FLYNN'S BAPTISM ON 30TH JULY IN HOHENHAIN



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**: 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

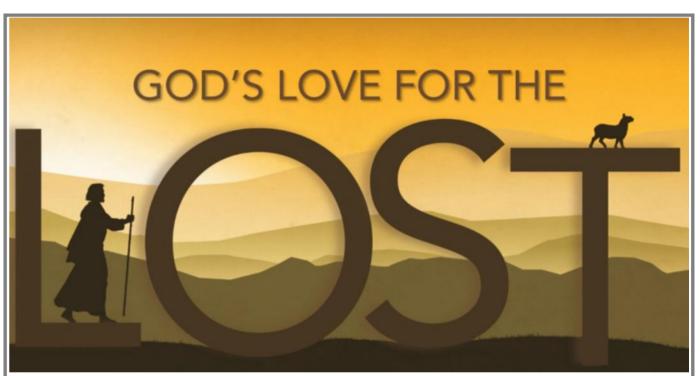




PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



Today's Mass: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (Year C) Exodus 32: 7-11, 13-14; Psalm 50; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17; Luke 15: 1-32

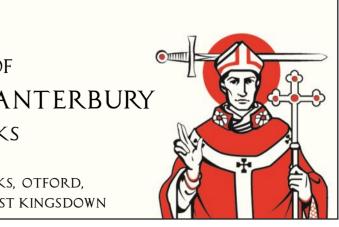
First Reading: at Moses' intercession God relents and does not punish the people for turning away from him and worshipping the golden calf instead.

Psalm: a psalm which St Paul could have written (see the *Second Reading*): in it we thank and praise God for his mercy in forgiving our sins.

Second Reading: St Paul recounts God's mercy towards him, someone who had persecuted the Church but is now a faithful disciple, with thanksgiving and praise to God.

Gospel: in these three parables with whom do you most identify? Are you like the shepherd, conscientiously searching out someone who has turned away from God and rejoicing at their return? Do you, like the woman, seek out the things of heaven to complete your life? Are you like the younger son, wanting satisfaction in the things of the world, and partly turning away from God? Are you like the father, someone who ignores their status and unconditionally, generously, even foolishly forgives another and welcomes them back? Or are you the elder brother, bearing a grudge and unwilling to accept new developments?

Fr David



11th September 2022

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday

Tuesday

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

8:30am - 9:30am

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times: 8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday Thursday 12:00noon Friday 8:00am Saturday 9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

10:00am - 10:30am,

5:15pm - 5:45pm

Saturday



Granville Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon Tel: 01732 454177 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk www.sevrcparish.org.uk

Church contact:

Barry Authers

Tel: 01959 524362

sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH

Western Rd, Borough Green

TN15 8AG



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

ST JOSEPH'S

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Liturgy of the Word) Thursday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

BOROUGH GREEN

Church contact: Antoni Offert Tel: 07513 041075 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

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

Mrs Katherine Sexton Academy Principal: Ms Geraldine Leahy



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown TN15 6JP

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

South Park, Sevenoaks. TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk

Executive Head: Tel: 01732 453921

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 9:00am - 12:00noon

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 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 10:00am - 12:00noon, 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

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PARISH NOTICES

TODAY

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells at Otford, and one of the Capuchin Friars at West Kingsdown and at the 6:00pm Mass.

Education Sunday

The theme this year is 'enlightening the mind' (cf Ephesians 1: 17-18). This Day gives us the opportunity to thank God for all who teach and all who study. Today we pray that God will fortify those who work in our schools - teachers, support staff, and others, whose tireless work sometimes goes unnoticed The Second Collection is 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.

11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir leads our music today.

THIS WEEK

Fr David

will be away from Monday until 24th September, for his final break of the year.

St Thomas' School

The new term starts on Monday. Year 6 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. 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.

Wednesday: European Day of Prayer for Ukraine

Throughout Europe Wednesday is a day of prayer for by means of silent Eucharistic Ukraine, Adoration. Accordingly, on Wednesday there is 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. Can YOU make a special effort to come at one of these times to pray for Ukraine?

