

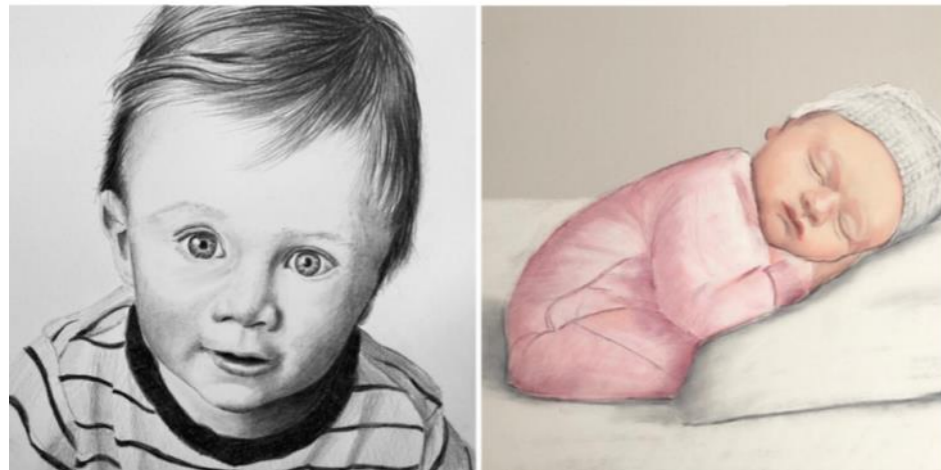
POPPY, MIRIAM, ALEXA, ALESSIA, AIYLA'S
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



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: 19th & 26th Sep,
10th & 17th Oct. Starts 7:30pm

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

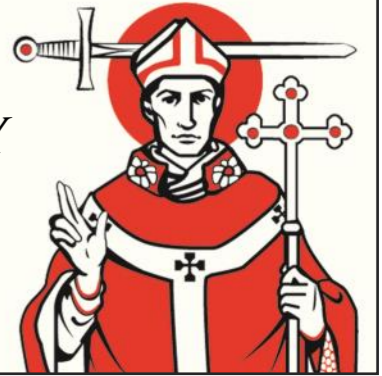
Sign up early to avoid disappointment as places are limited! **Please email** katetravers521@hotmail.com or call 01732 668706



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

17th July 2022



Today's Mass: SIXTEENTH SUNDAY (Year C)

Genesis 18: 1-10; Psalm 14; Colossians 1: 24-28; Luke 10: 38-42

First Reading: Abraham and Sarah are visited by three mysterious strangers, clearly God himself (in the Persons of the Trinity?). This may be a very ancient story, but it still speaks to us powerfully today as it is proclaimed as the *First Reading* at Mass.

Psalm: the response sums up this psalm well: only "*the just will live in the presence of the Lord*". As for those who are unjust,

Second Reading: Paul suffers because he is a member of the body of Christ, but he must struggle on because God has commissioned him to proclaim the mystery of Christ.

Gospel: like the lawyer in the preceding passage in last Sunday's *Gospel*, whose lack of understanding provoked the parable of the Good Samaritan, Martha too fails to understand. The important thing, exemplified by Mary, is that the follower of Jesus must above all *listen* to Him. Only in this way will the Christian disciple be able to follow Christ on His way.

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



Listen

Close your eyes for a while and listen really carefully. Draw or write what you heard in the ear shape.



Jesus is visiting his friends for tea. Martha is very busy preparing the food. Mary is just sitting listening to Jesus. It's not fair! Martha wants Mary to help. Jesus tells Martha to stop worrying. Mary is doing the very best thing. Nothing is more important than listening to Jesus.

In the house of Martha and Mary

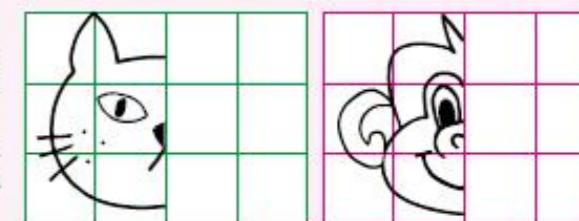
Here is Martha. She is very busy. How many things is she using? Link them to her with a line.



