

ST EDITH DEVOTIONS 2022



ADVERT

Shin Sei Do Karate Club

Shin Sei Do is a Karate Club offering classes for children and adults; experienced and beginners are all welcome.

The instructor (James McSharry) is a registered Karate instructor. He holds Martial Arts Coaching Qualifications (MASA), enhanced DBS certificate, Instructors' Public and Products liability Insurance and is affiliated to ShiKon Martial Arts.

The Club meets on Sunday and Tuesday evenings at Solefield School Hall, Fiennes Way, Sevenoaks, TN13 1PH.

For more information and to book visit <https://sevenoakskarate.co.uk/>.



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

2nd October 2022



The size of a mustard seed

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

Habakkuk 1: 2-3, 2: 2-4; Psalm 94; 2 Timothy 1: 6-8; Luke 17: 5-10

First Reading: a rare Reading from the prophet *Habakkuk*, which takes the form of a dialogue between the prophet - who somewhat daringly asks God why he has not stopped oppression, injustice, tyranny, or violence - and God - who says that those whose souls are "*not at rights*" will not endure but those who are upright will.

Psalm: from earliest times this psalm has been sung as an invitation to worship in the Christian Church. Meribah means 'strife' and Massah means 'testing'.

Second Reading: St Paul urges Timothy (and as we hear this Reading us) to guard the faith which has been handed down from Christ and never to fail in witnessing to Christ.

Gospel: the apostles realise they lack faith, and Jesus is quick to respond. It is not great faith one needs but faith in a great God. And then comes the perhaps shocking lesson that all that we may do, for God, for the Church, never puts God in our debt.

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 God asks

I can do amazing things when I do what God asks. Find out what God asks us to do. Fill in the blanks with vowels (a,e,i,o,u).

★ L_v _ G _ d
★ L_v _ y _ r _ n _ _ g h b _ _ r s
★ L_v _ y _ _ r s _ l v _ s

Draw or write some of the amazing things you would like to do with God's help in the leaves of the tree.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to just get on with doing what you ask. Help me to be loving and kind with everyone I meet. I know you will be with me and you will help me. Amen.

Jesus tells his friends about the power of faith. Jesus says that if we really believe in him we can do anything. Jesus also says we are God's servants. It is our job to get on with doing what God asks and to love and help other people.

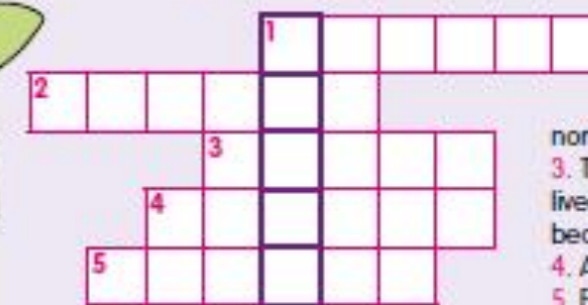
Spot the difference

Both servants have done their job and prepared a meal for their master. Spot the five differences between the two pictures.



Puzzle

Fill in the words by working out the clues and then see what the word in the purple box spells



The word is

Clues

1. Male parent
2. The day we normally go to church
3. The person who lived at the top of the beanstalk
4. A baby cat
5. Female parent

Our belief can grow

Our belief can grow, just as little seeds grow into big plants. Match these seeds to the big tree they will become.



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

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin friars today.

CAFOD talks

There will be a talk about the CAFOD Harvest Appeal after Masses this Sunday.

National Mass count

The third Mass count takes place today.

9:30am Otford Mass

The Second Collection (at Most Holy Trinity only) is towards the cost of the resurfacing of the car park.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group leads the music.

Confirmation Awayday

The Confirmandi have their Retreat Day today at The Friars, Aylesford, including Holy Mass at 4:00pm.

THIS WEEK

St Thomas' School

Year 3 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. Parents etc welcome as always.

Friday: CAFOD Harvest Fast Day

Millions of families are facing a food crisis that could be the worst in living memory. Your donations can help CAFOD's local experts to provide emergency food supplies to families in the worst affected countries in East Africa and support communities around the world working hard to put food on the table. Please fast on Friday and put your donation in next weekend's Second Collection.

Go to cafod.org.uk/fast_day for more information about the need and where your money goes, and for prayer suggestions.

NOTICES

Adults interested in becoming a Catholic

Anyone interesting in learning more about the Catholic faith - with no commitment at this stage, just come and see - please contact Andrew La Trobe as soon as possible (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com).

If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a Catholic pass the invitation on to them, and accompany them to the first session.

See also the Symbolon leaflets available in the church Entrances.

Parish Office

The Parish Office is now open 9:00am - 12:00 noon Mondays to Fridays.

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.

Secondary School Transfer

If you need Fr David to countersign a Supplementary Form for St Gregory's Catholic School or for Trinity School you should email him to make an appointment. He is unable to countersign forms for non Catholic Schools, other than Trinity.

Message from St Gregory's Catholic Secondary School, Tunbridge Wells

St Gregory's Catholic School were proud of the fantastic achievements of students in Year 11 and Year 13 this Summer, with their GCSE and A Level results. St Gregory's bucked the national picture and showed a rise on last year's outcomes which were based on teacher assessments.

