

OTFORD VILLAGE FETE



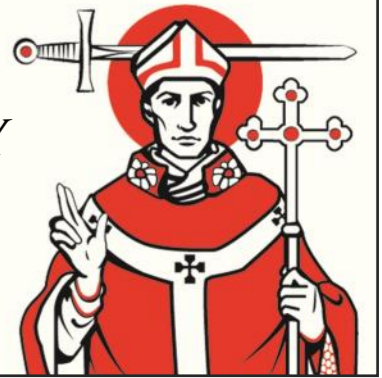
DOLLY ANDERSON'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



Archdiocese of
Southwark

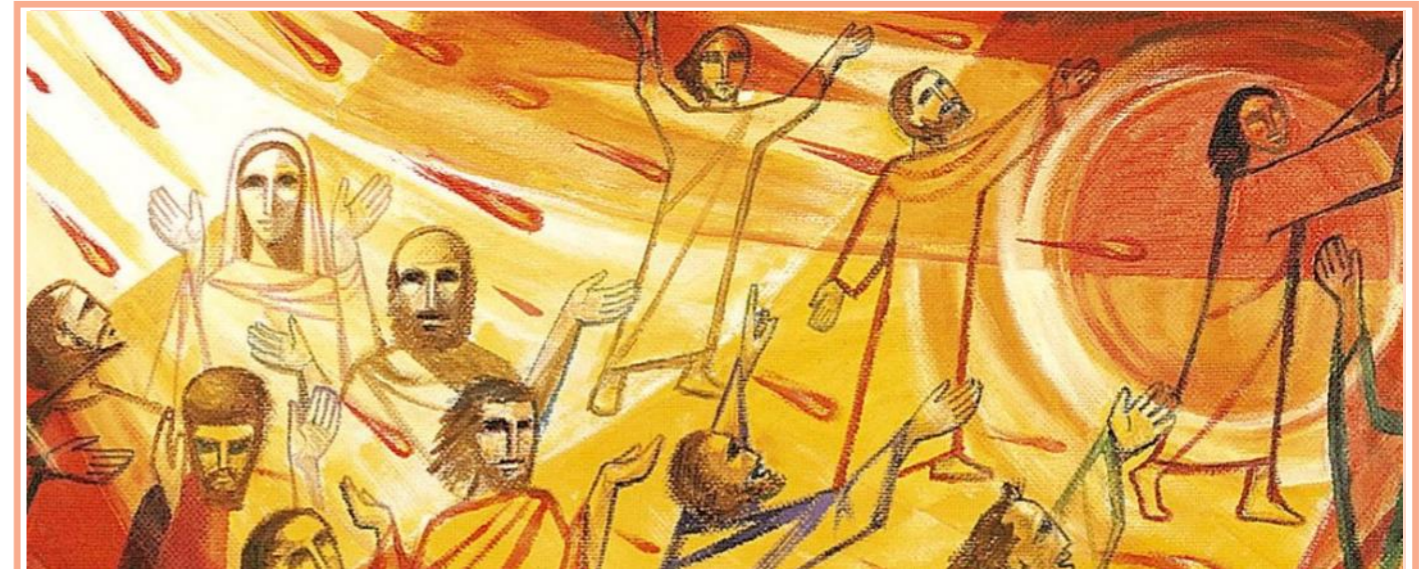
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

5th June 2022



Today's Mass: PENTECOST SUNDAY

Pentecost Vigil (Saturday 6:00pm)

Genesis 11: 1-9; Psalm 103; Romans 8: 22-27; John 7:37-39

The **First Reading** describes the Tower of Babel; Pentecost is the undoing of Babel. In the **Second Reading** St Paul explains how the Spirit helps us in our weakness. When we hear the **Gospel** we wait in vigil for the Holy Spirit, whose coming we shall celebrate on Sunday.

Mass during the Day (Readings from Year C Ad Lib)

Acts 2: 1-11; Psalm 103; Romans 8: 8-17; John 14: 15-16, 23-26

First Reading: the famous account of Pentecost in *Acts*, which strikes terror into the hearts of Mass readers with all the names! Pentecost was one of the most momentous events in the history not just of the Church but of the whole world.

After the Pentecost **Psalm** in the **Second Reading** St Paul tells us that the Spirit we receive is not a spirit of slaves bringing fear but the spirit of sons, which enables us - as children of God - to address God as Father.

Please stand to sing the **Sequence**, which is obligatory today at Mass during the Day: hymn 301 in *Laudate*.