Are you more like Martha or Mary? Put a circle round her.

Finding balance

The church on the holy island of Iona has carvings of a cat and a monkey. The cat represents Mary and her quiet listening. The monkey represents Martha and her busy activity.



M ___ (yral)

M _____ (htara)

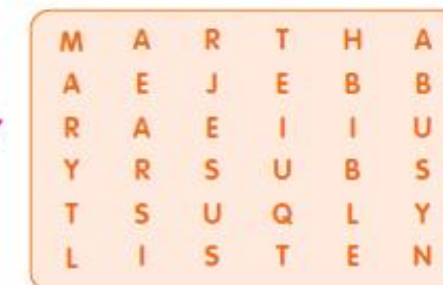
The monks knew we needed both. Practise drawing a cat and a monkey to remember today's story.

A WAY TO PRAY

Be very still and quiet. Relax your arms and legs, your front and your back. Breathe in feelings of calm. Breathe out and let go of anything that is worrying you. Know that God is with you.

Wordsearch

MARtha MARY
LISTEN BUSY BIBLE
EARS QUIET JESUS



Answers: Mary, Martha.

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

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

Website: www.sevrparish.org.uk **Tel:** 01732 454177

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KHS davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Peter Littleton peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

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

Safeguarding Rep: Ken Baines sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

Adoration

Barry Authers adoration@sevrparish.org.uk

Altar Servers (St Thomas's)

Catherine Ingram Ingramfamily15@yahoo.com

Catenians

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony aidan.omahony@btinternet.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass

Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:

Mark O'Prey sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk

Oxford, 9:30am Mass:

Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

Fiona Newton - fionanewton321@btinternet.com

Choirs

Music Group:

Lonnie Christophers lonniechr@hotmail.com

Traditional Choir: Barbara Page 01732 454729

Borough Green: Chris Hurl chris.hurl@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 Communions

Welcome to Zara Sankar and Owen Streets, receiving their first Holy Communion at the Saturday 6:00pm Mass, the first Mass of Sunday.

THIS WEEK

Parish Office

The Office is open Monday to Wednesday this week. Thereafter it will be closed over the holidays. From next Sunday a reduced Sunday Newsletter will be produced.

Listening to you

No July or August meeting of the above. We will resume after the summer on Monday 19th September.

St Thomas' School

Year 6 Leavers' Mass at 6:30pm on Monday in St Thomas's Church, followed by the traditional picnic in the Presbytery garden.

Martin Hall RIP

Interment of ashes in the Greatness Cemetery on Tuesday.

Parish Centre Working Party

Group representatives and others invited are reminded of the initial meeting on Tuesday at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre. This working party needs a surveyor or architect to advise it: if you can help in this way please contact Amanda Buttinger (buttinger_amanda@hotmail.co.uk) as soon as possible.

St Thomas' School

The End of Year Mass is at 9:30am on Thursday. All parents and family members are welcome to attend this Mass.

NOTICES

Missio red boxes

For many years we have collected these in and sent the money to Missio. We thank Peter Ringham especially for doing this in all these years. It is clear that people no longer use cash much and don't therefore have spare coins. We are therefore discontinuing the red box collections. If you have one with money in please hand it in, but we will not reissue it. You can always contribute to Missio at missio.org.uk.

The Pilgrims visit to Worth Abbey

On Wednesday 7th September by coach. Experience the calm of Mid-day Prayer, listen to a talk on Benedictine Spirituality, and walk in the beautiful grounds. The coach leaves at 9:30am from the car park at Most Holy Trinity, Otford, and returns by 5:00pm. Cost £28 per person, including coffee/tea and buffet Lunch. Please sign up in St Thomas's Entrance, phone 01732 450197 or email ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com.