At GCSE, three quarters of students achieved 5 or more standard passes in their GCSEs (at grade 4 or above) including English and Mathematics and several students have excelled by gaining the top grade 9 across a range of subjects. We are delighted with the range of outcomes for all students which reflects the distinctive nature of our inclusive school. We are delighted that several students have gained an average of grade 7 or above, including grade 9s across all their subjects taken.

In the Sixth Form, students achieved 83% A*-C grades and 82% of our students gained their first choice of university, with 16% going to Russell Group universities, which are the top universities in the country. We are also delighted that a number of students achieved the highest grades in all of their subjects.

St Gregory's staff and leadership team would like to thank their families and parishes for their continued support with supporting the students and making this possible.

Visit the Schools' website at <https://www.sgschool.org.uk>.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

The Pilgrims: Wednesday 12th October

As older members of the Parish we would particularly like to pray for young people throughout the country during this time of insecurity and change. We ask you to join us at 10:00am in St Thomas's to pray the Rosary with this dedication in our minds and hearts. We welcome everyone, whatever their age. Afterwards we shall gather in the Parish Room for coffee.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford Social Evening

The parishioners at Otford are hosting a social event on Saturday 12th November at 7:30pm to raise funds for the car park resurfacing. There will be an entertaining talk by Blue Badge Guide Jonathan Fenner on *Bishops, Beasts and Bankers of Sevenoaks*, followed by cheese & wine. It will be in the Club Room at Otford Village Memorial Hall. Tickets (£15) will be on sale shortly; meanwhile save the date.

DIOCESAN & OTHER NOTICES

Archbishop's Certificate

This is an online course for all in Southwark who wish to know their Catholic faith more deeply, and is especially for those involved in evangelization, catechesis, and formation. Participants will take a two-year journey through the Church's teaching to understand their faith in a more profound way and be able to share it with both confidence and joy. The course commences this month and the cost (divided between the individual and the Parish) is £365. Further details and registration can be found at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/archcert>.

Prisons Week: 9th - 15th October

Prisons Week is an ecumenical week of prayer which raises awareness of issues faced by those affected by the criminal justice system. This year the theme is *What are you thankful for?* Watch the Prisons Week video at <https://vimeo.com/732017840>.

Building a Better Marriage

A morning online course aimed at married couples, whether they have been married for a few years or decades. It is aimed at couples with average to good marriages looking to make their marriage better. There is no group sharing. Booking is essential and there is a nominal charge of £10 per couple. The next sessions will be on 22nd October and 26th November. More details from Carole Batty (mflkent@rcaos.org.uk).

Life in the Spirit Day of Renewal

At St George's Cathedral on Saturday 22nd October, 10:00am - 5:00pm. The main speaker is Fr Michael Payyapilly VC from the Divine Retreat Centre in Australia. The day is organised by the Southwark Charismatic Renewal and includes praise and worship, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer for healing, Confessions, Mass, and testimonies. Booking is free: bit.ly/SouthwarkRenewal22.

Retrouvaille: a Lifeline for Marriage

Retrouvaille are running two 'Lifeline for Marriage' programmes, for couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage, including those who are separated or divorced but who want to try again. They offer an online programme 13th - 16th October, and an in person programme 24th - 26th February. For more information and to book ring 07887 296983 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com.

World Youth Day 2023

Although it is a little while away, the Archdiocese will be taking a group of young pilgrims to the World Youth Day in Lisbon, 31st July - 7th August. If you are interested visit www.bit.ly/wydsouthwark or www.lisboa2023.org/en/.

MORE PARISH NOTICES

New to the Parish?

If you are new to the Parish, welcome. Please register by going to the Parish website (<http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/>) and clicking on 'Parish Registration'. Do also scroll through the list of Parish organisations etc on page 10; you may well find a group to interest you.

Formed.org Faith at Home

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. It has an extraordinary range of content, including movies, TV shows, discussion programmes, documentaries, courses, audiobooks, downloadable books and content for children and teenagers.

Parishioners can sign up for free. Simply

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'.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

First Collection at Sunday Mass

When the COVID-19 pandemic came into force, we had to discontinue taking the collection in the traditional way at the Offertory, and leave a box or plate at the Church Entrance, to avoid people touching things and getting too close to one another. Now that the COVID restrictions are over and we are more or less back to normal, we have reverted to the traditional method of taking the First Collection. Why?

You might think that it is to ensure more people do contribute and fewer 'forget' to make an offering. Our collection counters indeed report an increase in the First Collections since we changed back. But this is not the reason we have reintroduced taking the collection at the Offertory.

You might think that we take a collection in order to maintain our church and other buildings, to support the Parish's ministry, or even to make sure 'Father' is fed. These things are necessary, but there is a fundamental liturgical reason for taking a Collection between the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

The *Roman Missal* (page 563 in the Order of Mass) says "it is desirable that the faithful express their participation by making an offering, bringing forward bread and wine for the celebration of the Eucharist and perhaps other gifts to relieve the needs of the Church and the poor".