Friday: Consecration Anniversary

Friday is the Anniversary of the Consecration of St Thomas's Church in 1935 and is thus a Solemnity in St Thomas's. This will be marked at the 8:00am Mass. The Mass at St Bernadette's will be of the day (SS Cornelius & Cyprian).

Next Sunday

is Evangelii Gaudium Sunday and the Second Collection is for Home Missions. This collection provides the Bishops of England Wales with the resources to support the spread of the Gospel in our own country and to support parish evangelization.

The first annual Mass count also takes place next Sunday.

NOTICES

First Collection at Sunday Mass

The COVID rate having declined the Parish Finance Committee has decided that from this weekend the First Collection will revert to a collection at the Offertory. Will those responsible at each church and Mass please note? Many parishioners make their contribution by Standing Order, so please don't glare at someone who doesn't put anything in the bag as it passes by!

Parish Office

From this Monday the Parish Office hours will change, to 9:00am - 12:00 noon Mondays to Fridays. As Magda will be away the Office is closed on Friday this week.

Outing to Canon John Bailey's grave

On Saturday 24th 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)

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

St Edith Devotions

The St Edith Devotions are next Sunday. 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. You are invited to walk the pilgrimage to Kemsing with others, from Sevenoaks or Otford. Depart St Thomas's at 11:00am; eat your packed Lunch at Most Holy Trinity; depart Otford 1:30pm. Contact Ingrid La Trobe for more information on the walk: latrobefamily@yahoo.co.uk.

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.

Quiet Day of Reflection

On Saturday 15th October at The Poult House Barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU, 10:00am -4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer, Scripture, and nature the day will reflect on two men who met Jesus in the Gospels, Zacchaeus and Bartimaeus. Both were outcasts in different ways yet Jesus stopped for them. What is Jesus saying to us today through these encounters?

The day will be led by Gilly Fenner; take a packed Lunch (tea and coffee will be provided) and wear weather appropriate clothes. Suggested contribution £5; to attend email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com.

St Thomas's Repository

After a number of years Christine Landon is retiring from running the Repository, and we thank her hugely for this ministry. Sophie McBrien has kindly agreed to take over, but she will need a helper to man the Repository after the 9:15am Mass, just for ten minutes. Contact Magda in the Office if you can do this.

St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells Open events for entry in September 2023

For all those who are considering admission to the St Gregory's Catholic School, this year the school is holding open events on 21[#], 22nd September and on 4th, 20th October from 9:00am to 11:00am. On 22nd September there is also an afternoon session at 4:30pm - 7:30pm. The Sixth Form Open Evening will be on 3rd November - 7:00pm. Please visit www.sgschool.org.uk to book your visit.

St Bernadette Relic Tour

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

Prayer for the happy repose of HM The Queen

Almighty God,

You are the author and sustainer of all human life; grant that your servant, Elizabeth our Queen, whom you granted a long and happy reign as Monarch of these lands may be forgiven her sins and rewarded with that eternal life promised to all those born again in the water of baptism and power of your Spirit. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit God, forever and ever, **Amen**.

Eternal rest, grant to her O Lord, And let Perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, Through the mercy of God, rest in peace. **Amen**



he relics of St Bernadette of Lourdes have begun their two month tour of Great Britain, beginning at Westminster Cathedral. Some 1,700 people attended the opening Mass in the Cathedral, and there were

long queues outside the Cathedral to visit the relics, despite the booking system.

In his homily Vincent Cardinal Nichols said "We pray that all who gather to greet her, to reach out to her in whatever need, will learn the great lessons of her life and witness: that in God's eyes we are precious, no matter our condition; that in the eyes of Mary, we are beloved sons and daughters, whom she gathers under her mantle of consolation and healing; that Mary never abandons us but is with us every step of our pilgrim way through this life; that Mary will always lead us to her Son, Jesus, in whom alone is our fullness and redemption."