Gospel: Jesus tells us that the Holy Spirit, the Advocate, whose sending by the Father we celebrate today, will "*teach you everything*". It is only if we have received the fulness of the Spirit at Baptism and Confirmation, and thereafter remain open to the Holy Spirit, that we can expect to understand everything needed to practice the faith.

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



Sunday 5 June 2022
John 14:15-16, 23-26
Pentecost Sunday

In the
GOSPEL TODAY

I can share the Good News!

Jesus asks all his friends to
tell everyone the Good News
about his love.



How will you
share Jesus' love
with people today?
Write, or draw your
ideas in the flame.

Jesus promises to send his Holy Spirit, to help all his friends to live as he asks. Jesus' friends are God's children. God loves us and we love God!

Good or Bad



God the Holy
Spirit gives
us lots of
good things.

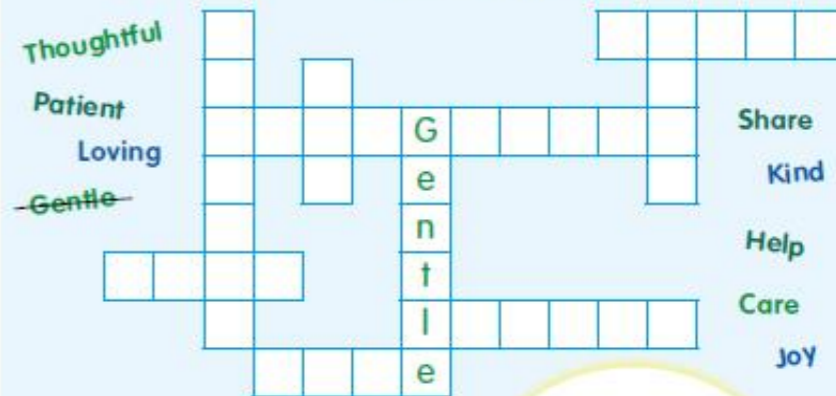


Put the other words
in the dustbin.

See if you can sort
out the good things
from the jumbled up
sack and write them
in the treasure chest.

A Kriss Kross

Can you fit these words into the squares?
The first one has been done for you...



A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for
sending your Holy Spirit to
be my helper. Help me to
show how much I love you
by living as you ask. Amen.

Happy Birthday!

Today is the birthday of the Church!

Draw as many candles as you
can on the birthday cake and
draw little flames above them!



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 454729

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

Fr Peter Littleton: peterlittleton@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

NOTICES

'(Re) Connecting with Faith'

A straightforward and accessible three part introduction to the Heart of the Catholic Faith will be delivered by Fr Peter in the Parish Centre on Wednesdays 15th, 22nd and 29th June, starting at 7:30pm. If you know a friend or family member whom you think might be interested in learning more about Catholicism, perhaps invite them to the first meeting together with you. Snacks and refreshments will be served. No need to book, just turn up.

Corpus Christi

This great Feast is on Sunday 19th June. All the children who have made their first Holy Communion in the last two years are invited to throw rose petals before the Blessed Sacrament in the Procession after Mass. This will take place at the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses at St Thomas's and at the Masses at Otford, Borough Green, and West Kingsdown.

Please liaise with your catechist about the arrangements. The children are welcome to wear their First Communion outfits if they wish. Please bring rose petals if you can.

First Holy Communion 2023

If your child is currently in Year 2 or above, now is the time to register them for the next Holy Communion programme. Please register online at sevrparish.org.uk. The initial parents' meeting will be on Wednesday 6th July at 8:00pm.

Note that this earlier than in previous years. This is to enable the first Holy Communions to take place before Corpus Christi next year.

Annual Marriage Mass

Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage, on Saturday 9th July at 3:00pm in St George's Cathedral. If you are celebrating your 1st/10th/25th/40th/50th/60th + wedding anniversary this year please email mflkent@rcaos.org.uk to receive your invitation from the Archbishop. Put the Parish, ie Sevenoaks, in the title and give the following details: your names in the format John & Mary Smith, your home address and the anniversary you are celebrating.

Contents this Week

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TODAY

Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To mark Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the Bishops Conference has mandated the following:

- inclusion of a special bidding for Her Majesty in the Universal Prayer,
- insertion of a Prayer for the Queen between the Post Communion Prayer and the final Blessing, and
- the singing of the National Anthem before the Blessing.

Sunday obligation

The Bishops have reinstated the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holydays with effect from today.

Supply priests

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

THIS WEEK

Nigel Orme RIP

Funeral Mass on Thursday at 10:30am in St Thomas's.

Holy Matrimony

The Wedding of Bradley Drewett and Jessica La Trobe is on Thursday at 1:30pm in St Thomas's.

