



A local Catholic family is looking for a reliable live-out housekeeper/nanny, starting in September. Please contact: **07904 928928**

G  **RMAN**
TUTOR


Experienced and qualified now available:
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
jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com
Mobile: 07917032024




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

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


ST GERARD'S CHURCH IN BELFAST, LUCY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND ORLA'S BAPTISM

SEVENOAKS AND OTFORD ALTAR SERVERS GAINED THEIR MEDALS AT THE RECENT ALTAR SERVERS' RALLY AT AYLESFORD

Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

22nd May 2022



Today's Mass: SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29; Psalm 66; Apocalypse 22: 10-14, 22-23; John 14: 23-29

First Reading: the Council of Jerusalem (the first universal council of the Church) meets to resolve the problems brought by the influx of non Jews. It was decided in the end there should be no difference between Jew and Gentile.

Psalm: as the 50 days of Eastertide continue we continue to sing our praises of God.

Second Reading: in the 'new Jerusalem' (heaven) there is no Temple, because it is filled with God's presence, and no sun or moon, since it is lit by the 'radiant glory of God'.

Gospel: the words at the Communion Rite of Mass – 'Lord Jesus Christ, who said to your apostles Peace I leave you, my peace I give to you ...' – are taken from today's *Gospel*.

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



We all need help

It is a good idea to get help. Circle the things you need help with.



Can you add any ideas? Draw them here...

Jesus says he has to leave his friends, but he is sending a special helper to be with them. Jesus is sending the Holy Spirit. No one needs to be worried or afraid, Jesus is giving us all his peace.

Spot the difference

How many differences can you see?



This is a friend of Jesus who is worried about him leaving.

Here he is when Jesus promised to send a helper.

Can you help Sam and Miriam to play peacefully?

Sam wants to play with his car, but Miriam has it. What Sam says is important. If he is mean, they could end up fighting. If Sam says something kind they could play together peacefully. Then they will both be happy.



Hey! Get off that its mine.

Would you like to play with my car for a bit?

I saw that car first!

Shall we both play with it together?

Choose the best thing for Sam to say to Miriam. Draw a line from the best words to Sam. Match best words to Miriam too.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for sending us your Holy Spirit. I know that I can trust you to help me. Be with me always. Amen.



What is in the parcel?

CLUE
It starts with P

Can you sort out these jumbled up letters to find out what the present is?

CEAEP

Write them in the spaces on the label and then colour the parcel.

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

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 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

Contents this Week

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RETURNING TO MASS AT PENTECOST

The Bishops have announced the reinstatement of the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays with effect from Pentecost (Sunday 5th June). For their statement **Returning to Mass at Pentecost** please go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/spring-plenary-2022-resolution-returning-to-mass-at-pentecost/>. As they say: "A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist."

TODAY

Supply priests

Fr Bryan Wells at Otford and one of the Capuchin Friars at St Thomas's are assisting today.

Otford May Procession

The annual May Procession of Our Lady at Most Holy Trinity is today, starting at 3:30pm.

International Day of Prayer for Eastern Christians

Theme: *One faith - one family - one hope*. Christians in the Middle East are at best a diminishing presence or at worst suffering persecution. This day is a Day of Prayer in solidarity with them.

THIS WEEK

Fr Peter

is away this week, leading a Pilgrimage to Oberammergau.

Monday

The Parish Finance Committee meets on Monday.

Wednesday: Confirmation welcome meeting

For parents and Confirmation candidates, in St Thomas's Church at 7:30pm.

Holy Matrimony

The Wedding of Lloyd King and Katrina Eaton is on Thursday at 3:30pm in St Thomas's.

Saturday: First Holy Communion

Dolly Anderson receives Holy Communion for the first time at the 9:30am Mass on Saturday.

ASCENSION DAY (THURSDAY)

Holy Mass on this Holyday of Obligation

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 9:30am (School Mass), 12:00 noon, 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am

St Joseph's, Borough Green: 6:00pm.

Parents & Toddlers

No meeting this Thursday.