The relics will then travel approximately 11,500 miles to every diocese in Great Britain, including stops at Wormwood Scrubs prison in London and the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Cathedral. The relics will be in St George's Cathedral, Southwark between 19th and 21st October, and they will then be at The Friars, Aylesford here in Kent between 7:00pm on 24th October and 1:00pm on 28th October. You need to book to visit the relics at <u>https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/</u>.

In 2009 the visit of St Thérèse of Lisieux' relics to Britain drew vast crowds, and in 2012 the relic of the heart of St John Vianney toured dioceses in northern England. Pilgrims who venerate St Bernadette's relics – which include rib fragments, kneecaps, and thigh muscle, housed in a decorated reliquary – can receive a Plenary Indulgence if they also go to Confession, receive Holy Communion, and pray for the Pope's intentions.

Bernadette Soubirous was born in 1844 in Lourdes, a remote town in south-western France. In 1858 she experienced visions of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She later joined the Sisters of Charity in Nevers, central France, and died in 1879 aged 35. Once the Church was satisfied the apparitions were genuine the

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St Bernadette Relic Tour

Shrine in Lourdes was established, and now draws millions of pilgrims each year. Healing is a special charism of the Shrine in Lourdes, and as recently as 2018 the 70th miracle was officially recognised by the independent medical panel. On the 150th anniversary of the first apparition Pope Benedict XVI said "Mary, appearing to St Bernadette, opened a privileged place to encounter the divine love which heals and saves".

Besides physical healing - and there have over a thousand miracles claimed over the years - Lourdes also provides emotional healing – it is often in caring for the sick and most vulnerable that one finds shared joy and comfort – and psychological healing – as at Lourdes we can discover forgiveness and hope.

Travelling, even to somewhere as relatively near as Lourdes, has been very difficult in the last two years or so, because of the pandemic. Now St Bernadette will instead journey to us, making the grace of pilgrimage available to people in England, Wales and Scotland who might otherwise not be able to go on pilgrimage. As the Relic Tour website puts it: *"We can expect many graces from this visit including healing, conversion and the wonderful discovery of vocation"*.

I will leave the final explanation to Pope Benedict XVI: "By inviting us to venerate the mortal remains of the martyrs and saints, the Church does not forget that, in the end, these are indeed just human bones, but they are bones that belonged to individuals touched by the transcendent power of God. The relics of the saints are traces of that invisible but real presence which sheds light upon the shadows of the world and reveals the Kingdom of Heaven in our midst".



EDUCATION SUNDAY (from the Bishops' Conference website)

Education Sunday is one of the oldest Days of Special Prayer in this country's liturgical calendar. Established by the Bishops in 1848, originally on the feast of the Sacred Heart in June, it is now celebrated at the beginning of the academic year. Although long associated with the annual collection for the work of the Catholic Education Service, its main purpose is to celebrate the work of Catholic education and to enable it to continue to flourish with the support of the whole Catholic community.

Catholic education is a precious legacy from our forebears, and a testament to their courage and foresight. In the mid-nineteenth century the Catholic Church in this country was a mainly poor and immigrant community, emerging from centuries of persecution. Education was rightly seen as the principal means of handing on the faith and improving the spiritual, moral, social and cultural lives of the next generation. This year is the 175th anniversary of the beginning of State funding for Catholic schools, and the founding of what is now the Catholic Education Service. At that point in history, our Bishops made the education of the poor their top priority and, making huge sacrifices, Catholics set about raising funds and fighting for the right to re-establish the national network of schools and universities which we enjoy today. Catholic education is a tremendous achievement to be celebrated.

The Catholic Church is this country's largest provider of secondary schools and second largest provider of primary schools. Catholic education is by far the largest charitable endeavour of the Church in this country: we give thanks for the many thousands of teachers, lecturers, academics, support staff, leaders, governors, advisers and others who have found their vocation in Catholic education, and without whom this endeavour would be impossible.

Catholic schools continue to be true to their mission: they are more diverse than any other type of school, they recruit disproportionately more children from the poorest areas of the country and still consistently manage to be the highest performing schools in the country.

