

## SUMMER PARISH GARDEN PARTY



## SMALL NOTICES



**SOPHIE WOOTTON BORRUSO**  
ARTIST



*Taking commissions!*

Www.sophiewbart.com  
sophie@sophiewbart.com  
07850 100 881

### Flower Group Workshops

**Where:** in the Parish Room  
**When:** 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Sep,  
10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> Oct. Starts 7:30pm

Suggested donation: £10 per evening to cover the cost of tuition and sundry materials.

Sign up early to avoid disappointment as places are limited! **Please email** [katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com) or call 01732 668706



Archdiocese of Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

10<sup>th</sup> July 2022

# THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:25-37

### *Today's Mass: FIFTEENTH SUNDAY (Year C)*

*Deuteronomy 30: 10-14; Psalm 68; Colossians 1: 15-20; Luke 10: 25-37*

**First Reading:** Moses lays down the law (literally) which the People of God must obey. It is interpreting this law which gives rise to the lawyer's question in today's *Gospel*.

The **Psalm** fits in well with today's *Gospel*, with its references to compassion for the poor and needy.

**Second Reading:** a Christological hymn, thought by scholars to be St Paul's correction of a hymn in use at Colossae. It highlights the mediation of Christ, first in the beginning in creation, then by His Resurrection in reconciliation.

**Gospel:** the parable of mercy we call the parable of the Good Samaritan is one of Jesus' most provocative parables. True compassion leads to helping someone in need; as St Ambrose said, 'Mercy, not kinship, makes someone a neighbour'.

We could read it as Jesus being the good Samaritan. But the Christian community and all individual Christians are also called to be the good Samaritan. Love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbour.

*Fr David*

## ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

### Sunday Mass times:

**Saturday**  
6:00pm

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

### Adoration:

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

### Weekday Mass times:

**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



I will help  
when I...

When we help  
another person,  
we are being a  
good neighbour



Draw a picture of someone  
you are going help this week.

Jesus asks us to love God and our neighbour. He explains who our neighbour is by telling a story. Read Jesus' story below and complete it with pictures.

### Draw the story

1. A man  
sets off on  
a journey



2. He is attacked  
by robbers

3. A priest walks  
past and ignores



4. A levite walks past  
and ignores him

5. A Samaritan  
stops and  
helps  
him



6. He takes him to  
an inn to get better

What a surprise! It is the Samaritan, a foreigner no one trusts, who helps the injured man. Jesus asks us to be like the Samaritan and help anyone in need.

### Help others

Jesus asks us to help others who are in need. Find the words that describe some ways we can do this.

LOVE CARE  
HUG SMILE  
SHARE HELP

C	L	A	S	H
H	O	E	M	E
U	V	R	I	L
G	E	G	L	P
C	A	R	E	S
S	H	A	R	E

### A PRAYER TO SAY

Jesus, help me to be like the good Samaritan. Help me to notice when people are in need and to do something to help them, no matter who they are. Amen.

### Jesus' message to us

Crack the code to see



---  
---  
---  
---  
a= + d= ● e= \* g= X h= ↑ m= \* n= ☆ o= ✨ s= ♥ t= ✨

Answers: Go and do the same.

## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### **Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks**

**Presbytery and Parish Office:** 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

**Website:** [www.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk) **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Gibbons, KHS [davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Peter Littleton [peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Office hours:** Monday - Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines [sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:adoration@sevrparish.org.uk)

#### **Altar Servers (St Thomas's)**

Catherine Ingram [Ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:Ingramfamily15@yahoo.com)

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass**

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

Mark O'Prey [sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk)

*Oxford, 9:30am Mass:*

Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

Fiona Newton - [fionanewton321@btinternet.com](mailto:fionanewton321@btinternet.com)

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

Lonnie Christophers [lonniechr@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniechr@hotmail.com)

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454729

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl [chris.hurl@outlook.com](mailto:chris.hurl@outlook.com)

#### **Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)**

Jim McSharry [jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com)

#### **Church Flowers**

Kate Travers [katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis [seveoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:seveoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com)

#### **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme**

Fr Peter Littleton: [peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Gift Aid:**

Sean Corrigan [sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

Secretary: Barry Authers [sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com) and Ann

Livingston [annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: [h.imercer@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](http://www.racet.org)

#### **Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)**

Andrew Pembroke [st.thomas.rota@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomas.rota@gmail.com)