Confirmation candidates

Mass of Enrolment at the 6:00pm Mass on Saturday evening.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Advance Notices for your diary

Wednesday 29th June is a Holyday of Obligation, the **Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul**. Holy Mass at the usual Holyday times at all four churches.

The **Parish Garden Party** is on Sunday 3rd July, from 12:30pm in the Presbytery garden. Free food, free drinks, bottle stall etc. Put it in your diary, as you won't want to miss it after we haven't been able to hold it for two years during the pandemic.

Bottles - unopened and preferably alcoholic with drinkable contents - for the Bottle Stall can be left at the Presbytery. Toys - in safe condition - for the Toy Stall may also be left at the Presbytery.

The Armed Man - a Mass for Peace

Dedicated to the people of Ukraine the Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir will perform this work at the Stag Theatre on Sunday 19th June at 7:30pm. The Ukrainian National Anthem and a new Ukrainian Prayer by John Rutter will also be sung. Tickets from the Stag Box Office; details on the poster or email sarah.harrison18@btinternet.com.

Archdiocesan Justice & Peace Spring Assembly

On Saturday 25th June at St Paul's, Dover, CT16 1BB. Mass 10:00am; registration 10:40am; programme 11:00am - 4:00pm. Entitled *Caught in the Act* the day will examine the injustice of the Nationality and Borders Act, removal to Rwanda and difficulties for Ukrainians in the UK.

Entrance is free; Lunch provided. Email: jpiccontact@rcaos.org.uk or just turn up.

St Joseph's Borough Green

Please come along to the Garden work party on Thursday 9th June to help clear the path and tidy up the back garden in readiness for the Blessed Sacrament procession after Mass on June 19th for the Feast of Corpus Christi. We will be going out through the back door and round the church back to the main door.

We would appreciate donations of plants for a north-facing aspect for the back garden. Thank you in advance.

Parish Registration

If you haven't yet done so, please register as a parishioner: either click on Register on the parish website or complete the blue form (to be found in the Entrance of all four churches). This keeps you in touch and greatly helps our administration. It is also important when it comes to Fr David completing school Supplementary Forms

ANNIVERSARIES

Margaret Erdie, Thomas Costelloe, Henry Fischer, Brian Hunt, Bernard Griffin, Jude Dias, Hazel Pilorz, Ann Burke, Thomas Burke, Robert Madi, Evelyn Brain, Annie Griffin, Kathleen Hickey, Lawrence Batty, James Boyle, Alice Holmes, Elizabeth Tully, Peter Huggins, Peter Connolly, Lucy Tisdall, Elsie Ashton, Joan Geary, Christine Grant, Nina Spurr, Victoria Fernandes, Margaret Ross, Marilyn Kan, Philip Abbott, Margaret Abbott, Dorothy Wright, John O'Boyle, Mary Overbeke, Anita Stockmann, Edward O'Neill, James Joseph, McCabe, Helene Fox, Joan Harrison, Lillian Griggs, Henry Fabian, Mavis Webb, Brian Morel.

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for Her Majesty the Queen on her Platinum Jubilee;
- ◆ for an end to the pandemic;
- ◆ for peace in Ukraine;
- ◆ for those who have recently died: Nigel Orme, Daniel McGowan, Angela Griffiths.

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

Are you contagious?



During the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic we became very familiar with the R number: if the R number was above 1 the virus was spreading, if below 1 it was receding. An article on the *Church Growth Modelling* website uses this concept to analyse the rate of growth or decline of churches in this country.

The R number for the Catholic Church (in England) is calculated at just over 0.9. This means that it is not reproducing itself and is heading for decline if not extinction. The Catholic Church is in a better place than most other denominations, but we cannot be complacent. John Hayward, a mathematics don and the author of the report, concludes that *"it is possible that Catholics could just survive, but at vastly reduced members"*.

In a very interesting paragraph he reaches the following conclusion:

"The Church of England and Catholics should last until the second half of the century. However, they need to take urgent action now. Stemming losses is not enough. None of us can prevent ageing! Whatever their current denominational emphases, they should put all aside to encourage members to make new disciples who can replicate themselves. Praying for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit would not go amiss either."

In his analysis of the Catholic Church the author points to ageing among the faithful, reduced immigration, a lowering Catholic birth rate and a loss of loyalty particularly among younger Catholics. In his general

analysis of all the denominations, he states that it is very clear that the liberal denominations are declining the most. He poses the question: *"Do liberal Christians have insufficient theological reasons to want to spread their faith?"*

He asks further questions. Could it be that the declining denominations have a lukewarm attachment to confessional Christianity? Do they see their religion more in human terms than divine terms? For them, is Christianity more about things *people* do rather than what *God* does? Of the Catholics he asks if there are cultural reasons why Catholics have failed to spread their faith?

