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GERMAN
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transfulness@gmail.com



Shin Sei Do Karate Club

Welcomes new members!



Learn a traditional beautiful Japanese Martial Art.

Who: Anyone from 12 to 112 years old
When: Tuesday evenings
Where: Solefield School Hall (Fiennes Way), Solefields Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1PH

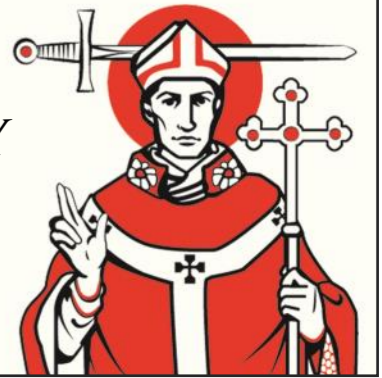
Club Instructor: James McSharry
Email: jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com
Mobile: 07917032024

INDUCTION OF MRS KATHARINE SEXTON AS EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL OF ST AUGUSTINE'S TUNBRIDGE WELLS, ST MARGARET CLITHEROW TONBRIDGE & ST THOMAS' SEVENOAKS PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

8th May 2022

MY SHEEP

hear my voice



Today's Mass: FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts 13: 14, 43-52; Psalm 99; Apocalypse 7: 9, 14-17; John 10: 27-30

First Reading: Paul and Barnabas suffer persecution at Antioch for preaching the Gospel.

Psalm: if Christ is the Good Shepherd, that makes us "the sheep of his flock".

Second Reading: in his vision St John sees the heavenly hosts (to which we refer in the *Sanctus*: 'holy Lord God of hosts'). This army of soldiers for Christ is innumerable (thus fulfilling the promise to Abraham) and taken from every nation (not just the Jews).

Gospel: if in the *Second Reading* Jesus is the Lamb, here He is the Good Shepherd. Today is often called Good Shepherd Sunday, and traditionally is a day of prayer for religious and priestly vocations.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times:

Saturday
6:00pm

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

Adoration:

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

Weekday Mass times:

Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 9:30am
Wednesday 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 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

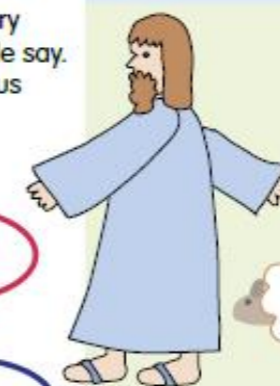


We know Jesus' voice

We hear Jesus speaking every day in the good things people say. Cross out the things that Jesus would never say.

Be unkind
Be kind
Tell lies
Smile
Be honest
Help your parents

Jesus says that his sheep listen to his voice and follow him. We are Jesus' sheep. Jesus will take care of each one of his sheep. No one can take us away from Jesus.



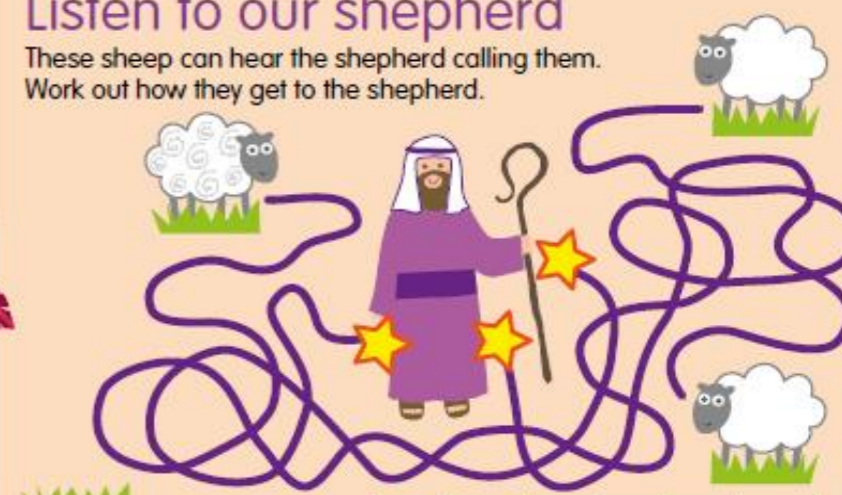
Follow Jesus

We are Jesus' sheep. Jesus showed us how to love. We follow Jesus when we love other people. How will you love people you meet today? Draw your ideas in the sheep.



