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SMALL NOTICES



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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

25th September 2022



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

Amos 6: 1, 4-7; Psalm 145; 1 Timothy 6: 11-16; Luke 16: 19-31

First Reading: God, through the prophet Amos, condemns those who live in luxury, without thought to the commandments of God.

Psalm: a hymn of praise to God, who gives redress to all who suffer or are marginalised.

Second Reading: the Christian must *“aim to be saintly and religious”*. This means being filled with faith, and love, and being patient and gentle. Ask yourself: am I these things? If not, what can I do about it?

Gospel: the parable of the rich man (known as Dives, the Latin for rich man) and Lazarus. It is only incidentally about riches and poverty. The last sentence speaks of Jesus Himself: by His coming among us, His death on the Cross, and His resurrection, He has ushered in the new age in which God will right all wrongs.

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
9:00am - 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



Sharing

Jesus wants us to use our:



to ___ (ese) the pictures
of starving children.



to l ___ (nets) to the
news of the poor.



to t ___ (kla) about
what to do.

A rich man is so busy enjoying his good food he does not even notice Lazarus, a poor man sitting by his gates. Lazarus is very hungry and poorly. God loves Lazarus. When he dies, Lazarus goes to live with God in heaven. God is disappointed with the rich man because God wants everyone to notice people in need and help them.

Take notice!

Jesus rose from the dead. We want to listen to Jesus when he asks us to love others.



Wordsearch

We show Jesus' love to others when we

SHARE HELP
PLAY CARE

Can you find these words in the puzzle?



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to see when people need help. Help me to do something about it. Amen.



Fairtrade

Match the word with the fairtrade product.



c _ f _ _ (eoe)

T-sh _ _ t (ri)

b _ n _ _ a (naa)

sw _ _ _ s (tee)

ch _ c _ l _ t _ (oeao)

c _ k _ (ea)

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

Second Collection

The Second Collection is for the Parish SVP. In the present 'cost of living crisis' their support for poor families is as needed as ever.

Mass count

The second annual Mass count takes place today.

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin Friars, assisting today.

Day of Prayer

Today is a day of prayer for the Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work and for the Reverent Use of Creation.

THIS WEEK

St Thomas' School

Year 4 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. All parents, family members etc of pupils are very welcome to attend, as usual.

Parish Centre Working Party

The Working Party meets on Tuesday at 8:00pm in the Parish Room.

Parish Finance Committee

meets on Thursday evening.

St Joseph's Quiz Night

On Saturday, 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.

Next Sunday

The Second Collection at [Most Holy Trinity, Otford only](#) will be to help defray the cost of the new car park resurfacing.

NOTICES

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.

Energy conservation

Everyone needs to conserve energy at this time. Please take great care at all four churches to minimise energy consumption, especially turning off lighting when not needed etc.

Please also, if you use the Parish Centre, remember to close windows and doors as well as put out lights when you leave.

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 4th and 20th October from 9:00am to 11:00am. 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 <https://stbernadette.org.uk/registration/>.

Mass Intentions

Use the envelopes or contact Magda in the Office to book Mass Intentions.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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).

Stella Maris Webinar

Invitation to webinar: Thank you for your recent generous support for seafarers and fishers on Sea Sunday. As a follow up, Catholic charity Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) invites you to join a webinar on Tuesday 27th September from 7.30pm to 9pm GMT to learn more about the issue of seafarer abandonment, and how donations like yours on Sea Sunday are supporting those in crisis. If you would like to attend, please register in advance at www.stellamaris.org.uk/abandonment

Prayer for today

Dear Lord,

I don't know who or what will cross my path today. But I do know that You are my Rock and my Fortress. You are my Shield and my Strong Tower. Help me to anchor myself to You today. Teach me how to stand strong in You and choose only Your way today. Help me walk by Your truth and not my feelings. Help me to embrace anything that comes my way as an opportunity to see You at work and as an opportunity to point others to You. Thank You that You love me and nothing can ever take that away from me! Even if I fail today and fall short, You whisper Your unconditional love deep into my soul and remind me that Your mercies are new every morning. That truly amazes me, Lord. Thank You for meeting with me today. Would You wake me again tomorrow with the same sweet whisper of Your love? I can't wait to meet with You again.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

— [Wendy Blight](#)

Prayer for strength to endure

Dear Lord,

I am weary and don't know when this "race" will end in my life. I feel like I've been running forever, trying to outrun this trial. Help me to stop trying to outrun my pain but rather run with endurance the race you have set before me. I know that because of you I am ultimately a victor over the trials in my life. I know that nothing in this world can separate me from your steadfast love.