Charity Art Sale for Ukraine

Paintings by Sussex artist Dorothy Swain (1922 - 2018, Fr Bryan's mother-in-law) will be exhibited and on sale in St Thomas's Parish Room from Thursday (Ascension Day) to next Sunday.

Dorothy trained at the Royal College of Art under the tutelage of Sir Stanley Spencer and taught informally for many years from her home in Mayfield, E Sussex. The paintings may be viewed and purchased (by cash or cheque) after Masses in St Thomas's, with all proceeds going to the Aid to the Church in Need Ukraine Appeal.

NEXT SUNDAY

Annual Mission Appeal

Next weekend we shall be visited by priests from the Comboni Missionaries, otherwise known as the Verona Fathers, and the second collection will be for them. This replaces the scheduled second collection for the Catholic Communications Network.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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.

9:15am Mass

With the restoration of the obligation and rising numbers at Mass, we need more catechists to assist with the Children's Liturgy of the Word (contact sevenoaksclov@rcaos.org.uk), someone to co-ordinate tea & coffee afterwards (contact Fr David or Magda), and help with the music (contact Fr David).

Finance

The SVP Lenten collection this year, specifically for Ukraine, amounted to the magnificent sum of £2,610.30 and we would like to express our gratitude to parishioners for their generosity.

SVP

The total Offertory for April was £10,086. Thank you.

Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank

Thank you for your very generous donations to the Foodbank. Any non-perishable food is always welcome, as well as hygiene and cleaning products. We have reopened our café, which adds a very supportive dimension to the basic shopping experience that we are blessed to offer to the poorest in our community.

Isabelle Mercer

St. Anthony's Communications Conference

Dr Ralph Martin will also be speaking, alongside some other prominent speakers, at a day conference focusing on faith and evangelization in the Church today, at St. Mary's, West Croydon on Saturday 4th June, 9:45am - 5:00pm. Book online at saintant.com.

'Living as Catholics in Challenging Times' Dr Ralph Martin

'The Life of Grace' Fr Andrew Pinsent

'Why are We Alive Today?' Dr Ralph Martin

'Anchoring the Church: The Blessed Sacrament and Our Lady' Fr Marcus Holden

'Does Evangelization Really Matter?' Dr Ralph Martin.

Annual Marriage Mass

Mass in celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage on Saturday 9th July at St George's Cathedral at 3:00pm. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th Wedding anniversary this year, please apply as soon as possible to mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to receive your invitation from the Archbishop. As the title of your email please write your parish (ie Sevenoaks), and give the following details: names (in the format *John & Mary Smith*), home address, and the anniversary you are celebrating.

St Joseph's

1. Together with the Church of England Church of the Good Shepherd, we are running a Children's Activity stall on Saturday 4th June in the Recreation ground. We would welcome donations of the following: plastic milk bottles (4 pint size), cardboard tubes from kitchen/toilet rolls, dried leaves and moss, self-adhesive acrylic gems and stickers for decorating paper crowns, etc. Please see the list on the box in the narthex.
2. There will be Garden work parties after Mass on Thursday 2nd June (Bank Holiday) and Thursday 9th June. Please come along and help even if it's for a short while.
3. Donations of shrubs/plants for a north-facing aspect would be much appreciated for the back of the church to help keep the weeds at bay. Thank you.

Margaret Biggs

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for Christians in the Middle East;
- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for peace in Ukraine;
- ◆ for those who use the Foodbanks.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Welcome back to Mass

If you have been away from Mass during the pandemic, what can you expect when you return?

Welcome

- At all four churches there will be welcomers at each Sunday Mass to assist you. Hand sanitiser will be available at the Entrance, and the churches will be well ventilated.
- The wearing of face coverings is optional.
- If you are concerned about COVID, consider coming to one of the less busy Sunday Masses, or going to Borough Green which is more spacious and well ventilated.