For Catholic education to continue to flourish, it needs to rely on the continued support of the whole Catholic community. As in previous generations, all Catholics need to be prepared to do their bit to support, promote and defend Catholic education. There are many ways to do this: whether by praying for vocations to Catholic education, responding to consultations or letting your elected representatives know your views, or encouraging a young person to teach in a Catholic school. In that way, we can all ensure together that our Catholic schools and universities will be there to form the next generation.

Paul Barber Director of the Catholic Education Service

Saint Thomas Aquinas is a Doctor of the Church, known as the Angelic Doctor. He is aptly the patron saint of academies, schools, universities, students and learning. Pupils and teachers can reflect on the following quote in order to think about what it means to have enlightened minds, be authentic and discover vocation. The Angelic Doctor said:

"Three things are necessary for the salvation of man: to know what he ought to believe;

to know what he ought to desire; and to know what he ought to do."

A student's prayer for enlightenment, written by St. Thomas Aquinas:

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom!

Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance.

Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself.

Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion.

This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY 11 th	September	TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY
6:00pm	(Sat)	Good health and well
		of Marie Mascarenha
8:00am	(Latin)	Monsignor Ted Hill R
9:15am		St Thomas' School
11:15am		People of the Parish
6:00pm		Holy Souls
9:30am	Otford	Holy Souls
9:30am	Borough Green	Eileen Teevan
11:00am	West Kingsdow	n Canon John Morris Rl
Monday 12 th	Feria	
8:00am		Holy Souls
Tuesday 13 th	S John Chry	sostom, B D
9:30am		Holy Souls
Wednesday 1	4 th The EXALTA	ATION of the HOLY CROSS
8:00am		Holy Souls
10:00am	Otford	Holy Souls
Thursday 15 th	Our Lady oj	f Sorrows
10:00am	Borough Green	Holy Souls
12:00noo	on	G. D'Souza RIP (Anniv
		L. Rodrigues RIP (Ann
Friday 16 th	ST THOMAS	S'S CONSECRATION ANNIVER
8:00am		Holy Souls
10:00am	West Kingsdow	n Holy Souls
Saturday 17 th	of Our Lady	,
9:30am		Barry Griffiths RIP
SUNDAY 18 th	September	TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (C)
6:00pm	(Sat)	Anna Mullan RIP
8:00am	(Latin)	HM Queen Elizabeth
9:15am		Dympna Sheehan RIP
11:15am		Holy Souls
6:00pm		Holy Souls
9:30am	Otford	Nigel Authers RIP
9:30am	Borough Green	Holy Souls
11:00am	West Kingsdow	n Holy Souls

Y (C)	Departed anniversaries
llbeing	Colin Moss, Stanley Norfolk, John
as	Asquith, Elizabeth Travers,
RIP	Bernard Bishop, Lucile Conney,
	Frederick Brain, Desmond
	O'Meara, Barbara Hawkins,
	Maria Koschel, George Jones,
	Maurice Still, Thomas Cowan,
	Sydney Pemberton, Brian
	Emmerson, Joan Taylor, Daisy
RIP	
	Norfolk, Flora Hopkins,
	Marguerite Matthews, Catherine
	Wood, Bernard Brigham, Mary
	O'Leavy, Douglas Bass, Adelaide
	Wheatcroft.
	Eternal rest grant unto them,
	O Lord
	0 0
	Please remember the sick who
	have been commended to our prayers, especially:
versary)	
niversary)	Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham, Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven,
RSARY	Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken
	Holmes, Mary Scott, Sean Cloke
	and all in care and nursing
	0 0 0
	0 0 0
	•
C)	LATIN ANTIPHONS
	Entrance
II RIP	Da pacem, Domine,
Р	sustinentibus te, ut prophetæ
	tui fideles inveniantur; exaudi
	preces servi tui, et plebis
	tuæ Israel.
	Communion
	Quam pretiosa est misericordia
	tua, Deus! Filii hominum sub
	umbra alarum tuarum
	confugient.