## PILGRIMS, GARDEN PARTY



## SMALL NOTICES



How do I advertise

my business or get my ads

in the Newsletter?

Please email:

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

for further details.



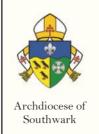
#### Flower Group Workshops

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



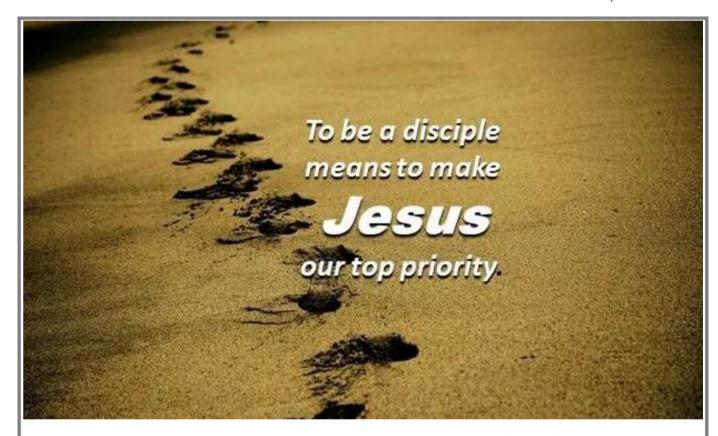


Parish Newsletter

# PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

4<sup>th</sup> September 2022



#### Today's Mass: TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (Year C)

Wisdom 9: 13-18; Psalm 89; Philemon 9-10, 12-17; Luke 14: 25-33

**First Reading:** it is difficult enough to understand earthly things; how much more difficult it is to understand God's ways. We can only know of God's ways because he sent the Holy Spirit to us.

**Psalm**: a plea for wisdom, for understanding of our condition.

**Second Reading**: this is the only reading from Paul's *Letter to Philemon* in the entire three year Sunday cycle. Paul returns Onesimus to his owner Philemon, but now that Onesimus is a Christian he is to be a brother rather than a slave. Paul has converted both Onesimus and Philemon to faith in Christ.

**Gospel**: Christ tells us that discipleship makes demands, so we should not enter into it lightly or without serious thought or planning.

Fr David

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times:
Saturday
6:00pm
Sunday

Bunday 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 Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 9:30am
Wednesday 8:00am
Thursday 12:00noon

Weekday Mass times:

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



Which of these people is being like Jesus? Put a circle round anyone you think is being a disciple and copying what they have learned about Jesus.

Jesus, you are more

redemplorist

important than anything else

in the whole world! Thank

you for loving me so much.

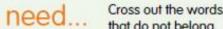
Help me to share your love

with everyone I meet. Amen.

Which path?

It's not always easy following Jesus.
Sometimes we go the wrong way. Can you find the right path to Jesus here?









# What is Jesus like?



Colour in the boxes with dots to see some words which describe Jesus.



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## **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 sevenoakssgl@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 sevenoaksconfirmation@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

Tuesdays 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

#### **Supply Priests**

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells, at Otford, and Fr Francis Rodrigues SJ, celebrating the 9:15am Mass.

#### **First Holy Communion**

Hugo Ruyant and Alex Sylvester receive Holy Communion for the first time at the 11:15am Mass today.

#### THIS WEEK

#### Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament this week

At St Thomas's on Monday after the 8:00am Mass for an hour and on Tuesday 6:00 - 7:00pm. At Most Holy Trinity on Thursday 7:30 - 8:30pm and on Friday 11:00am - 12:00 noon. At St Bernadette's normally on Wednesday 12:00noon - 1:00pm except this week.

#### Monday: Choir rehearsal

The Music Group resume rehearsals on Monday, at 8:00pm.

#### Wednesday: The Pilgrims Trip to Worth Abbey

To go on this trip, please contact Jackie Pembroke (phone 01732 450197 or email <a href="mailto:ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com">ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com</a>) as soon as possible.

#### Friday: St Thomas' School

The new term starts on Monday. The Beginning of Year Mass is at 9:30am on Friday in St Thomas's. All parents, family members etc of pupils are very welcome to attend.