#### **Repository**

Christine Landon [christinedlandon@gmail.com](mailto:christinedlandon@gmail.com)

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe [andrew.latrobe@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com)

#### **Retreats**

Catherine Roger [c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com)

#### **St Bernadette's Committee**

Secretary: Jill Gobel [jill.gobel@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.gobel@btinternet.com)

#### **St Joseph's Committee**

Secretary: John Foley [johnandmariefoley@gmail.com](mailto:johnandmariefoley@gmail.com)

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke [ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com](mailto:ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com)

or 01732 450197

#### **Scripture Fellowship**

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson [andrewwilkos@gmail.com](mailto:andrewwilkos@gmail.com)

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

Paul Boyle 07796564018

Kathie Gonzalez [sevenoakssvp@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoakssvp@gmail.com)

#### **Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)**

*West Kingsdown UCM:*

Monica Biggs [mmdbbiggs@outlook.com](mailto:mmdbbiggs@outlook.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## PARISH NOTICES

### TODAY

#### **Second Collection**

The Apostleship of the Sea, or Stella Maris, is a Catholic charity which supports seafarers worldwide, and not least here in Kent, through practical and spiritual support given by Chaplains and volunteers. A significant percentage of seafarers are Catholic.

#### **First Holy Communions**

Welcome to Lucy Adams and Jack Adams, receiving their first Holy Communion at the Mass at St Joseph's, and to Anita Bagchee, Charlie Crawford, Rosie Cumming, Scott Cumming, Lana O'Regan, and Anouk O'Regan, receiving their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass at St Thomas's.

#### **11:15am Mass**

The Traditional Choir provides the music today. Barbara Page has stepped down from playing the organ but will continue to direct the Choir. We thank her for her many years of service in this way.

### THIS WEEK

#### **St Thomas' School**

Year 6 attend Holy Mass on Tuesday. Parents and family members are especially invited to attend.

#### **33 Day Consecration to Jesus in Mary**

For anyone who wishes to consecrate themselves and their parish ministry to Mary for the greater glory of Jesus Christ. This is a traditional devotion, promoted by St Louis Marie de Montfort, and it involves entrusting all that we have to Jesus, through the heart of Mary.

It involves committing to some prayer and reflection throughout the period of preparation, 11<sup>th</sup> July - 13<sup>th</sup> August. Daily at 8:00pm there will be a 10 minute Zoom meeting, for the meditations, reflection, and prayer. On 13<sup>th</sup> August we will solemnly make the Consecration.

To join email [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk), entitling it Marian Consecration, giving your name, email and if possible mobile number for a WhatsApp group. You will then receive updates from Fr Peter.

### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE ARCHBISHOP: AREA BISHOP FOR KENT

"The Kent Episcopal Area has been without a Bishop since 2018, with the transfer of Bishop Paul Mason to the Forces. Since that time, I am deeply grateful for the pastoral care offered to Kent by Mgr Matthew Dickens, and subsequently by Mgr Canon John O'Toole, who retired at Easter due to ill health, and whom we continue to keep in our thoughts and prayers.

As you are aware, I have asked for replacement Auxiliary Bishops, but a favourable response to my request is not guaranteed, or indeed quick – and so we wait in joyful hope.

Meanwhile, I am aware that Kent has been without an episcopal presence for some time now, and so I have asked Bishop Paul Hendricks to move from the South West Area to Kent – which he has generously agreed to do."

+ *John*

Bishop Hendricks will take up his new appointment some time in September.

### NOTICES

#### **Building a Better Marriage**

An online course for husbands and wives, 9:00am - 1:00pm on Saturday. You can attend from your own living room and there is no group sharing! For further information contact the Kent Area Marriage & Family Life Co-ordinator Carole Batty: 07983 524727 or [mflkent@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:mflkent@rcaos.org.uk).

#### **Papal Apostolic Letter**

Pope Francis has recently issued an Apostolic Letter on the Liturgical Formation of the People of God. Go to <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2022/06/29/0501/01027.html#ing> for the full text of *Desiderio Desideravi*.