Listen to our shepherd

These sheep can hear the shepherd calling them. Work out how they get to the shepherd.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Write your name in the spaces.
"_____ I have called you by your name. I know everything about you. I love you, _____, you are very special. Listen to me. Try to follow me.

"I will always be with you."
Now say all the words and imagine Jesus is saying them to you. Remember Jesus saying these words to you during this week.

Word search

Can you find these words?

FOLLOW HEAR
SHEEP LOVE LISTEN
KNOW VOICE TRUST

F	O	L	L	O	W
Q	H	P	T	V	O
E	E	E	R	O	N
V	A	E	U	I	K
O	R	H	S	C	Z
L	I	S	T	E	N

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

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TODAY

Supply priests

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

World Day of Prayer & Second Collection

Today is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The Second Collection is 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.

11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir leads the music today.

THIS WEEK

Pauline Pakenham RIP

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's on Friday at 11:00am, followed by Interment at Greatness

Saturday: Mini-Retreat

Originally scheduled for Lent 2020 but postponed because of the pandemic, Most Reverend Kevin McDonald, KC*HS, Archbishop Emeritus of Southwark, will be leading the Mini-Retreat on Saturday, 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).

We have been starved of such opportunities during the last two years or so of pandemic, so we hope that as many parishioners as possible will avail themselves of the chance to attend this Mini-Retreat, even if we are in Eastertide and not in Lent.

NOTICES

Ukrainian refugees arriving in the parish: volunteer help needed

We are expecting a Ukrainian family of five to arrive in the next few weeks and live locally in a house owned by a Catholic charity, of whose Trustees Fr David is the Chair; he and the other Trustees have been working with another local charity SWR (Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees) to accommodate them. We expect to house up to ten refugees in this property.

The family of five who are coming comprise a mother, a paediatrician who has already got a job in a local hospital, her two little children and three middle aged relatives; all female. The husbands and sons remain in Ukraine as part of the local defence force. The mother is the only one who speaks English.

We need volunteers to help support this family. Refugees generally need help in multiple ways to settle into a new life in a different country: taking them shopping, teaching them English (no prior training required for native speakers), showing them the local area, assisting with transport etc. If you think you can help please contact Fr David or Ben Andradi at ben.andradi@gmail.com.

Ukrainian family

We are hoping to welcome a Ukrainian family in the next few weeks and are appealing for the following items: beds, table, chairs, sofa, pots, pans, cutlery, crockery, bed linen, towels. The family will be staying for 6 months so the items could be considered a loan if preferred. If anyone could help with transport, particularly of large items, that would also be appreciated. Please contact me at birkettma@hotmail.com.
Maureen Birkett

Oxford May Procession

The annual May Procession of Our Lady at Most Holy Trinity will be on Sunday 22nd May, starting at 3:30pm.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Spiritual Life Conference: Monday 30th May, 10:30am - 3:30pm

In the Parish Centre with Mass at 12:00 noon. In conjunction with the Agency for Evangelization & Catechesis, our parish welcomes internationally renowned speaker Dr Ralph Martin for a day conference around his book *The Fulfilment of All Desire: A Guidebook for the Journey to God Based on the Wisdom of the Saints*. Although billed for catechists this day is suitable for anyone interested in growing their faith. £20 in person including Lunch, £5 for Zoom attendance. Booking is essential: aec.rcaos.org.uk/latest/ralphmartin.

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 help etc please contact Ben Andradi: ben.andradi@gmail.com.

Synodal Process: Diocesan Synthesis

Following the meetings in the parishes, the Diocesan Synthesis has now been produced. You can find it online at https://www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/media/n0vfb2my/southwarksynthesis_final.pdf.

Mass for New Catholics (Neophytes' Mass)

All those Baptized or Received into the Church at Easter are warmly invited to this special Mass, celebrated by the Archbishop, at the Cathedral on Saturday 21st May at 11:00am.

Marriage Preparation course

Engaged Encounter are holding a Marriage Preparation Course at St Aloysius, 20 Phoenix Road, London NW11 1TA. The course is a non-residential course on Saturday 2nd July (9:00am - 6:30pm) and Sunday 3rd July (9:00am - 4:00pm). For further information go to Book a weekend - Engaged Encounter England and Wales (engaged-encounter.org.uk).