#### **Saturday: Confirmation Course**

Candidates are reminded that the programme recommences on Saturday, at 4:15pm.

#### Next Sunday (Education Sunday)

The Second Collection next weekend will be for the Catholic Education Service. The CES is an agency of the Bishops' Conference and is the chief negotiating and advisory body on all aspects of Catholic education.

#### PARISH NOTICES

#### **New Area Bishop**

We welcome Rt Rev'd Paul Hendricks, previously the Auxiliary Bishop in the South-east London Area, who from this month is transferring to be the Bishop responsible for the Kent Area of the Archdiocese.

#### Outing to Canon John Bailey's grave

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September by coach, leaving St Bernadette's at 9:30am. Cars may be left at St Bernadette's. Cost per seat £20, in cash or by cheque (payable to 'RCAS Sevenoaks St Bernadette'), to Monica Biggs (mmdbbiggs@outlook.com).

#### **European Day of Prayer for Ukraine**

The Consilium Conferentium Episcoporum Europæ has asked everyone in the continent to participate in a day of prayer for Ukraine on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> September, by means of silent Eucharistic Adoration. Accordingly, on that day there will be Adoration in St Thomas's after the 8:00am Mass, at Most Holy Trinity, Otford after the 10:00am Mass, and at St Bernadette's 12:00 noon - 1:00pm.

#### St Edith Devotions

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The St Edith Devotions will this year take place on her feast day itself, Sunday 18th September. The usual Devotions, including the Holy Rosary, at St Edith's Well in Kemsing at 3:30pm, followed by Vespers in St Mary's Church. Refreshments in The Bell afterwards. Book the date in your diary now.

## PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

#### St Joseph's Quiz Night

On Saturday 1st October, 7:30pm start. Maximum of 6 persons per table, either make up your own team or join with others on the night. Tickets - £10 to include a Ploughman's Supper - from Jenny (07591 301186) or Margaret (01732 885295). Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles; proceeds to St Joseph's funds.

#### **Finance**

The Offertory received for July was £12,198.33. The Second Collection sent to Stella Maris was £694.97. Thank you for your generosity.

#### OTHER NOTICES

#### St Bernadette Relic Tour

The relics of St Bernadette will be at The Friars, Aylesford (ME20 7BX) between 7:00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> October and 1:00pm on 28<sup>th</sup> October. You need to book to visit the relics: go to <a href="https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/">https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/</a>.

#### Sycamore for engaged and married couples

A free online course for engaged and married couples, developed by the diocesan Marriage & Family Life team and Sycamore. *Growing in Faith Together* consists of four hour long Zoom sessions, on Tuesday evenings 8:00 - 9:00pm, on 6th,13th, 20th and 27th September. To register click on this link: Growing in Faith Together — Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis (rcaos.org.uk).

#### **Bereavement Retreat**

For anyone who is struggling in their bereavement of a loved one or who just wants space for themselves in their grief, the *Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ* weekend Retreat may be for you, at The Friars, Aylesford 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October. Enquiries telephone Reception: 01622 717272.

Pray passionately in the Spirit, as you constantly intercede with every form of prayer at all times.

Pray the blessings of God upon all his believers.

— Ephesians 6:18

As a new school year begins, let's come together and pray for students, teachers, educators, and parents.

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#### A Prayer for Students

God we ask that you give them peace and courage as they begin a new year of classes.

Surround them with supportive and encouraging friends.

Bless their hard work over the coming months.

Surprise them with unexpected moments of joy.

Raise up this next generation of leaders and may they reflect Your love to those around them.

Amen.

#### A Prayer for Teachers & Educators

Thank you God for the men and women who invest in the future of our children.

Give teachers and educators wisdom, creativity, and discernment as they lead others this year.

Remind them that they are not alone and their work is not in vain.

Move in close, Lord, and let them sense Your presence and Your delight.

Amen.

#### A Prayer for Parents of Students

As change and transition begins to happen, calm any fears or anxieties.

May mums, dads, and guardians joyfully entrust their children into the hands of our loving God.

Bless their family with a strong community.