#### **St Joseph's Garden working party**

on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July after Mass. Please come along to help if you can. Thank you

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## Garden Party raffle winners

1 (Portugal villa): ticket 2256, Caroline Stockmann; 2 (Fr Peter meal) 1709, John Murphy; 3 (Hollybush café) 0127, Sandra Payne; 4 (Presentation coaching) 2066, Anne McDonnell; 5 (Bullfinch pub) 1060, Paul Boyle; 6 (Tesco voucher) 3079, Catherine Ingram; 7 (fragrance diffuser) 3510, John & Rachel Huckstop.

## Garden Party thank you

A big thank you to all of you who made the Garden Party last Sunday a great success - and the sun kept shining! We had a record attendance from all our parish communities, creating a delightful ambience, and a super day with wonderful food and drink. We raised a lot of money for parish funds, and will know the exact amount once the accountant has been able to collate the cash receipts and the card reader totals.

Special thanks to the raffle sellers Simon Mauduit, Isobel Whit, Madeleine Busvine, David Cooper, Christine Langdon, Mary Scott, Clint Lumsden, John & Jill Gobel, Margaret Briggs and many others; to Andrew & Jackie Pembroke (bottle stall), Amanda Buttinger (toy stall), Hugh Mercer, Andrew La Trobe, Simon Mauduit, John Baker, Annabelle Livingstone, Barbara Moulton, Gerry Haydn (BBQ and food); to St Joseph's (salads); to Most Holy Trinity (strawberries and ice creams); to St Bernadette's (teas/coffees etc and knitted items); to the Catenians organised by Mark O'Prey (bar/drinks); to Caroline Stockmann (music); to the Catenians organised by Sean Corrigan (marquees); to Sophie McBrien (bunting); to the Confirmation group organised by Giuseppe de Simone (setting up and raffle); to Adrian Pinington and Gina Hartnett (card reader); to Kate Travers and helpers (flower stall); to St Thomas' School Choir, organised by Madeleine Busvine (the highlight); to Magda Wiacek (printing); to Christine Langdon (Repository stall); and Fr Bryan & Teresa Wells (art sale).

Thanks also to the Pilgrims, CAFOD rep (John Foley), Mothers Prayers (Silvana Wuttke and Marie Potter), First Holy Communion (Sue Sylvester), Parents & Toddlers (Mary Hunt), SVP (Paul Boyle and colleagues) and Fair trade (from Paddock Wood) groups for their stalls, and anyone we have failed to mention!

*Ben Andradi*

And an enormous thank you to the Garden Party co-ordinator, Ben Andradi. It was as good as one could have hoped for and it is difficult to see how it could have been better!

*Fr David*

## PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for Bishop Paul Hendricks, on his appointment as Area Bishop of Kent;
- ◆ for Apostleship of the Sea chaplains and volunteers (especially in Kent), and for all seafarers and their families;
- ◆ for an end to the COVID pandemic;
- ◆ for our parish and for every parishioner, that we may love God and love neighbour.

## ANNIVERSARIES - RIP

Margaret Pyke, Christine Devitt, Agnes Byrne, Brian Morel, Harold Hinton, Vera Doherty. Baby Gregg, Margaret Baniff, Harry Eyre, Elizabeth Hardman, Eithne Riddle, Patrick Moore, Francis Morandi, Johanna Heijnen, Kathleen Catlin, Ellen Forrest, Peggy Lines-Roberts, Myra Piercy, John Smith, Florence Bishop, Sheila Marsh, Joseph Eyre, Marjorie Hennessey, Carole Edwards, Margherita Tondina, Winifred George, Ruth Genth, Johanna Gambrill, Paul Duke, John Douglas.



*From the Desk of the Parish Priest*

## **Some thoughts from the Synodal process 1**

I cannot write about every comment made in the parish Synodal process, and it would be inappropriate for me to do so, but there are some reflections I can usefully make.

Someone (I don't of course know who said what) expressed the view that "*the Church is seen to exclude - for example - the "divorced and remarried"; the LGBT community*". Please note that I am not criticising the person who said this; on the contrary, I think the person has made a valid point.

The key point I wish to make is this: where does this perception that the Church excludes certain people come from?

Now, if a drunk, drugged, deranged came to Mass waving an axe, it is likely that the welcomers would seek to exclude the person - for everyone's safety - and ring 999 for the police. But apart from such an unlikely scenario, no one stands in the church Entrance excluding anyone. In fact it is rather the opposite: our welcomers are polite and, well, welcoming. And although occasionally a parishioner might glare at a very noisy infant I have never seen anyone even tut disapprovingly at someone whose lifestyle they consider to be immoral.

