### SMALL NOTICES

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

**sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk** for further details.



Planning holidays and need a reliable dog sitter?

Call: 07887 429416









### UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY

"There is always a need for us Catholics to be able to know what is going on, especially in that key relationship between our faith and our world."

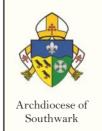
(Cardinal Nichols at the launch of the Universe - October 2021)

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# PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022



### Today's Mass: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

1 Kings 19: 16, 19-21; Psalm 15; Galatians 5: 1, 13-18; Luke 9: 51-62

**First Reading**: Elijah the prophet calls Elisha to follow and succeed him. This story is chosen as today's First Reading because of the parallel between Elisha's desire to say farewell to his parents first and the desire of the last mentioned disciple in the Gospel to do the same.

**Psalm:** we are confident that God 'will show us the path of life'.

**Second Reading:** freedom is not freedom to do as one likes (self-indulgence); rather it is freedom to do deeds of love prompted by the Spirit.

**Gospel:** Jesus and His followers turn towards Jerusalem. For Luke this is not so much geographical as theological: the holy city of Jerusalem will be the climax and focal point of Jesus' saving death and resurrection. And the call to follow Christ overrides everything else.

Like all the Gospels *Luke* clearly presents this miracle as having eucharistic overtones, as we can discern from the verbs he uses to describe Jesus' actions: as at the Last Supper (and as every priest does at every Mass) He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it.

Fr David

### ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

**Sunday Mass times:** Saturday 6:00pm Wednesday Sunday

**9:15am** (Children's Liturgy of Word)

11:15am 6:00pm

8:00am (Latin)

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am Tuesday

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times:

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

12:00noon Thursday 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

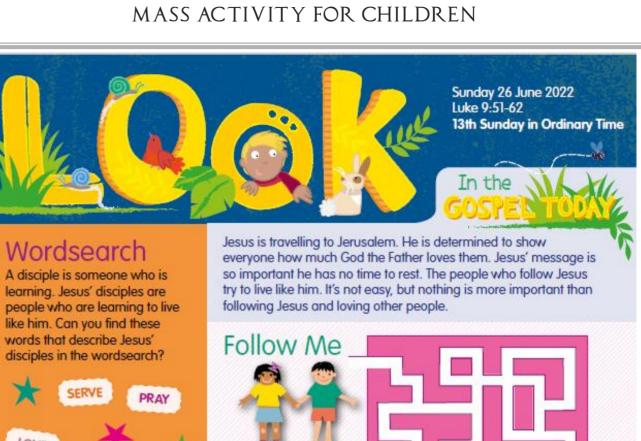


### ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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







Thank you, Jesus, for being

so determined to show me

how much God the Father

loves me. I want to follow you

and be your disciple. Help me

to be kind and loving. Amen.









Jesus' message

Jesus wants to ask us something important. Can you break the code and find out what it is?





redemporist

Editor: Rochal Thompson. Design by Emma Repetit. Illustrations by Anna Davie. Copyright & Redemptorist Publications, Wolf's L

### **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 454729

Borough Green: Chris Hurll chris.hurll@outlook.com

### Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)

Jim McSharry jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

#### **Church Flowers**

Kate Travers katetravers521@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

### TODAY

### **First Holy Communion**

Welcome to Alexa Wyss, Alessia Ditri, Aiyla Longworth, Miriam Hunt and Poppy Milton, receiving their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass today.

#### 11:15am Mass

The Music Group leads our music today.

### THIS WEEK

### Fr David

returns from his holiday tomorrow.

### Wednesday: Solemnity of SS Peter & Paul

This is a Holyday of Obligation, that is a day when you should attend Holy Mass if you can. Please note a change in the Mass times for St Thomas's (caused by School swimming lessons in the morning).

Holy Mass:

*St Thomas's:* 8:00am (Latin), 12:00 noon, 2:00pm (School Mass), 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

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

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

The second collection on Wednesday (there is no first collection) is for Peter's Pence. This collection is sent to the Holy See, to provide the means for the Holy Father to exercise his service of the Universal Church and to support poor dioceses etc.