Altar Servers Summer Break

Tuesday 2nd - Friday 5th August at the Oratory School, Reading. A few days for boy and girl Altar Servers aged 11 - 17 of the Archdiocese. Talks, discussion, prayer, daily Mass, sport, Thorpe Park visit and swimming. Holy Mass with the Archbishop. Coaches from Dartford. Cost: £199. Ask Fr Peter for a form.

Another Newsletter funny

The sermon this morning: 'Contemporary Issues #3 - Euthanasia.' The closing song: "Take My Life".

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for more Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood and Religious Life;
- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for peace in Ukraine;
- ◆ for rain (the farmer's need it);
- ◆ for Alice Pearson, Pauline Pakenham 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

Eternal Life in heaven

In today's *Gospel* Our Blessed Lord promises his sheep "eternal life", and the *Second Reading* from the *Apocalypse* describes people in eternal life in heaven. It seems appropriate, therefore, to give some thought to what we mean by eternal life in heaven. This, after all, is what we hope and work for in our Christian discipleship.

To do this I invite you to look at the depiction of Christ's Second Coming in the apse at the east end of St Thomas's Church. Look closely at the figures of the four local saints.

Some realism or naturalism

To a limited degree, the depiction of the saints is realistic, or naturalistic. This is necessary so that we know who they are. Thus they are shown wearing the sorts of clothing they would have worn, with St Thomas of Canterbury wearing the vestments of an Archbishop for example. But the realism is limited: St John Fisher is depicted in the scarlet robes of a Cardinal, but as he only became a Cardinal when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London he would not actually ever have worn the scarlet.

The figures are not depicted as they would have been in real life: St Thomas does not have blood flowing down and he is not showing the pain he must have felt. These figures are not an artistic equivalent of a photograph taken at the time.

Some abstraction

There is also a limited degree of abstraction. The figures are not abstract in the same way as, say, the figures in Picasso's paintings, but a certain abstractness is needed, to make the image universal. So St John Fisher is carrying a palm branch, to indicate that he is a martyr, and St Edith of Kemsing has a crown at her feet.

Divine idealisation

The most significant artistic feature of these saints is that they are very static, idealised representations. They are not dynamic, moving images: St Thomas of Canterbury is not shown cringing, or grimacing, or kneeling or moving in any way. What the unknown Belgian artist has so expertly portrayed is the perfection brought about by God's grace, the state of utter bliss at gazing on perfection itself, God.



This does not obliterate the human qualities of the people depicted, but it does show them as participating in the heaven mentioned in the *Apocalypse*. The setting is Christ Second Coming, the end of time, and the saints are already in heaven (which is what being canonised as a saint signifies), and so the artist is showing - as best as he can - what life in heaven will be like.

Put another way, the saints are not shown as people limited by the effects of the Fall but as people in heaven transformed by divine life. They show no signs of vice, bodily infirmity, or spiritual disorder; rather they are contemplating God in the perfect tranquillity that being in heaven will bring. The joy and peace of full communion with God appears to radiate out of them. They are in a place of divine glory, where death and decay cannot reach.

Some people may think that it looks as if eternal life in heaven is boring, in the same way that some people listen to a choir singing, say, a Palestrina Mass setting and find it boring. But that style of liturgical music serves the same function as the artwork in St Thomas, as the Liturgy is supposed to be a foretaste of heaven, a glimpse into spiritual reality. If we make it to heaven, then we shall not be subject to the realities of this present life: illness, family problems, anxieties over finances, weariness at humdrum work, household chores, and of course death. Instead we shall gaze on perfection and be in a state of complete and supreme bliss, in a place of the fulfilment of the deepest human longings.

This contemplation of God in his heavenly glory is called 'the beatific vision'. "How great will your glory and happiness be, to be allowed to see God, to be honoured with sharing the joy of salvation and eternal light with Christ your Lord and God to delight in the joy of immortality in the kingdom of heaven with the righteous and God's friends" (St Cyprian, Letter 58).



ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY ACADEMY, SEVENOAKS

In December St Thomas' School had its Section 48 Ofsted Inspection. The full report can be read on the school's website, and we can only give the summary here.

St Thomas' is an outstanding Catholic school because:

The Catholic Life and Ethos is at the heart of this school. There is a tangible 'family' feel. Various members of the school community, including the children, spoke warmly of their experience during lockdown; home learning was consistent, augmented with Zoom calls to ensure continuity of pastoral care and a real sense of community. Daily contact included a family friendly act of worship. Families were invited to set up their own prayer focus at home, mirroring the children's experience of liturgy in school. Those in school maintained a sense of belonging with their peers by joining together with them for worship online.