Is it that people in these supposedly excluded categories are regularly denounced in homilies and the likes? Hardly. Bishops, Priests and Deacons are always careful to express the Church's teaching on moral issues like marriage and homosexuality in positive terms. We may, for instance, preach about Marriage as being instituted by God himself and about the beauty of the marital relationship. It does not follow that we are therefore excluding from Church those who are not married. If this were the case I would be excluding myself and all the priests who promised celibacy at our Ordination.

No. It quickly becomes clear that the mainstream media portray religious believers - Christians, Moslems, Jews, etc - as being excluding. We have seen this in America in the aftermath of the reversal of the Roe v Wade decision. The media depict this as right wing religious people depriving women of their rights. In fact, the Supreme Court said that abortion is such a profound issue that it must be decided not by a few unelected (and nearly all elderly male) judges but by democratically elected legislatures (which in the USA means each individual state).

A perfect example of my point was the recent fuss in John Fisher School, Purley. The diocesan education authorities prevented a man from speaking in the school. His writings are dreadfully blasphemous (so

bad I will not repeat them: you will have to find them online yourself if you wish to) and who advocates unlawful underage sex. The reason for the ban was his potentially criminal (under the CPS definition of "hate crime") religious prejudice and contravention of Safeguarding regulations. Yet the secular press reported this as the Catholic Church being 'anti gay'. The person's homosexuality was not the issue, but many people will have got the impression that it was.

The Church teaches that every Catholic has an obligation (except for a genuine reason) to attend Holy Mass on a Sunday and Holyday. We are all sinners; no one is perfect yet, and I bet you have often heard in a homily that the preacher includes himself as a sinner if he is talking about sin. I, and every Priest, have to go to Confession just as often as you do, perhaps more often.

At Sunday Mass, therefore, there will be people whose lifestyle might not be completely in accord with the Church's moral teaching. Actually, that sentence is incorrect: it should read 'At Sunday Mass every person present will have a lifestyle not completely in accord with the Church's teaching'. The point is that we realise that we are sinners and need Christ's teaching and grace to sanctify us so we can withstand the Day of Judgement.

The original comment refers to rules about receiving Holy Communion: in this context the important point is that there are many people at Mass who do not or should not receive Holy Communion: non Catholics and non Christians, those who have not fasted, those who are conscious of needing to confess sins before receiving, those not yet of the age of reason, those who have already received, and so on, quite apart from those in the categories of people who should not receive. So no one should ever look disparagingly at someone who does not receive Holy Communion.

Also, inclusion does not mean everyone should be allowed to do everything. Must the choir accept people who can't sing or must someone who can't play it be allowed to play the organ? Must I (an ignoramus in this) be included on the flower rota? Does inclusion mean that men must be included in the Union of Catholic Mothers or teenagers in the Pilgrims group?

A final question remains, and it is an important one. If it is modern media who are responsible for this widespread perception that the Church excludes certain people - when the opposite is in fact the case - how do we counteract this? Feel free to email me with suggestions and we can print them (anonymously) in this Newsletter.

## EXTRACTS FROM 'DESIDERIO DESIDERAVI'

"I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer" (Luke 22: 15). These words of Jesus, with which the account of the Last Supper opens, are the crevice through which we are given the surprising possibility of intuiting the depth of the love of the persons of the Most Holy Trinity for us.

Peter and John were sent to make preparations to eat that Passover, but in actual fact, all of creation, all of history — which at last was on the verge of revealing itself as the history of salvation — was a huge preparation for that Supper. Peter and the others are present at that table, unaware and yet necessary. Necessary because every gift, to be gift, must have someone disposed to receive it. In this case, the disproportion between the immensity of the gift and the smallness of the one who receives it is infinite, and it cannot fail to surprise us. Nonetheless, through the mercy of the Lord, the gift is entrusted to the Apostles so that it might be carried to every man and woman.

No one had earned a place at that Supper. All had been invited. Or better said: all had been drawn there by the burning desire that Jesus had to eat that Passover with them. He knows that he is the Lamb of that Passover meal; he knows that he *is* the Passover. This is the absolute newness, the absolute originality, of that Supper, the only truly new thing in history, which renders that Supper unique and for this reason "the Last Supper," unrepeatable. Nonetheless, his infinite desire to re-establish that communion with us that was and remains his original design, will not be satisfied until every man and woman, *from every tribe, tongue, people and nation* (Rev 5:9), shall have eaten his Body and drunk his Blood. And for this reason that same Supper will be made present in the celebration of the Eucharist until he returns again.

