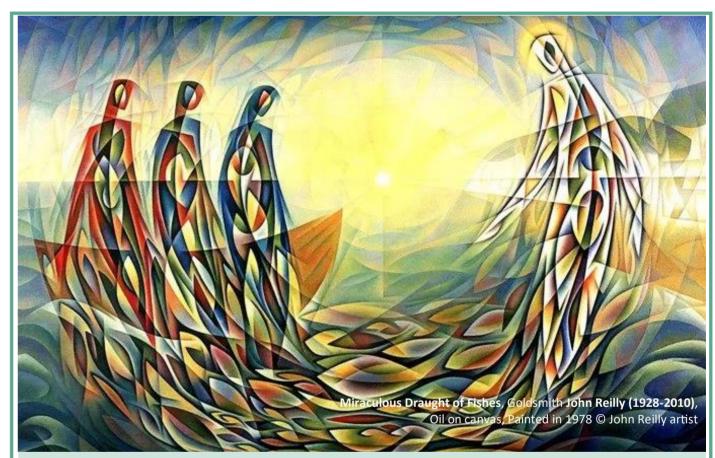


PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 1st May 2022



Today's Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts 5: 27-32, 40-41; Psalm 29; Apocalypse 5: 11-14; John 21: 1-19

First Reading: Peter and the apostles have a clear idea of their function: they are to be witnesses for Christ. And that is our function as the Baptized People of God: to be witnesses for Christ.

Psalm: we can imagine the apostles singing this song of thanksgiving for deliverance after their grilling by the Sanhedrin in the *First Reading*.

Second Reading: St John sees the Lamb on the Throne. The lamb is the passover lamb, sacrificed for our sin, and is seated on the Throne of God, being worshipped by all creation. The Lamb is, of course, Jesus Christ.

Gospel: the risen Christ's third appearance to the disciples, on the shore of Lake Tiberias, also known as the Sea of Galilee, where He eats breakfast with them. This time it is the fish which get grilled!

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:

8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday

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) 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



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

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

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Hollie Horgan, who receives Holy Communion for the first time today at the 11:15am Mass at St Thomas's.

Supply priests

Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin Friars are assisting today.

Day of Prayer for Human Work

Today would be the feast of St Joseph the Worker were it not a Sunday, and so in the Bishops' Cycle of Prayer it is a Day of Prayer for God's Blessing on Human Work.

THIS WEEK

Monday Bank Holiday

Holy Mass at St Thomas's at 12:00 noon; there will not be the usual Monday Adoration. The Parish Office is closed on Monday.

Next Sunday

is a World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The Second Collection will be for the Priests' Training Fund, which helps to meet the cost of formation of men to become priests in our Archdiocese. We are blessed to have 6 men in formation to the Priesthood in Southwark, but it costs £30,000 a year to train each seminarian. Seminarians study for 6 years before Ordination as priest. The Church relies on both your prayers for more Vocations and on your financial support.

NOTICES

Confirmation 2022

Last call to 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. The closing date is this Friday.

Sign of Peace at Mass

This has been reintroduced at Sunday and Holyday Masses, but while the pandemic persists please do not offer a physical gesture such as a handshake to people not in your household bubble.

The housebound

If you, or someone you know, is housebound or in a care home and not receiving Holy Communion please contact Fr Peter (peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk or 01732 454177). With the best will in the world it is easy for someone to slip through the net, especially during the COVID pandemic.

11:15am Mass organist

Faye Courtney normally plays the organ at this Mass twice a month, but is unavailable for the next few months. Can YOU step in to help? Please contact Fr David if you play the organ/keyboard or can otherwise lead the music.

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PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Envelopes

If you use the boxes of envelopes for your donations, please collect your box of new envelopes if you haven't done so.

If you contribute by Standing Order, please collect a (white) envelope; this contains envelopes for use with Second Collections (to ensure we get the Gift Aid refund).

Contact Sèan Corrigan (sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk) if you can't find yours.

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.

Safeguarding

Fr David, Fr Peter and Deacon Neil have all recently completed mandatory Training Days on Safeguarding. Contact details for our Parish Safeguarding reps are displayed on the noticeboard in each Church entrance.

Episcopal Vicar for Kent

We are sorry to have to report that Monsignor John O'Toole has had to step down as Episcopal Vicar for Kent because of serious ill health. Please pray for him. We are still, of course, awaiting the appointment of an Auxiliary Bishop.

'Easter Encounters'

Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 21st May at The Poult House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Suggested contribution £5; take a camping chair or similar and a packed Lunch; tea and coffee provided. For more information and to attend please email Gilly Fenner at gf58b@iCloud.com.

Another Newsletter funny

"Illiterate? Write to the Church Office for help".