Please give me a measure of your love today; give me the strength to endure this trial. Thank you for your love for me that never ends! And thank you for the crown of joy that awaits me forever in your Kingdom!

— [Adrian Rogers](#)



From the Desk of the Assistant Priest

Why orthodoxy matter (Part 2)

One of the central claims of the Catholic Church is that Her teaching goes right back to Jesus Christ Himself. I would go so far as to say that this is the only real reason to be a Catholic - if I do not believe that the Church's teaching is from the Son of God, why would I want to follow it? For aesthetic reasons? Personal preference? It makes me feel 'nice'? Just because that's what I was brought up as?

In the end, the only good reason for believing anything, it because I think it is true. It is for this reason that the Church can claim that dissent from orthodoxy is dangerous - because it means rejecting Divine teaching.



But I don't find everything the Church teaches in the Bible

No, you won't. Nor will you find anywhere in the Bible, where it says we should only believe what you find in the Bible. Rather, St. Paul tells us: "stand firm and hold to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by our spoken word or by our letter" (2 Thessalonians 2.15).

Everything the Church teaches today must be consistent with and not contradict the teaching of Scripture. However, as we saw last week, across two thousand years and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, the Church has reflected deeply on the teachings of Jesus Christ and grown in her understanding. This means that there are some teachings that She is able to express more clearly and precisely than She could have done in the first century, when the Scriptures were being written down.

A good example of this is the doctrine of the Trinity. The Scriptures indicate the Divinity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; but, nowhere do they spell out God is one, yet three persons, consubstantial in being and co-equal in glory. That was defined by later Church Councils.

Didn't Vatican II change the Church's teachings, though?

It might have felt after the Second Vatican Council that a lot had changed. In particular, the 'Catholic experience' must have been very different as the Liturgy was reformed. However, in Her teaching, the Church remained the same. Certain things were made more precise as the Bishops took onboard the insights of various theologians, but it would not be possible to 'break the link' through a 'new' Church teaching, because the link is with Jesus Christ's teaching. If you are unsure of this, simply go and read the documents of Vatican II - they are clearly not going back on any traditional teachings.

There were, however, changes in discipline or practice - the Liturgy being the most obvious example; but also engaging in more ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue. Furthermore, it was not uncommon for priests to go beyond what the Council had taught or permitted in making changes. This certainly caused many to become confused, and unfortunately, confusion about what the Church teaches is often still with us, today.

Not everything a priest says is true

This is a hard truth for me to write, but here goes - priests are not always right. We are human, and sometimes our understanding fails. Sometimes we get carried away in the moment and say the wrong thing. We are weak and frail, and we hold the priceless treasure of priesthood in the earthenware vessels that we are.

The faithful deserve to receive orthodox teachings from their priests, and please God, mostly they do. However, Christians also have a responsibility to know what the Church teaches, to be familiar with the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, and to challenge priests if they are being unfaithful to it.

To be orthodox in our Faith is important, but it also requires some work. It is the most worthwhile work, though; orthodoxy is the safe path to the teaching of Jesus Christ, and His teaching alone is the way to heaven (cf. John 14.6).