Parish Retreats at Aylesford

The **Men's Retreat** will be 7th - 9th October 2022. The Retreat will be facilitated by Fr Hugh Seenan, Superior in Britain of the Missionaries of Africa. The theme is *Journeying Together, reflecting on Pope Francis' Laudato Si'*.

The **Women's Retreat** will be 24th - 26th February 2023. This Retreat will be facilitated by Sr Aileen Murphy, a La Re traite sister currently working on the retreat team at the Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in Dublin. The theme: *Welcoming the wilderness, amazing space, amazing grace*.

The cost for full board, lodging and the Retreat facilitator is £210. Complete a registration form from the Church Entrance or download a form from the website. Any queries contact Catherine Rodger: c.rodger@btinternet.com or 01732 458852. Please book by Sunday 28th August.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Parish Garden Party

Final details remain to be confirmed, but at the time of printing the provisional figure for proceeds from the Garden Party is £4,200. Many thanks to all concerned.

Vacancy: Diocesan Financial Controller

The Archdiocese is looking to recruit a Financial Controller to ensure the efficient management of diocesan finances, reporting to the Finance Director and managing a small team. The ideal candidate will be CIMA, ACCA or ACA qualified and highly experienced in a senior finance role. This full-time position is based in Bowen House in London SE1, but there is some flexibility for home working. Starting salary £60,000 - £65,000 depending on skills and experience. More details on the diocesan website. To apply email your CV to HR@rcaos.org.uk by 18th July.

PLEASE PRAY

- ◆ for more vocations to the Sacred Priesthood in our Archdiocese;
- ◆ for peace and reconciliation in Ukraine;
- ◆ in the Pope's July Prayer Intention for the elderly;
- ◆ that we may listen, in prayer, to God and so follow Christ.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES - RIP

Mary Eyre, Marthe Turland, Brenda Wraight, Beatrice White, Jack Barnbrook, Peter James, Kate Atwell, Lucy Day, Bridget Power, Edward Rawlings, Patrick Russell, Michael Dove, John O'Grady, Joyce Boon, Leslie Castelli, Bridget Jensen.

THE ANGELUS

Fr. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
C. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
C. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. And the Word was made flesh,
C. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
C. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,
your Son by the message of an angel,
so by His passion and cross
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Some thoughts from the Synodal process 2

Another comment made in the parish synodal submission was about having a Parish Council. It is indeed my plan to have one.

When I came to the parish it quickly became apparent that there were a number of urgent matters. Canon Law requires every parish to have a Finance Committee. There wasn't one, so one of my first tasks was to create one. Initially under the chairmanship of Bill Farren and more recently chaired by Ben Andradi, the Committee has assisted me in the conduct of the parish's finances and ensured that our financial situation has remained secure during the pandemic.

In addition, civil law requires catechists and many others to be DBS checked. This was a major undertaking and took quite a time, but the sterling work of Isabelle Parsons and latterly Sally Kelly has meant we are now fully compliant. It also took time to get Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion properly commissioned and an accurate list established. Much of my time when I first came was taken up in getting the St Joseph's project back up and running and completed; it is now open and flourishing.

My plan then was to start at the bottom, as it were, and work upwards. Most Holy Trinity, Otford, already had a local committee, and local committees were also instituted at St Joseph's and at St Bernadette's. These have proved most useful. The next phase was to create a Pastoral Council, but then the COVID pandemic started, and over two years were in effect lost.

Now (which in practice means the Autumn), finally, we can proceed to form a Parish Council. What, then, would be its function?

Parish Pastoral Councils were first recommended in Vatican II's *Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops* §27: "it will be the function of this council to investigate and consider matters relating to pastoral activity and to formulate practical conclusions concerning them".