### NOTICES

### First Holy Communion 2023

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

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

### Parish Garden Party -

### Next Sunday from 12:00noon

This is an inclusive event for young and old, families, teenagers, retired and parishioners from all four churches. No charge for entry, food or drink. There will be a variety of food, including BBQ, children's games, entertainment and live music, bottle and toy stalls, Parish raffle with prizes, and a bar. Most parish groups will be taking part. All funds raised are for the Parish. The Bottle Stall is always popular. Please look through your cupboards and bring bottles to the Presbytery (champagne but not shampoo, Sangria not sanitiser, Pimm's not Pepsi!). Likewise donate unwanted toys, teddies etc - in safe condition - and bring them to the Presbytery. If you have ideas for the Garden Party please contact Ben Andradi at ben.andradi@gmail.com.

The 2019 Garden Party Raffle tickets are on sale after all Sunday Masses.

### Volunteers needed

Now that things are getting back to normal after the pandemic, we need a number of volunteers. If YOU can help, don't hesitate to offer yourself.

Collection counters: can you count and are free on a weekday morning? Please contact Fr David or Andy Hicks (andyhicks4@gmail.com) if you could do this, perhaps once a month or so. Now that many people donate by Standing Order or via the card machine, this is not as big a job as it used to be, but it still needs doing.

9:15am Mass at St Thomas's: we need a few more catechists to help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word. If you possibly can, contact Mark O'Prey (sevenoaksclow@rcaos.org.uk). Training will be given, but note that a DBS check will be required. Also, can you help provide some music at this Mass, even if once a month? Contact Fr David. The Fitzgerald family have restarted tea/coffee and biscuits after this Mass. Speak to them if you can help with this from time to time.

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### PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

### St Thomas' Catholic Primary School

We currently have vacancies for our Reception Class starting in 2022. St Thomas' is a small Catholic primary school situated close to the Parish Church. We are a welcoming and inclusive community where all children are supported by the whole staff in a loving Christian community. Our children achieve to a high standard. The children are happy and make most of each and every day. Our curriculum provides our children with a strong knowledge and skills base. If you would like to make an application or visit the school please email office@saintthomas.co.uk.

### **Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage**

The Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place between 19th and 26th August. We are sad that, like most Lourdes pilgrimages this year, we have not been able to include pilgrims who need medical support.

At the same time, we are delighted to be returning to Lourdes after two years of absence. Details are available at www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/catholic-association or from Southwark contacts: Canon Ed Perera (edwardperera@rcaos.org.uk) and Bishop Paul Hendricks (paulhendricks@rcaos.org.uk).

Bishop Paul Hendricks

### St Joseph's

- 1. Garden work party after Mass on Thursday  $30^{th}$  June and  $14^{th}$  July. Please come along to help. Bring your own tools or use the ones we have. Tea and biscuits will be available.
- 2. Any offers of salads for the Parish Garden party on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July would be much appreciated. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex. If you could bring the salad in a disposable foil container, that would be helpful; otherwise please label your dish clearly with your name on it and St Joseph's so that it can find its way back to you.
- 3. Coffee after Mass will be on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July (not 3<sup>rd</sup> because of the Parish Garden party).

### St Bernadette's

The St Bernadette's U.C.M are holding a "Groundsheet" Sale on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Mainly bric-a-brac & books. The majority of items will be placed on groundsheets, which are not for sale, in the church grounds. All proceeds will be split between The Community Cupboard and the U.C.M.'s charitable causes.

### ADDITIONAL NOTICES

### **Annual Mission Appeal**

The appeal for the Comboni Missionaries totalled £2,410.87. Fr Franco and Fr John send their thanks and blessings for this generous amount.

### **Parish Registration**

If you are new to the parish (and welcome!) or have never registered, please go to the parish website (sevrcparish.org.uk) and click on Registration.

### Quiet Day: Women in the Gospels Part 1

Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July at The Pout House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU, from 10:00am – 4:00pm. The day will be led by Gilly Fenner. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided but take a packed Lunch. Suggested contribution: £5. All welcome though numbers are limited to 20; to attend email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com.

### PLEASE PRAY

- ♦ for Pope Francis;
- ♦ for all who are sick;
- ♦ for many volunteers for collection counting and at the 9:15am Mass;
- ♦ for good weather
- St Roch, pray for us.
- St Joseph, pray for us.
- St Thomas of Canterbury,
- pray for us.
- St Bernadette, pray for us.