Give them Your peace, patience, and joy as they watch their student navigate a new school year.

Amen.

+

~ Greg Holder



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

### **Pilgrimages**

G

#### oing on Pilgrimage

On my recent holiday in northern Portugal I came across a Shrine of Our Lady of which I had never heard, namely the Sanctuary of Nossa

Senhora dos Remedios (Our Lady of Remedies) in Lamego; this devotion dates from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It set me thinking about pilgrimage.

#### **Pilgrimages in History**

Pilgrimages have long been a part of human experience, from Adam and Eve who made a journey (somewhat reluctantly, admittedly) from the Garden of Eden onwards. One thinks in the Old Testament of Abraham, called by God to leave home and settle in Canaan (*Genesis* 12), Jacob's pilgrimage (*Genesis* 35), and of course the Jewish people's journey from Egypt to the Promised Land (*Exodus*). Jesus Himself made pilgrimages to Jerusalem, including the time His parents left Him behind.

Once Constantine recognised Christianity in 314 AD Christian pilgrimages took off, starting with his mother Empress Helena's pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 326. A little later an unnamed pilgrim called the Bordeaux Pilgrim wrote a full account of his pilgrimage to the Holy Land, as did a woman called Egeria in the 380s.

Besides the Holy Land, other pilgrimage destinations grew up, especially Rome, the place of the tombs of St Peter and Paul, Compostela, the very popular Shrine of St James the Great, and since 1061 in England Walsingham. Following his martyrdom in 1170, the Shrine of our own St Thomas of Canterbury was a much visited place of pilgrimage until the Reformation.

Many pilgrimage places are, of course, particularly associated with apparitions of Our Lady, including Knock in Ireland, Fatima in Portugal, and Lourdes in France, the most visited pilgrimage place in Christianity. Other religions have pilgrimages as well, including Islam (to Mecca and elsewhere), and there are many Hindu and Buddhist pilgrimage sites in and around India.

#### Why go on pilgrimage?

In short, a pilgrimage is a microcosm of our whole life's journey towards God. One definition describes a pilgrimage as 'a journey towards God with a purpose'. It is thus different from a holiday, from a vacation trip. In a pilgrimage we take time out from our everyday life to encounter God, and it is meant to be a life changing experience. Each pilgrimage should be a response to

the never ending call to conversion and a renewal of our interior life of holiness; we return refreshed and renewed in our practice of the faith.

Everyone has a personal reason for going on pilgrimage: some hope to receive special spiritual graces, some want a bodily or mental cure, some have petitions to present to God, some wish to give thanks to God, some are looking to discover their purpose in life. But all share the same search for faith. After a pilgrimage many pilgrims become more fervent in their study of the faith, in their prayers, in their parish work, and in their particular apostolate.

Pilgrimages do not have to be sombre affairs: they can be enjoyed, not least because they afford time for relaxation and for getting to know one's fellow pilgrims better. The handicapped children I went to Lourdes with were sad when the week ended, because they had enjoyed themselves so much and forgotten their troubles.

#### **Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage**

Next year we shall, God and COVID willing, have a parish pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Of all pilgrimage destinations the Holy Land is the most special: for 2,000 years pilgrims have gone "in a long procession in search of the 'footprints' of God in that land which provided the setting for the earthly life of the Son of God" (Pope St John Paul II), and the magnetism of Jerusalem is undeniable.

Going to the places where Jesus walked brings the Gospels to life and indisputably leads us closer to Jesus. The spiritual fruits of a Holy Land pilgrimage are inestimable. Is God calling YOU to go on this pilgrimage?



## FAITH CELLS LETTER FROM THE CLERGY

Dear Parishioners,

As you hold in your hands the full colour, twelve-page parish newsletter, with which you should be so familiar, you may be getting a certain feeling that the summer is now passing away and things are getting back to normal - at least at Church. Hopefully, those of you who have been away will have been refreshed by the break, and for all of us it will have been a lovely summer - not least enjoying the unusually summery weather; or, indeed, for some, in spite of it.