There are two key points. First, like all parish committees, such a Council is advisory to the Parish Priest. He consults the Council, and in practice there would normally be agreement about how best to proceed. And the Parish Priest will want to make use of the particular gifts the members have. Secondly, the Parish Council would be concerned with pastoral matters like evangelization and faith formation. Its remit is not administration: finance and building maintenance are looked after by the Finance Committee, Health & Safety by the relevant volunteers, and day to day matters by the parish staff. Nor is its job to co-ordinate other committees.

A Parish Council is not a parish forum or a sounding board. It will not discuss matters of doctrine. Rather, the members will study a subject, reflect on it, and then recommend conclusions. It would be concerned with pastoral care, outreach, evangelization, faith formation, and spiritual development of parishioners. In short, the Parish Council considers, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, how Sevenoaks Parish can be an increasingly effective instrument of the Gospel and how parishioners can be assisted in becoming more intentional disciples of Christ.

Initially, members would have a day Retreat, to discover in prayer where the Holy Spirit is leading the parish at this time. The Parish Council would need a foundation document, some guidelines, and a (simple) constitution. Like the three local committees, the Parish Priest presides but someone would be the Chair, as well as a Secretary.

The Council would have a mixture of elected and appointed (by me) members. What I am unclear about is how best to make the Council representative (including of all four churches) without making it impossibly large. If you have a good suggestion, do let me know.

WHAT I DO IN MY DISCIPLESHIP OF CHRIST

Another in our occasional series of articles by parishioners about their particular discipleship of Christ.

I was born in a Catholic family in a Catholic country (Belgium) and during all my childhood, I was told again and again about the poor people in Africa – and especially in Biafra in the 70's. As soon as I finished my university degrees, I went to South America to see for myself what poverty really looks like. I discovered that it smells.

I am now a trustee and volunteer at Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank and this is somehow consistent with my first big encounter with poverty. I certainly don't help with the expectation to win my place in Heaven. But I have been given talents by God and I deeply feel the need to use them at the service of other people. That is what fills my heart, my mind, my soul and makes me whole.

Practically, as a trustee, it is very satisfactory to see that new policies or new systems put in place are working and even improve the functioning of the Foodbank but this is just using my organisational skills and legal background for a purpose.

As a volunteer, it is very reassuring to stack the donations in neat piles and to distribute the food to the clients but actually, they are not my donations. However, as a person, it is immensely humbling to meet some special people who, despite great adversity in their life, are still smiling and sharing their positivity with everybody around them. It is also immensely rewarding to see people who arrived so scared some weeks ago warming to me and the other volunteers; to offer a place without judgment but with warmth and peace and even later to reach mutual appreciation and respect. That is the true blessing.

Isabelle Mercer



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 17th 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 18th Feria

8:00am

Tuesday 19th Feria

9:30am

Wednesday 20th Feria

8:00am
10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 21st Feria

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

Friday 22nd S MARY MAGDALENE

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

Saturday 23rd S BRIDGET, Rel, Patron of Europe

9:30am Frankie D'Souza RIP

SUNDAY 24th 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

Peggy Murphy (anniversary)

Angela Griffiths RIP
& for the comfort of her family

Wellbeing of the Donor
Good estate of Graham Haynes

Kitty Smyth RIP
Good intentions of the donor's family

Barry & Angela Griffiths RIP

Holy Souls

Frankie D'Souza RIP

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY

Di Latter & Roger Sime
Holy Souls
Peace in Ukraine
People of the Parish
Holy Souls
Mary Kelly RIP (Anniversary)
Holy Souls
Holy Souls

Baptism

Welcome to

Florencia Griffiths

who was Baptized at
St Thomas's, Sevenoaks
last weekend.

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.

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

Ecce Deus adiuvat me, et
Dominus susceptor est
animæ meæ. Voluntarie
sacrificabo tibi, et
confitebor nomini tuo,
Domine, quoniam bonum
est.

Communion

Memoriam fecit mirabilium
suorum misericors et
miserator Dominus; escam
dedit timentibus se.