Desire.

### From the Desk of the Assistant Priest

### **Come Holy Spirit**

s many of you know, we recently had a visit to this parish from Dr. Ralph Martin, an internationally renowned Catholic author, whose national tour I had become involved in co-ordinating. If you did not manage to make any of his talks, I really do commend you to check out some of his books, especially Fulfilment of All

It was a privilege to get-to-know Ralph during his visit and I learnt a lot from what he had to share. However, perhaps the most important insight I gained was into the importance of the Holy Spirit.

Ralph pointed out what a crucial difference Pentecost made to the Apostles. Even after having witnessed the Resurrection, the Scriptures indicate the first Christians were still living in fear of the Jews (cf. John 19.19, 26), still holding onto doubts (cf. Matt. 28.17b) and still looking for an earthly, political salvation (Acts 1.6). It was the coming of the Spirit which broke them free, filling them with courage to live for Christ and go out into the world proclaiming eternal salvation in Him.

However, Ralph made another important point - many baptised and confirmed Catholics do not seem to be living the joy of this Pentecostal experience. Many still seem to be afraid to share their faith, or are lacking the courage to fully live for Christ. In essence, he said, they are living as 'pre-Pentecostal' Christians.

### How can this be?

Whilst it is clear that the grace of the Holy Spirit is given in the sacraments, the Church also teaches that the fruitfulness of the sacraments - that is the effectiveness in the life of the one receiving - is dependent on personal readiness to receive those fruits (*Catechism*, § 1128).

St. Thomas Aquinas suggests that a number of things can effectively block the fruitfulness of the sacraments in our lives.

### Lack of repentance

"Now so long as a man wills to sin, he cannot be united to Christ...Wherefore Augustine says in his book on Penance that "no man who has the use of free-will can begin the new life, except he repent of his former life." (Summa Theologiae III, q. 68 art. 4)

### Lack of faith

"[R]ight faith is necessary for Baptism, because, as it appears from Romans 3:22, the justice of God is by faith of Jesus Christ." (Ibid, art. 8)

### Lack of intention to live a new life

"Just as, according to Augustine, he who has the use of free-will, must, in order to die to the old life, "will to repent of his former life"; so must he, of his own will, intend to lead a new life, the beginning of which is precisely the receiving of the sacrament." (Ibid, art. 7)

### The challenge and the opportunity

Am I joyfully living the new life of a post-Pentecostal Christian, not in fear, or, for the things of this world, but for the life to come? Do I have the courage to share that message of eternal life with others?

These are challenging questions - but if the answer is 'no' then the conclusion is that I am probably not living the life Christ desires for me.

The good news, however, is that it is never too late to open my heart anew. I do not need to receive the sacraments again, I simply need to seek to remove whatever obstacle is making them unfruitful.

And the even better news, is that the Holy Spirit is here to help. If I have not really repented, I can ask Him for the grace of deep compunction; if I need the gift of faith, I can seek it. When we "pray without ceasing" (cf. Thess. 5.16-18) the Lord will help us in our need - after all, if we really want the sacraments to be fruitful in our lives just think how much He wants to them to be!

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## CALLED TO HOLINESS CATECHESIS FROM THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES 2022

### **CHOSEN BY GOD TO BECOME HOLY**

What is our family calling? St. Paul - called by the Lord to make a radical turning point in his life – (cf. *Acts* 9:1-28) – could answer as follows:

«Blessed be the God [...] [who] chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love...» (*Eph* 1:3-4).

A family is born from the decision of a man and a woman to begin an experience of life in common together, supported by the Grace of Christ. When this occurs, married life, full of novelties and new challenges to face, becomes for the spouses, as the rite of Marriage says, the new path towards their sanctification and, consequently, a privileged path towards holiness.

In the same way, family life, entwined with relationships, sometimes complicated, and with relationships that are not always easy, becomes a particularly suitable and favorable context for contemplating the action of the Spirit of God, who can convert human hearts, change their attitudes and make the members of the family capable of loving as Christ loves.

### **HOLINESS: A CALLING FOR ALL**

«For I, the LORD, am your God; and you shall make and keep yourselves holy, because I am holy» (Lv 11:44).