September typically brings a season of new beginnings in a Catholic parish. The RCIA programme for those interested in becoming Catholic will soon start again; the First Holy Communion programme is beginning to get underway in earnest; and the Confirmation candidates reconvene this week. We will also look forward to seeing the school children resume their visits to Tuesday Masses - all looking a little older; and the many and various parish groups doing so much good, and often unseen, work will start to gather themselves for a new year's programme of activities.

This year, however, we would like to draw your attention to an innovative and very important initiative within our community: PARISH FAITH CELLS. Information about Parish Faith Cells has been trailed across the summer, and so it is hoped that many of you will have heard of this initiative already. If you have not, can we encourage you, very strongly, to take a leaflet from the back of the Church, or visit the Parish website where you can find fuller information?

The idea behind Parish Faith Cells is really very simple - to build up connections. The healthy functioning of a human brain is conditioned by connections between the brain cells and the different parts of the brain. In a similar way the healthy functioning of a Church community is dependent on strong connections between individual members - both with one another and with the Church's head, Jesus Christ. It is hoped that participation in Parish Faith Cells will build up these connections within our parish family.

Those who join a parish cell will commit, for a number of weeks, to getting together with a small group, in order to get to know one another better and deepen friendship by spending time together. At the same time, participants will get to know Jesus Christ better through learning more about and sharing the Faith with one another. The initiative was trialled in the spring, and we have been overwhelmed by the positive feedback from those who took part in the pilot - some testimonies about their experiences are available on the parish website. We are therefore confident in now recommending Parish Faith Cells to all our parishioners.

As things begin to return to 'normal' in our parish, and as we look forward to a year, please God, no longer limited by Covid-19 regulations and lockdowns, we believe Parish Faith Cells will offer our parish a way to grow in vibrancy, faith and love of both our Lord and one another. We really would ask you to consider signing-up, and being part of this exciting new venture.

With assurance of our prayers,

Fr David and Fr Peter

## MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 4 <sup>th</sup> September	TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C)
6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am (Latin)	Canon John McNamara RIP
9:15am	Mgr James McGettrick RIP
11:15am	Good health for Mary Frances Rafferty
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am Otford	Barry & Angela Griffiths RIP
9:30am Borough	Green Eileen Stevens RIP
11:00am West Kin	gsdown People of the Parish
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> Feria	

8:00am Anna Mullan RIP

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

**Feria** 

9:30am **Holy Souls** 

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> Feria

> 8:00am **Holy Souls**

10:00am Otford Fr Paul Gibbons RIP

#### Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> The NATIVITY of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY 10:00am Borough Green Eileen Teevan

12:00noon **Holy Souls** 

Friday 9th **Feria** 

> 8:00am **Holy Souls** 9:30am **Holy Souls** 10:00am West Kingsdown **Holy Souls**

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> of Our Lady

9:15am

9:30am **Holy Souls** 

#### SUNDAY 11<sup>th</sup> September TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Good health and wellbeing of Marie Mascarenhas

St Thomas' School

8:00am (Latin) Monsignor Red Hill RIP

11:15am People of the Parish

6:00pm **Holy Souls** 9:30am Otford Holy Souls

Canon John Morris RIP 9:30am Borough Green

11:00am West Kingsdown **Holy Souls** 

#### Departed anniversaries

Sam Smart, Minnie Winzinger, Jeanne Marshall Boyle, John Catlin, Catherine Clemens, Stanley Bearchell, Sidney Mabe, Susan Livingstone, Ruth Salt, Annistia Moore, Jason Levett, Mary McHugh, Eileen Bourquin, Douglas Griggs, Olive Cresswell, Richard Knight, Christina Coleman, Ann McInerney, Anne Gomar, June Preen, Maurice Baggs, Sheila Tomalin, Lyndon Maggs, Baby Jimmy Goldsmith, Peter Brain, Anthony Biggs.

#### Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

#### 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.

#### LATIN ANTIPHONS

#### Entrance

lustus es, Domine, et rectum iudicium tuum; fac cum servo tuo secundum misericordiam tuam.

#### Communion

Ego sum lux mundi, dicit Dominus; qui sequitur me, non ambulat in tenebris, sed habebit lumen vitæ.