You don't need me to tell you that Mass attendance was severely affected by the pandemic. Now the Bishops have reinstated the Sunday obligation, with effect from Pentecost Sunday. How many will return and how many people have we lost? Our worry over lower Mass attendance is not financial (that is, simply wanting to preserve the institution); we are breaking even in this parish as you will have seen from the Financial Statement. Our concern is for the eternal destination of people's souls.

The Clergy and diocesan advisors like those in the diocesan Agency for Evangelization and Catechesis obviously have a major part to play if we are to spread the faith and grow the Church. But it is also clear that every single Church member has a role in this. Every Baptized person is thereby part of the mission of the Church. Expressed in more practical terms, you will know of individual Catholics or families who have stopped coming to Mass or of non-Catholics who may be interested in becoming Catholics, rather better than I do.

The parish as a whole also has a role in spreading the faith. What can we do as a parish? How can we use the various media to reach out? What groups would help? What is the Holy Spirit urging us to do in this situation?

The analysis to which I have referred above states that encouraging members to make more disciples is the most important - and *necessary* - thing we should be doing at this time. It is the most urgent task of our age.

So, what are YOU doing to recruit new disciples? What should YOUR parish be doing to facilitate this? In short, are YOU contagious?

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS

Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry pious mind;
Come, pour thy joys on human kind;
From sin, and sorrow set us free;
And make thy temples worthy Thee.

O, Source of uncreated Light,
The Father's promis'd Paraclete!
Thrice Holy Fount, thrice Holy Fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Come, and thy Sacred Unction bring
To sanctify us, while we sing!

Plenteous of grace, descend from high,
Rich in thy sev'n-fold energy!
Thou strength of his Almighty Hand,
Whose pow'r does heav'n and earth command:
Proceeding Spirit, our Defence,
Who do'st the gift of tongues dispence,
And crown'st thy gift with eloquence!

Refine and purge our earthly parts;
But, oh, inflame and fire our hearts!
Our frailties help, our vice control;
Submit the senses to the soul;
And when rebellious they are grown,
Then, lay thy hand, and hold 'em down.

Chase from our minds th' Infernal Foe;
And peace, the fruit of love, bestow;
And, lest our feet should step astray,
Protect, and guide us in the way.

Make us Eternal Truths receive,
And practise, all that we believe:
Give us thy self, that we may see
The Father and the Son, by thee.

Immortal honour, endless fame,
Attend th' Almighty Father's name:
The Saviour Son be glorified,
Who for lost Man's redemption died:
And equal adoration be,
Eternal Paraclete, to thee.

John Dryden (1631 - 1700)
The first Poet Laureate, who converted to Catholicism in 1685

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 5th JUNE

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am

6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 6th *Mary, Mother of the Church*

8:00am

Tuesday 7th *Feria*

9:30am

Wednesday 8th *Feria*

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 9th *OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST*

10:00am *Borough Green*

10:30am

12:00noon

Friday 10th *Feria*

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

12:00noon

Saturday 11th *S Barnabas, Ap*

9:30am

SUNDAY 12th JUNE

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am

6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*
9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

PENTECOST SUNDAY

HM The Queen
The Church
Mervyn Saldanha RIP & comfort of his family
Jan & Stefania Ociepa RIP
and Stanislaw Czaja RIP
People of the Parish
Elizabeth Rodger RIP (1st Anniversary)
Peace in Ukraine
Maureen & Michael Dinsmore RIP (Anniversary)

Anita Stockmann RIP

Donors Intention (AC)

Christopher La Trobe

A deeper understanding
between Christians and Jews

Our Priests

Nigel Orme RIP - Funeral Mass

Good health of Heather Mills

Anita Stockmann RIP (Anniversary)

The Archbishop

Stockmann family

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Recently departed Priests
People of the Parish
Quick recovery of the donor
Children receiving their first Holy Communion
Peace in Ukraine
Mary Talty RIP
Holy Souls
An end to the pandemic

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

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

Departed

Please pray for the soul of

Daniel McGowan
Angela Griffiths

who have 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*



LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Spiritus Domini replevit
orbem terrarum, et hoc
quod continet omnia
scientiam habet vocis,
alleluia.

Communion

Repleti sunt omnes Spiritu
Sancto, loquentes magnalia
Dei, alleluia.