Pope Francis in his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*, the third of his pontificate, encourages each person to respond to his or her own call to holiness. God does not call everyone anonymously and generically, rather he extends a personal call to each person.

Let us consider some reflections in which the Holy Father expresses a clear invitation to not be afraid to accept the personal call to holiness.

« I like to contemplate the holiness present in [...] God's people [...]: in those parents who raise their children with immense love, in those men and women who work hard to support their families, in the sick [...]. Very often it is a holiness found in our "next-door neighbours", those who, living in our midst, reflect God's presence. We might call them "the middle class of holiness» (7).

«all the faithful, whatever their condition or state, are called by the Lord – each in his or her own way – to that perfect holiness by which the Father himself is perfect» (10).

«"Each in his or her own way" [....]. The important thing is that each believer discern his or her own path, that they bring out the very best of themselves, the most personal gifts that God has placed in their hearts (Cf. 1 Cor 12:7) rather than hopelessly trying to imitate something not meant for them» (11).

«To be holy does not require being a bishop, a priest or a religious. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. That is not the case. We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves. [....] Are you married? Be holy by loving and caring for your husband or wife, as Christ does for the Church. Do you work for a living? Be holy by labouring with integrity and skill in the service of your brothers and sisters. Are you a parent or grandparent? Be holy by patiently teaching the little ones how to follow Jesus» (14).

«This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures» (16).

«May you come to realize what that word is, the message of Jesus that God wants to speak to the world by your life. [...] The Lord will bring it to fulfilment despite your mistakes and missteps, provided that you [...] remain ever open to his supernatural grace, which purifies and enlightens» (24).

In the distant past, as well as in more recent times, it is possible to find children, adolescents, young people, widowers and married couples who can show us a path to holiness for every age and state of life: think, for example, of little Laura Vicuña, who became a saint at the age of twelve, the young Pier Giorgio Frassati, or Therese of Lisieux's holy parents.

This idea of the neighbourhood saint fits us, it is very close to us, we can relate to it. Perhaps even we can possibly encounter some of them?

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JUNE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat) Dorothy Oliver RIP

8:00am (Latin) Tony Mermock RIP (Birthday)

9:15am Those who suffer persecution, oppression

& denial of human right

11:15am Wellbeing of Spokes family
6:00pm Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

9:30am *Otford* Deceased relatives - Andradi Brown family

9:30am Borough Green Peace in Ukraine

11:00am West Kingsdown William Edward Harding
- in thanksgiving (Birthday)

Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am Wilfred Alexander RIP

Tuesday 28th S Irenaeus, B M

9:30am Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP

Wednesday 29th SS PETER & PAUL, App

8:00am People of the Parish

12:00noon Fr Joe Andradi 2:00pm Pope Francis 8:00pm Holy Souls

10:00am *Otford* The return to full health of Mary O'Farrell

11:30am West Kingsdown Thanksgiving for the birth

of Jack Jeffrey Harding

6:00pm Borough Green Holy Souls

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> Feria

10:00am Borough Green Good Intentions of the Donor's family

12:00noon Patricia Mathwick RIP

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> JULY Feria

8:00am Alfred & Lily Lockyer and their Parents

10:00am West Kingsdown Politicians to make wise decisions

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of Our Lady

9:30am Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY FOURTEENTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat) Holy Soul

8:00am (Latin) Mgr Boniface Tamani

9:15am Bill Lindsay RIP

11:15am People of the Parish
6:00pm All people suffering drought

9:30am *Otford* Mary Scott RIP (10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary)

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9:30am Borough Green Holy Souls

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Wedding

Congratulations to

Mark Gallagher

Jessica Spokes

who were married at St Thomas's last Saturday

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.

### LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Sunday

### **Entrance**

Omnes gentes, plaudite manibus, iubilate Deo in voce exsultationis.

### Communion

Benedic, anima mea,
Domino, et ea quae intra
me sunt nomini santo eius.

### Wednesday

### **Entrance**

Isti sunt qui, viventes in carne, plantaverunt Ecclesiam sanguine suo: calicem Domini biberunt, et amici Dei facti sunt.

### Communion

Dixit Petrus ad Iesum: Tu es Christus, Filius Dei vivi. Respondit Iesus: Tu es Petrus, et super hanc petram aedificabo Ecclesiam meam.

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