PLEASE PRAY

- ♦ for God's Blessing on human work;
- ♦ for an end to the pandemic;
- ♦ for peace in Ukraine;
- ♦ for rain (the farmer's need it);
- for Alice Pearson and all who have recently died.
- 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

What do Passover and Paschal mean?

oday's Second Reading from *Apocalypse* describes the Passover Lamb being worshipped in heaven. Our word for Easter, Paschal, comes from the Hebrew for Passover. What is the meaning of this?

The Passover - in Hebrew 'Pesach' (the ch is pronounced hard like the Scottish 'loch') - is a Jewish holiday which celebrates the exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. Pesach also refers to the Passover or Paschal lamb that was offered in the Temple in Jerusalem in Jesus' time, before the Temple was destroyed by the Romans in AD 70. The Passover Seder is the ritual meal, celebrated by Jewish families on Passover night.

'Passover' refers to the passing over (ie missing out) the houses of the Hebrews during the final plague of Egypt. See Exodus 12:23 - 4: "For the LORD will pass through to strike down the Egyptians; when he sees the blood on the lintel and on the two doorposts, the LORD will pass over that door and will not allow the destroyer to enter your houses to strike you down. You shall observe this rite as a perpetual ordinance for you and your children."

The Jewish Passover holiday occurs on the 15th day of Nisan, a month in the Spring which often coincides with our Easter. The lambs were sacrificed in the Temple in the afternoon of 14th Nisan, and then taken by people to their homes and eaten during the night.

For Christians, the celebration of what in English we call Easter and its date in the Calendar are rooted in the Jewish feast of Passover when Jesus Christ was crucified as the Passover Lamb. In both Greek and Latin the annual celebration of Christ's Resurrection is called 'Pascha'.

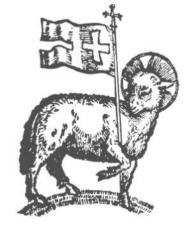
According to the three Synoptic Gospels, Jesus' Last Supper was a Passover meal, where He gave it a new meaning, connected with His death and subsequent Resurrection: He identified the bread as His Body and the wine as His Blood, which would shortly be sacrificed on the Cross. St Paul and later Christian writers have stressed that the death of Christ was the fulfilment of the sacrifice foreshadowed by the Passover. Paul identifies Christ with the Passover Lamb in 1 Corinthians 5:7: "For our paschal lamb, Christ, has been sacrificed."

But the connection between Christ and the Passover Lamb is most explicit in the Gospel of John. John 1:29 reads "The next day he [John the Baptist] saw Jesus

coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!". It is above all in the dating which John gives to the Last Supper which makes this clear. This question is hideously complicated, and it is not helped by the Synoptic Gospels and John seeming to follow different Calendars, but to simplify it somewhat, John places the Last Supper as taking place on the previous evening and His death as taking place as the Passover Lambs were being slain in the Temple (that is to say, on the day before the Passover feast).

Christians soon saw this as no coincidence and recognised Jesus as the true Lamb that takes away our sins. As Pope Benedict XVI put it: "One thing was astonishingly clear from the outset: with the Cross of Christ, the old Temple sacrifices were definitively surpassed. Something new had happened." (Jesus of Nazareth Part Two). The old sacrifices of bulls, goats and lambs were replaced by the one sacrifice which could actually make atonement. The 'Lamb of God' took upon Himself the sins of the world and wiped them away, and thus reconciliation with God, distorted by our sin, has been accomplished.

This is what we mean when we use the word Paschal (as in the Paschal Candle for example). The *Catechism* of the Catholic Church is always a good place to find a summary: "When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, she commemorates Christ's Passover, and it is made present: the sacrifice Christ offered once for all on the cross remains ever present (cf Hebrews 7: 25-27). As often as the sacrifice of the Cross by which "Christ our Pasch has been sacrificed" is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried out" (§1364, quoting Lumen Gentium 3). "Because it is the memorial of Christ's Passover, the Eucharist is also a sacrifice" (Catechism §1365).



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FEED MY SHEEP BY DR RALPH F WILSON

The fishing boat is bobbing gently on the lake, a hundred yards offshore. Occasionally, a wave slaps against its side though the lake is surprisingly still this morning. Though it is very early, the six fishermen in the boat are stripped for work, the gleam of sweat on their backs just visible in the glow of dawn. All night they have put out their net, then pulled it in again, time after time. Time after time. They labour all night to earn a living. But not this night. This night they haven't netted a single fish.

Dawn is upon them now, the sun just breaking above the hills east of Galilee. Their hopes of fish to sell are gone with the night. Maybe they should try another net or two before they quit. Maybe they'll be lucky. On shore, the sleepy village of Capernaum is beginning to stir. On its rocky beach the fishermen can see the glow of a small fire. Occasionally a breeze brings them the aroma of fish cooking. Peter's stomach remembers its hunger, and his mouth can almost taste the savoury fish.

Who's tending the fire? It's a man. Peter can see that much. He looks familiar, but Peter can't place him. Now the man brings up his hands and cups them about his mouth. A moment later his voice reaches the boat: "Boys," he shouts. "Put your nets out on the *right* side of the boat and you'll find some...." "Every landlubber thinks he's an expert fisherman!" fumes Peter. But they *are* ready to put out the net again. Why *not* the right side this time? What do they have to lose?