Liturgy

- Under the Bishops' COVID guidelines, Holy Communion will only be offered under one kind: the Chalice will not be offered for the time being.
- Please don't come forward in the Communion Procession if you are not receiving Holy Communion (the exception is small children).
- At the Sign of Peace, do not proffer a physical sign - such as a handshake - to someone outside your household bubble.
- In St Thomas's, the side Chapel and the Parish Room can be used for overflow, so you are not seated too closely to others.

General

- Please be patient as we gradually get back to normal.
- If you can volunteer to help - as a welcomer, reader, Children's Liturgy of the Word catechist, musician, etc - please do so. We particularly need people to provide tea/coffee and biscuits after the 9:15am Mass at St Thomas's.
- Please register as a parishioner if you have not yet done so; this will keep you in touch. Either click on Registration on the parish website (sevrccparish.org.uk) or complete a blue form.

Pastoral care

- If you have been bereaved during the pandemic, or are perhaps grieving over the loss of a job or income, come to the Listening to You sessions on the third Monday of the month in the Parish Room. Ring Ronnie (01732 452988) or email Kate (katetravers521@hotmail.com) for more information.
- If you need material support don't hesitate to ask the parish SVP: sevenoakssvp@gmail.com or 07796 564018.

Remember

- God wants you to come to Mass on a Sunday and Holyday, not out of a sense of obligation, a sense of compulsion, but because we should want to be at Mass, to praise God, to thank him, and to receive the manifold graces and sustenance we need for our daily lives.
- Do not worry if you have got out of the habit over the last two years; you will soon get back into the swing of it!

And if you know someone who hasn't yet returned to Mass, please make the effort to reach out to them. Offer to accompany them. The Clergy can't possibly know everyone who hasn't been to Mass, so please take it upon yourself to reach out: tell them it is safe; tell them they will be welcomed back and people will be pleased to see them. Give them a Newsletter and point out this page and the Bishops' message.

Watching a livestreamed Mass is fine if you are stuck in at home, but as the Bishops point out it doesn't count as attending Mass. Now is the time to come back to Mass to reconnect with God.

It is Mass attendance which makes us Catholic Christians; it is the Mass which creates us as the holy, priestly, and prophetic people of God in our bit of West Kent.

RETURNING TO MASS AT PENTECOST

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity – “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference

Friday 6th May 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 22nd 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 23rd Feria

8:00am

Tuesday 24th Feria

9:30am

Wednesday 25th S Bede the Venerable, Pr D

8:00am
10:00am *Oxford*

THURSDAY 26th

8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
12:00noon
8:00pm
10:00am *Oxford*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*
6:00pm *Borough Green*

Friday 27th Feria

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

Saturday 28th S AUGUSTINE of CANTERBURY, B Apostle of England

9:30am

SUNDAY 29th MAY

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

SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

John O’Connor RIP
People of the Parish
Peace & Reconciliation in Ukraine
Frances Hall - well being
Fr Gordon Thompson RIP
Speedy recovery of baby Jack Smit from a cardiac problem
Alexander (Sandy) Nimmo RIP
Our Priests

All Ukrainians in the World

Our Priests

Private Intention
In thanksgiving - Sally Haggarty (Birthday)

The ASCENSION of the LORD

People of the Parish
Our Priests
Jon, Baby, Isobel, Cyril and Louise Gouldstone
Holy Souls
Ian Tellis RIP & the comfort of his family
Holy Souls
Holy Souls

Lancy Rodrigues RIP
Holy Souls

SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Eileen McSharry RIP (Birthday)
Cyril Waite RIP
Those preparing for 1st Holy Communion
Michelle Palin RIP
Catholic Communications Network
Comboni Missionaries
People of the Parish
Right use of the Media

Departed

Please pray for the soul of
Nigel Orme
who has recently departed.

Prayer for All The Faithful Departed.

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual
light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.*



*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.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Vocem iucunditatis
annuntiate, et audiatur,
annuntiate usque ad
extremam terrae: liberavit
Dominus populum suum,
alleluia.

Communion

Si diligitis me, mandata mea
servate, dicit Dominus. Et
ego rogabo Patrem, et
alium Paraclitum dabit
vobis, ut maneat vobiscum
in aeternum, alleluia.