

SAINT EDITH OF KEMSING



SMALL NOTICES

Please email:
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
for further details.



*Planning holidays and need
a reliable dog sitter?*

Call: 07887 429416

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my business or get my ads in the
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sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
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Please email:
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details.

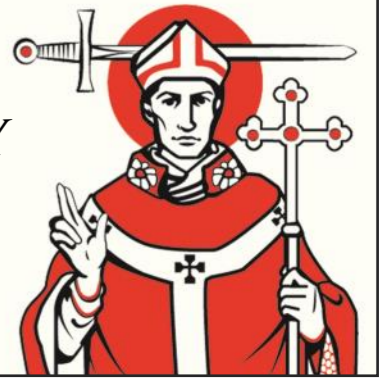
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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

18th September 2022

**NO ONE CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS. EITHER YOU WILL
HATE THE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR YOU WILL BE
DEVOTED TO THE ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER**
Luke 16: 13



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

Amos 8: 4-7; Psalm 112; 1 Timothy 2: 1-8; Luke 16: 1-13

First Reading: God, through the prophet Amos, condemns sharp practice.

Psalm: a hymn of praise to God, who "raises the poor".

Second Reading: prayer is the first duty of the community of faith and of every member of the community, and this prayer – of petition, intercession, and thanksgiving - is for everyone, not just for the community, the Church.

Gospel: the parable of the shrewd steward is a parable, not a piece of moral teaching about God, and it certainly doesn't commend sharp practice in business or personal finances. The master is God, the steward is Israel. Israel is supposed to be, as it were, God's property manager, but has failed miserably in its task. The Pharisee's response is to tighten the regulations of the law; Jesus says 'make new friends', think unconventionally, throw caution to the winds.

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
9:00am - 12:00noon
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



What can I share?

When we are generous and share our things and our time, we store up treasure for ourselves in heaven. Draw, or write about, something you could share with your friends inside the money bag.



Sharing makes us happy. Make this face like you with hair, freckles or glasses. Draw a happy smile on your face!

A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for all the good gifts you have given to me. Help me to take care of my things and to use what I have well. Help me to be generous and to share what I have. Amen.

redemptorist PUBLICATIONS

Jesus tells us that it is good if we can be trusted to look after our money and the things we own. If we want to be given responsibility for big things, we need to show we can be trusted with small things. Jesus does not want us to think too much about money and possessions. Jesus wants us to use the things we have to help other people.

One master

Jesus gives us a special message in today's Gospel. Move each letter to its linked empty circle to see what it is.



Who needs help?

Jack has lots of things. How can he help his friends? Draw a line from his things to the person he can share with.



Taking care of money

This girl wants to take care of her money. Help her to follow the right string to her piggy bank.



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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.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 9:00am - 12:00noon

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

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 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 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

PARISH NOTICES

TODAY

Mass count

The second annual Mass count takes place today.

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Trevor Tibbertsma, of the Archdiocese of Melbourne in Australia, and one of the Capuchin Friars, assisting today. Fr David and Fr Bryan are both away.

Evangelii Gaudium Sunday

See page 8 for more information. The Second Collection is for Home Mission.

11:15am Mass

Welcome to Evi Georgiou, Zach Grobel, and Jessica Keen, receiving Holy Communion for the first time today.

St Edith Devotions

Today is the Feast Day of our very own local saint, St Edith of Kemsing. There are the usual Devotions in Kemsing:

3:30pm Holy Rosary at St Edith's Well,

4:00pm Vespers in St Mary's Church,

5:00pm refreshments in The Bell.

Please pray for good weather, and why not make a special effort to attend these devotions.

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.

THIS WEEK

Fr David

is away from Monday until Saturday, for his final break of the year.

Parish Office

Magda is also away, until Thursday when the Parish Office will reopen. Please note the new opening times, 9:00am – 12:00 noon, Mondays to Fridays.

Monday Day of Mourning

As Monday 19th September at 11:00am is the Queen's Funeral and a Day of Mourning, there will be no Mass at 12:00 noon as usual but at 9:30am.

Monday: Listening to You (bereavement support)

As Monday 19th September is the Queen's Funeral and a Day of Mourning, there will be no meeting of the above.

The next Listening to you will be on Monday 17 October, from 10:30am in the Parish Centre. Enter by the door marked 14.

Flower arranging class

The first session will now be on Monday, 26th September and NOT 19th September owing to the late Queen's funeral.