All of a sudden the stillness of morning is broken by the writhing of trapped fish and a tremendous tug on the net that, for a moment, threatens to capsize the boat. The men are instantly alert and position themselves to pull in the thrashing net. They must have caught a whole school of fish — on the *right* side of the boat! Peter looks up from his exertion to the man on the shore. John, too, is straining to see him. "It's the Lord!" shouts John. "It's Jesus!"

The others are struggling with the net, but Peter doesn't care. He grabs his clothes, dives into the lake, and swims with powerful strokes until the water is shallow enough for him to run splashing the rest of the way. Dripping, he drops to his knees before Jesus — the risen Lord, the man he has spent three years following, emulating, serving.

"Bring some more fish," says Jesus. So Peter runs to the boat, now nearly ashore, and helps haul in the net. They count 153 fish! Amazing! Jesus calls to the men — disciples with whom he has shared many meals. "Come, have some breakfast!" They squat around the fire and wolf down the bread and the fish Jesus has prepared. Hot fish! Hot bread after a long night's work!

Fish and bread. Bread and fish. Why does this seem so familiar? Peter wonders. And then he recalls the day when, only a mile or two from here, Jesus had fed the 5,000 with five barley loaves and two fish. Peter and these very men had carried basket after basket of fish and bread to the crowd until all were full. Jesus, the great Feeder of men is feeding them again this morning.

Now Jesus calls him aside. "Do you love me Peter?" With pain, Peter remembers how three times he had vehemently denied Jesus just before his crucifixion. He can hardly look Jesus in the eye. He mumbles, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you." "Peter, feed my sheep," says Jesus. Three times Jesus asked Peter to reaffirm his love — once for each time Peter had denied him. Three times Jesus reaffirms Peter's call to ministry. Jesus not only forgives Peter, he restores him fully to his confidence.

Years ago, Jesus had told Peter and his colleagues, "I will make you fishers of men." Sure enough — together they had ministered to many thousands of men and women, boys and girls on what amounted to a three-year spiritual fishing expedition. "Feed my sheep." Not physical food. Jesus is talking about spiritual food — teaching, praying, leading, exhorting, serving. Jesus is asking for Peter's love, but with that love, obedience too.

Peter knows what he's saying. Jesus had once described the crowds as harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. "Yes, I love you, Jesus," says Peter clearly, lifting his eyes to meet the Master's. "Then feed my sheep," says the great Feeder of men. "Peter, *I need you* to feed my sheep for me." "Yes, Lord, of course I will," whispers Peter, as his eyes flood with tears. "You can count on me."

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MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 1st MAY THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm (Sat) Private Intention

8:00am (Latin) Joseph Ronald Sherratt RIP

9:15am Peter Moulton RIP
11:15am Frank Haggarty RIP
6:00pm People of the Parish

9:30am *Otford* Mary Catherine O'Connell RIP

9:30am Borough Green Mary Duputron RIP

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Monday 2nd S Athanasius, B D

12:00noon Fr Joe Andradi

Tuesday 3rd SS PHILIP & JAMES, App

9:30am Private Intention

Wednesday 4th The ENGLISH MARTYRS

8:00am Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

10:00am *Otford* Marie Authers RIP (4th Anniversary)

Thursday 5th Feria

10:00am Borough Green Holy Souls

12:00noon Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP

Friday 6th S John Paine, Pr M

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

10:00pm West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Saturday 7th Feria

9:30am Dec'd members of the Wardle family

SUNDAY 8th MAY FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm (Sat) Holy Souls

8:00am (Latin) Dec'd members of the donor's family

9:15am Holy Souls

11:15am People of the Parish

6:00pm Holy Souls

9:30am *Otford* P.J. Kelly RIP (Anniversary)

9:30am Borough Green Holy Souls

11:00am West Kingsdown Jill Gobel (Birthday)

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.

Baptism

Welcome to

Stanley Newton Freya Wakefield Louis Smith

who were baptized at

St Thomas', Sevenoaks last weekend.

ANNIVERSARIES

Glenister, Brigid Tony Violet Madi, Forrest, Frankie Bertha Lett, Grochala, Marjorie Castelli, Hugh Doherty, Fr John Hagreen, Doris Frost, William Smith, Marie Authers, Franciszek Gluszka, Byrne, Kathleen Jim Caruana, Ronald Minto, William Taylor, Colburn, Edmund Palmer, Augustine Darcy, Edward Munnelly, Louis Libhert, Honora Dwyer, Ruth Lett.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance: Iubilate Deo, omnis terra, psalmum dicite nomini eius, date gloriam laudi eius, alleluia.

Communion: Dixit lesus discipulis suis: Venite, prandete. Et accepit panem, et dedit eis, alleluia.

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