You may well have heard, by now, that the parish has purchased access to a powerful new resource that can enable you to grow in your knowledge of and love for your Catholic Faith: formed.org



Formed has been described as a kind of Catholic Netflix™. It has an extraordinary range of content including:

- ✿ Movies
- ✿ T.V. Shows
- ✿ Discussion Programs
- ✿ Documentaries
- ✿ Courses
- ✿ Audiobooks
- ✿ Graphic Novels (Comics)
- ✿ Downloadable Books
- ✿ Content for children & teenagers

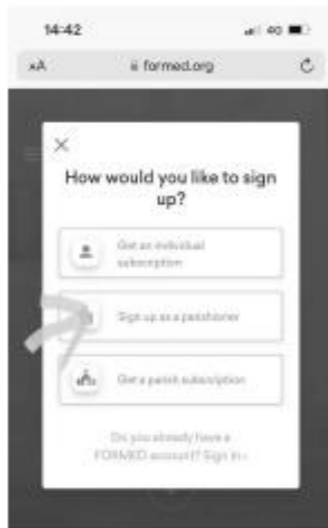
There is content that will get you thinking deeply, but also plenty of programming that you could relax to after a long day, or listen to in the background while you are doing something else. All of it, however, has been produced to help you to live out your faith in Jesus Christ.

Parishioners can sign-up for free using the following steps.

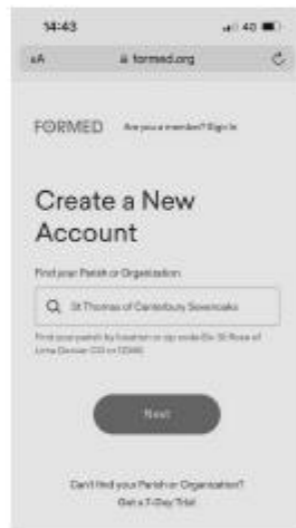
1. Go to www.formed.org and click 'sign-up'.



2. Click 'sign-up as parishioner'.



3. Search for 'St. Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks'.



4. Enter your name and email address, and click 'sign-up'.



As well as on your computer, you can find apps for formed.org available for Android and iOS devices and also for most smart TV and streaming devices. Please do login and see how formed.org can help you to grow in your faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 25th September	TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY (C)
6:00pm (Sat)	Frank Haggarty RIP
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
11:15am	Metropolitan Kallistos Ware RIP
6:00pm	James Moran - in thanksgiving
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Nigel Authers RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
Monday 26th Feria	
8:00am	Anne Callaghan RIP
Tuesday 27th S Vincent de Paul, Pr	
9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
Wednesday 28th Feria	
8:00am	HM Queen Elizabeth II RIP & her husband Philip RIP and new King Charles III
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Bolek Pajak RIP (1 st Anniversary) & Mary Pajak RIP
Thursday 29th SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, Archangels	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Diane Melaugh RIP
Friday 30th S Jerome, Pr D	
8:00am	James Jose Martin Walker RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Anna Mullan RIP
Saturday 1st October S Thérèse of the Child Jesus, V D	
9:30am	All dec'd of the donor's family
SUNDAY 2nd October TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY (C)	
6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Good intentions of the donor's family
9:15am	Edward Pook RIP
11:15am	James Moran - in thanksgiving
6:00pm	Philip Sims RIP and Patricia & Nicola Simms
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	John & Valery Ingram (50 th Wedding Anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Johnson Ayoung-Chee RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

Departed anniversaries

Marion Dibley, George Flanagan, Margaret Quinn, Jeanmary Laing, Patsy Wilson, John Rowllins, Stanislaw Anasiewicz, Winifred Maylea, Josephine Cudlipp, Andrew Gallighan, Martin Duffey, Joy Wooding, Agnes Emerson, Sidney Hearn, Irene, Sterling, Thomas Burke, Michael Bowe, Elizabeth McDonald, David Fitzsimmons, Marie Rapiciano, Eunice Dark, Margaret Abbott, Ellen Brown, Mabel O'Brien, Andrey Bruce, Edmund Vaughan, Alexander Gleeson, George Moore, Alfred Dipple, Frances Larkin

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
Omnia, quæ fecisti nobis, Domine, in vero iudicio fecisti, quia peccavimus tibi, et mandatis tuis non obœdivimus; sed da gloriam nomini tuo, et fac nobiscum secundum multitudinem misericordiæ tuæ.

Communion
Memento verbi tui servo tuo, Domine, in quo mihi spem dedisti; hæc me consolata est in humilitate mea.