St Thomas' School

Year 5 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. All parents, family members etc of pupils are very welcome to attend, as usual.

Saturday: Outing to Canon John Bailey's grave

By coach, leaving St Bernadette's at 9:30am. Cars may be left at St Bernadette's. Cost per seat £20; to go contact Monica Biggs (mmdbbiggs@outlook.com) as soon as possible.

Next Sunday

The Second Collection will be for the parish SVP. The first annual Mass count also takes place next Sunday.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

First Collection at Sunday Mass

The COVID rate having declined the Parish Finance Committee has decided that 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!

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.

Quiet Day of Reflection

On Saturday 15th October at The Poul 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.

A New Parish RCIA Programme

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) by which adults become Catholic is changing in our parish. For the coming Parish RCIA programme starting in October (meetings take place on Monday evenings in the Parish Centre) we are shifting to the use of *Symbolon* as the primary course material, to make it easier to learn about the Catholic Faith.

Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained features 20 online video and discussion sessions that brings together some of the most trusted Catholic teachers in the world to guide you through the breadth and richness of the Catholic faith. It will lead you through the 'big picture' of the Catholic Faith with our Creed as the guide. See more at www.augustineinstitute.org/program-categories/rcia-symbolon.

Please take a look and let me know if you'd like to help the Parish RCIA team deliver the programme (you could perhaps show some of the early sessions to a friend or family member in your home)? Or perhaps you are interested in becoming Catholic yourself? Contact either myself or Fr David or Fr Peter to find out more.

Andrew La Trobe

Parish RCIA Co-ordinator (07775 738485 or andrew.latrobe@gmail.com).

St Gregory's Catholic School, Tunbridge Wells

Open events for entry in September 2023

Open events on 21st, 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.

Go to www.sgschool.org.uk to book your visit.



From the Desk of the Parish Assistant

Why orthodoxy matters (Part 1)

Technically, the definition of a 'Christian' is someone who has received Trinitarian baptism, and ecclesial communions should, on this measure, only be called Christian if they practise baptism 'in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.' This excludes certain modern sects such as the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Mormons, but, interestingly and perhaps more controversially, also the Unitarians (who do not believe in the Trinity) and the Salvation Army (who do not practise baptism).

More colloquially, however, when we use the word 'Christian', we are normally meaning a person who is seeking to be a follower of the life and teaching of Jesus Christ, and who, in accord with that teaching, has allowed his life to be regenerated by God's divine power. What divides different Christian denominations is how they understand the teaching of Jesus Christ to be transmitted to us today and how they believe that regeneration takes place.

The Case for Catholicism

How do I know anything about Jesus Christ today, over 2,000 years since His public ministry in Galilee and Judaea? The Catholic answer is that you and I have received His message through its being handed down from generation to generation, even to us today. Part of what has been handed down are written histories and letters from Jesus' earliest followers; but, these were not written until some decades after His recorded Death, Resurrection and Ascension. Yet the message of Jesus was being taught and proclaimed from the very beginning by the community of followers, led by the Apostles and by St. Peter, which Jesus Himself had founded; and indeed, by others who heard the message, joined that community, and themselves spread the message further. The Catholic Church is nothing other than that same community, now somewhat grown-up, 2,000+ years older.

The Church's most ancient records - the New Testament - recall that Jesus promised the community He had founded that even after His Ascension, the Holy

Spirit would guide them into the fullness of Truth - even truths that He Himself had not yet explained to them (cf. John 16.12-13; Matthew 28.20).

Development of Doctrine

As the centuries have rolled on, and as the generations have handed on the teachings of Jesus, the Church has grown in her reflection and understanding of those teachings. Just as you and I are taught things in childhood, the deeper significance of which we only come to see later, so too as generations of theologians, mystics, saints and ordinary Christians have lived out the teachings of Christ, their understanding and appreciation of them has grown, and the fruits of their insights have also been handed on to future generations.

That is not to say that the teaching has been changed. If something is true it is true, always. Our understanding of the truth may deepen, but it cannot be changed or reversed. We were taught, for example, as children that people die. As we grow older, we come to learn the many and varied ways this can happen, we experience the pain it involves - but we do not subsequently discover that in this world people do not die.

Thus, as Pope Francis put it recently, Church dogma "*is always on a path of development, but always developing in the same direction*" (30th July 2022).