The teaching of Religious Education is mostly outstanding. The best lessons feature skilful questioning which enables pupils to push their thinking and understanding to higher levels, drawing on and making links with prior learning. Most teachers have a high level of confidence because of their subject expertise. Their ability to plan using a range of teaching methods, including music, art and kinaesthetic play, effectively captivates the curiosity of the pupils. Consequently, pupils enjoy their lessons and their behaviour for learning is mostly strong. Almost all pupils are inspired to learn and they make expected progress, including those with SEND.

Achievement and effort are celebrated through immediate verbal feedback and praise. Further recognition is provided through the vibrant displays throughout the school and through the Friday Celebration Assemblies which highlight good work and pupils' response to the current 'Virtues to Live By focus'. The quality of pupils' oral responses observed on this visit, during lessons and in discussions, was mostly outstanding. Pupils' written responses do not consistently capture the level of understanding expressed orally.

Praying together is part of the daily experience for all pupils and staff. Collective worship has a clear purpose, message and direction. The themes chosen for worship, including the school's chosen focus on virtues, reflect a deep understanding of the Church's mission. Key staff have an excellent understanding of the Church's liturgical year, seasons and feasts as reflected in the high-quality displays throughout the school.

Every class takes pride in their prayer focus area. These are 'dressed' to complement the liturgical season and support their topic learning in Religious Education. Most include personal prayers written by the pupils.

The Prayer Chaplains (recruited from Year 6) are involved in planning and developing collective worship, ably supported by the subject leader. This inspirational group of pupils encapsulate everything that is distinctive about this school in terms of their religious literacy, sincere commitment and their enthusiasm to share their love of their faith. They meet with the Religious Education leader each week to develop their practice, explore resources, plan and prepare to share liturgies with pupils throughout the school. The opportunity to participate in whole school masses would be appreciated by all and would benefit all pupils. Pupils expressed this in a recent survey.

The School was graded (1 outstanding, 2 good, 3 requires improvement, 4 inadequate):

Overall effectiveness in providing Catholic Education	1
Extent to which pupils contribute to and benefit from the Catholic Life of the school	1
The quality of provision for the Catholic Life of the school	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate this	1
How well pupils achieve and enjoy RE	1
The quality of teaching, learning and assessment in RE	1
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate the provision for RE	1
How well pupils respond to and participate in Collective Worship	1
The quality of provision for Collective Worship	2
How well leaders and governors promote, monitor and evaluate this	1

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 8th MAY

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

Monday 9th Feria

8:00am

Tuesday 10th Feria

9:30am

Wednesday 11th Feria

8:00am

Thursday 12th Feria

10:00am *Borough Green*
12:00noon

Friday 13th Feria

8:00am
10:00am *West Kingsdown*
11:00am

Saturday 14th S MATTHIAS, Ap

9:30am

SUNDAY 15th MAY

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

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Holy Souls
Dec'd members of the donor's family
Holy Souls
People of the Parish
Pauline Rita Packenham RIP
P.J. Kelly RIP (Anniversary)
Swift End to the Pandemic
Jill Gobel (Birthday)

Angela Griffiths

Stephen & Jenkins family

James José Martin Walker RIP

Angela Griffiths (Birthday)

Jim Collins (Anniversary)

John Rodrigues RIP

Paul Edwards RIP (3rd Anniversary)

Private Intention

Funeral Mass - Pauline Packenham RIP

Douglas, Mona & Anne Jenkins RIP

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Angela Griffiths
Fr Matthew Burns RIP
All 1st Holy Communicants
In thanksgiving
People of the Parish
Our Priests
Special Intention
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

Isaac James Coughlan

who was baptized at

St Thomas', Sevenoaks

last weekend.

Departed

Please pray for the soul of

Alice Pearson

Pauline Packenham

who have recently

departed.

ANNIVERSARIES

Nora Saunderson, Thomas Molloy, Maria Semmens, Dick Meakins, Edward Olliffe, Maria Elliot, Silvia Pragnell, Ernest Unwin, Ralph Toomey, Germaine Tallents, Grace Curtis, Julia Edwards, Eileen Sharman.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Misericordia Domini plena est terra; verbo Domini caeli firmati sunt.

Communion

Surrexit Pastor bonus, qui animam suam posuit pro ovibus suis, et pro grege suo mori dignatus est, alleluia.