This incidentally is the origin of the priest washing his hands at this point: in the early church parishioners may have offered vegetables or chickens, and the priest's hands would get dirty. This action later acquired a more spiritual meaning, as the priest prays to God to wash away his sins.

There are three principal reasons why people offer money (or other things) at this point of the Mass. First, it unites you in the sacrifice of the Mass. Christ, in His self-sacrificing love for us, died for us. Every Mass recalls or represents Christ's sacrifice. In the Offertory the faithful participate in the sacrifice by giving sacrificially.

Giving a few pence is not sacrificial. Giving a relatively large amount - like the widow and her mite - is. The reason the priest says "my sacrifice and yours" is that you and he are offering different sacrifices, you offer money and he offers the bread and wine to become Christ's Body and Blood.

Secondly, if we are going to become more and more in the image and likeness of God - which is our function in this life - we have to become as generous as he is. The more generous we are, the more like God we become. Our only proper response to the gifts God has showered on us is to give generously of our time, talents, and treasure, to the poor and needy and to Christ's Body, the Church.

Thirdly, generosity is transformative: it changes lives, it changes our attitude to everything, it changes how we do what we do. A priest told me he once preached on this, saying people's first hour of work should be for God; what he meant was that one hour's worth of pay would be a generous amount to give. The next week a road builder told him his homily had changed his life: he had never seen a connection between his work and his faith, but now the first hour of road he built each week was the best piece of road he built.

So, the Offertory is an important part of the ritual of the Mass. By it we show our gratitude, our generosity, and our trust in God. The whole thrust of this part of Mass is that we offer gifts of bread and wine (created by God but made by human hands) to be transformed by the words and actions of the priest into the Body and Blood of Christ, which in turn transform the communicant to become more Christlike. And the money collection is an integral and important part of this action. We acknowledge God liberally gives us gifts, and we respond generously by using God's gifts to serve God's purposes.

I know that many of you contribute to Parish funds by Standing Order (hopefully Gift Aiding as well), but it is still important that the Collection is taken at Mass and taken up to the Altar, to demonstrate symbolically and liturgically our response to God's great generosity to all of us.



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

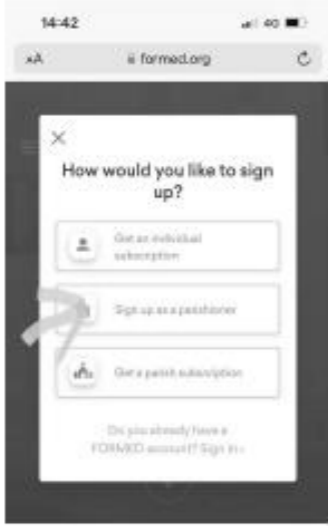
There is content that will get you thinking deeply, but also plenty of programming that you could relax to after a long day, or listen to in the background while you are doing something else. All of it, however, has been produced to help you to live out your faith in Jesus Christ.

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 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, Patricia & Nicola Sims
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	John & Valerie Ingram (50 th Wedding anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Johnson Ayoung-Chee RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Good estate of Ann Farren
4:00pm <i>Aylesford</i>	Confirmandi
Monday 3rd Feria	
8:00am	Tommy Hooks RIP
Tuesday 4th S Francis of Assisi, Rel	
9:30am	Tony Smith RIP (anniversary)
Wednesday 5th Feria	
8:00am	Malcolm Lost RIP (anniversary)
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Winifred Frogatt RIP
Thursday 6th Feria	
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Brenda & Harry Dewhurst (60 th Wedding anniversary)
12:00noon	Joseph & Josephine Brown
Friday 7th Our Lady of the Rosary	
8:00am	Julia Mascarenhas RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
Saturday 8th of Our Lady	
9:30am	Patrick Anthony Connolly KCHS, RIP
SUNDAY 9th October	TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY (C)
6:00pm (Sat)	Frank Haggarty RIP
8:00am (Latin)	Archbishop Peter Amigo RIP
9:15am	Fr Joe Andradi
11:15am	Holy Souls
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Archbishop Cyril Cowderoy RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	People of the Parish

Departed anniversaries

Richard Spice, Michael Meany, Henry Peppiatt, Dieter Mankiewitz, George Harris, Helen Jaffa, Denis Mode, Frederick Mead, Malcolm Lott, James Brett, Roseanna Walsh, Mary Bayton, Tony Smith, Delia Devine, Peggy Hart, Mary Dixon, Mary Tint, Christopher Gouck-Gallo, Settimo Tondina, Lola Hine, Grace Peters, Kate Etheridge, Kenneth O'Brien, Bridget Medhurst, Joseph Stevenson, Albert Griessen, Philomena Cromwell, Joan Small, Sylvia Webb, Margaret Keefe, James McVicar

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

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, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance
Ego clamavi, quoniam exaudisti me, Deus; inclina aurem tuam, et exaudi verba mea. Custodi me, Domine, ut pupillam oculi; sub umbra tuarum protege me.

Communion
Filius hominis venit, ut daret animam suam redemptionem pro multis.