Thinking with the Mind of the Church

When we choose to dissent from Church teaching, what we are asserting is that - 2,000 years removed from the earthly life of Jesus Christ - we have a better idea of His teaching than the community to which He entrusted His teaching. That is not something to do lightly. When we choose to think, however, with the mind of the Church, we are joining ourselves to that living stream of Tradition, guided and guaranteed by the Holy Spirit, which is the source from which all our knowledge of the Saviour flows. That is why Catholic orthodoxy will always be the safest place to be.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY

The Third Sunday in September, formerly called Home Mission Sunday, is now called *Evangelii Gaudium Sunday*. Named after Pope Francis' first (solo) Apostolic Exhortation in 2013 on the joy of the Gospel, the day offers the Catholic community in England & Wales the opportunity to celebrate the beauty of our faith and our commitment to witness to the fullness of life in Christ.

Evangelization and discipleship

The secretariat of the Bishops' Conference endeavours to support the bishops in three areas of their work. The first is evangelization and discipleship. This includes supporting the evangelization and catechesis coordinators in the 22 dioceses of England & Wales, including our Southwark Agency for Evangelization and Catechesis, in which Ingrid La Trobe is the Family, Child and Youth Catechesis Advisor.

The Conference staff are a conduit where information can be gathered and people can give and receive information and share good practice about what is happening in the dioceses to bring people to faith and to form them in faith.

Liturgy and Patrimony

The Bishops' Conference secretariat responds to Rome's requests regarding liturgical texts, helping to produce English translations for approval in Rome, and offering opportunities for liturgical formation in the dioceses.

What goes on in our church buildings is essential and very, very important – the heart of what we do as Catholics when we gather Sunday by Sunday for the Eucharist – but we also preserve the beauty of the buildings. The secretariat helps gain funding for Listed Buildings, to enable them to be truly beautiful places, so that when we enter them we are caught up in the mystery of the beauty of God.

Dialogue and Unity

The Mission Team of the Bishops' Conference works with representatives of other Christian groups and with members of other faiths, and the Catholic Church in Great Britain is represented on lots of ecumenical bodies.

Our new Area Bishop, Rt Rev'd Paul Hendricks, often represents the Catholic Church on visits to mosques, synagogues, Sikh and Buddhist temples, and so on.

Outreach to those of no faith

Even as far back as 1964 Pope Paul VI, in an important document called *Ecclesiam Suam*, spoke of the need for dialogue with other Christians, with those of other faiths, and those who are seeking God (people of goodwill). In Eucharistic Prayer IV there is that lovely phrase about "*those who seek you with a sincere heart*". So the Conference staff are trying to find ways to engage with people.

Today

First and foremost, please pray today for the work of home mission, for the bishops and their secretariat in their outreach work, for our diocesan Agency, and for those engaged in the Deanery and in our Parish in this ministry.

And if you can give something to the Second Collection the money you give will go into a specific pot, for mission and *Evangelii Gaudium* work in the Bishops' Conference.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 18th September *TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY (C)*

6:00pm (Sat)	Anna Mullan RIP
8:00am (Latin)	HM Queen Elizabeth II RIP
9:15am	Dympna Sheehan RIP
11:15am	Health of Sarah Boyle
6:00pm	Alice Nolan RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Monday 19th *S Theodore of Canterbury, B*

9:30am	Vincent Potter (Birthday)
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Tuesday 20th *SS Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Pr, Paul Chõng Ha-sang, & Companions, MM*

9:30am	Donor's Intention (AC)
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Wednesday 21st *S MATTHEW, Ap Ev*

8:00am	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls

Thursday 22nd *Feria*

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Mrs Haigh RIP
12:00noon	Patricia Mathewick RIP

Friday 23rd *S Pius of Pietrelcina, Pr*

8:00am	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Saturday 24th *Our Lady of Walsingham*

9:30am	Holy Souls
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SUNDAY 25th September *TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY (C)*

6:00pm (Sat)	Frank Haggarty RIP
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Holy Souls
11:15am	Metropolitan Kallistos Ware RIP
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Baptism

Welcome to

Felix & Rosa Newton

who were Baptized at St Joseph's, Borough Green last weekend.

&

Welcome to

Milo Webster

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

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

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

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Salus populi ego sum, dicit Dominus. De quacumque tribulatione clamaverunt ad me, exaudiam eos, et ero illorum Dominus in perpetuum.

Communion

Ego sum pastor bonus, dicit Dominus; et cognosco oves meas, et cognoscunt me meæ.