The world still does not know it, but everyone is *invited to the supper of the wedding of the Lamb* (Rev 19: 9). To be admitted to the feast all that is required is the wedding garment of faith which comes from the hearing of his Word (cf. Rom 10:17). The Church tailors such a garment to fit each one with the whiteness of a garment *bathed in the blood of the Lamb*. (Rev 7:14). We must not allow ourselves even a moment of rest, knowing that still not everyone has received an invitation to this Supper or knowing that others have forgotten it or have got lost along the way in the twists and turns of human living. This is what I spoke of when I said, "I dream of a 'missionary option', that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church's customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channelled for the evangelization of today's world rather than for her self-preservation" (*Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 27). I want this so that all can be seated at the Supper of the sacrifice of the Lamb and live from Him.

Before our response to his invitation — well before! — there is his desire for us. We may not even be aware of it, but every time we go to Mass, the first reason is that we are drawn there by his desire for us. For our part, the possible response — which is also the most demanding asceticism — is, as always, that surrender to this love, that letting ourselves be drawn by him. Indeed, every reception of communion of the Body and Blood of Christ was already desired by him in the Last Supper.

If we had somehow arrived in Jerusalem after Pentecost and had felt the desire not only to have information about Jesus of Nazareth but rather the desire still to be able to meet him, we would have had no other possibility than that of searching out his disciples so that we could hear his words and see his gestures, more alive than ever. We would have had no other possibility of a true encounter with him other than that of the community that celebrates. For this reason the Church has always protected as its most precious treasure the command of the Lord, "Do this in memory of me."

From the very beginning the Church was aware that this was not a question of a representation, however sacred it be, of the Supper of the Lord. It would have made no sense, and no one would have been able to think of "staging" — especially before the eyes of Mary, the Mother of the Lord — that highest moment of the life of the Master. From the very beginning the Church had grasped, enlightened by the Holy Spirit, that that which was visible in Jesus, that which could be seen with the eyes and touched with the hands, his words and his gestures, the concreteness of the incarnate Word — everything of Him had passed into the celebration of the sacraments.

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

### SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY

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

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> S BENEDICT, Ab Patron of Europe

8:00am Wellbeing of Canon Mgr John O'Toole

### Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> S John Jones, Pr M

9:30am Jo Edwards - with grateful thanks

### Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am Thomas Mernock RIP (Birthday)  
10:00am *Oxford* Lionel Edwards RIP (Birthday)

### Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> Feria

10:00am *Borough Green* Holy Souls  
12:00noon People in Ukraine

### Friday 15<sup>th</sup> S Bonaventure, B D

8:00am Angela Griffiths RIP  
10:00am *West Kingsdown* Holy Souls

### Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Mt Carmel

9:30am Phillis Claydon RIP

### SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> JULY

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

### SIXTEENTH SUNDAY

People of the Parish  
Betina King RIP  
Fr Joe Andradi  
Fr Tony Logan RIP  
Angela Griffiths RIP  
Maria Kowalczyk RIP (Anniversary)  
Hong Ling Chang Kit RIP  
End to COVID-19

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

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

Father,

*This is the day you have made, so let us rejoice and be glad in it. You know what today will bring, and what tomorrow's needs will be. If we awake to breathe today, we can be assured it is with great purpose, in order to bring glory and honour to You, the One True God.*

*Use our lives as vessels of love and truth. Let us see ourselves through the lens of faith, and the Father's purposeful perspective.*

*We know all good things come from You, and You make good, all things. Let us share in the good works you have prepared for us, by the outflowing of our faith in Christ, to the people You have placed in our lives. We pray for Your favour, God, and Your protective embrace, as we look out into the world to do good and share what we have.*

*In Jesus' Powerful Name we Pray, Amen.*

~Meg Bucher

### LATIN ANTIPHONS

#### Entrance

Ego autem cum iustitia  
apparebo in conspectu tuo;  
satiabor dum  
manifestabitur gloria tua.

#### Communion

Qui manducat meam  
carnem et bibit meum  
sanguinem, in me manet et  
ego in eo, dicit Dominus.