PARISH MEN'S RETREAT AT THE FRIARS, AY LESFORD PRIORY.







PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



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

Exodus 17: 8-13, Psalm 120, 2 Timothy 3:14- 4:2, Luke 18: 1-8

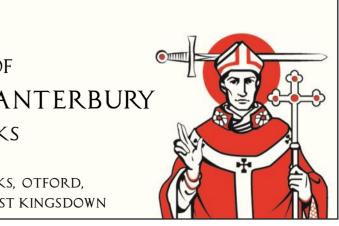
First Reading: the Israelites only prevail in their battle with the Amalekites when Moses raises his arms. Why is this so? Does it mean his arms are raised in prayer? Old Testament *First Readings* are normally selected to elucidate the *Gospel Reading*, but how does this relate to today's *Gospel*? Do let me know if you can answer these questions.

Psalm: the question in the first verse – *"from where shall come my help"* – is answered in verse 3: *"The Lord is your guard and your shade"*.

Second Reading: Scripture is inspired by God, and so teaches us about God and is the basis for our evangelizing and teaching of the faith.

Gospel: the Parable of the Persistent Widow. The point of the parable is that if even a corrupt judge can be persuaded to do the right thing by someone who pesters him until it happens then God, who is Justice in person and who cares passionately for people, will surely see that justice is done.

Fr Davíd



16th October 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

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown

TN15 6JP



Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Lituray 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 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

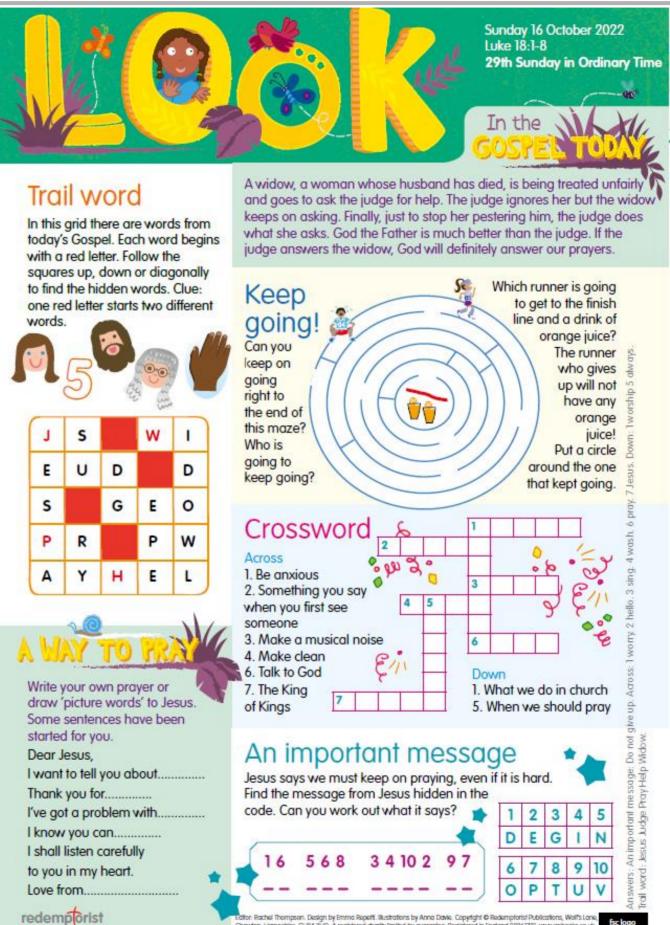
ST BERNADETTE'S WEST KINGSDOWN

Mass times: Sunday 11:00am Friday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am Adoration: Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

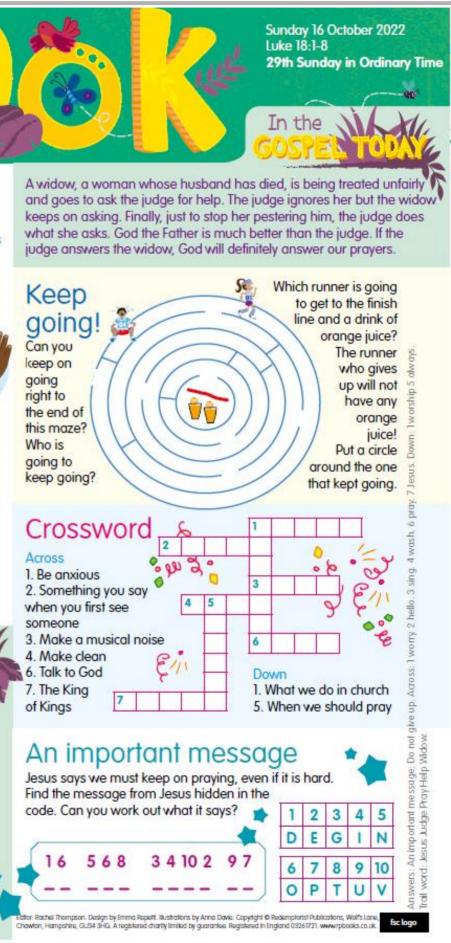
Church contacts: Jill & John Gobel Tel: 01474 853676 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

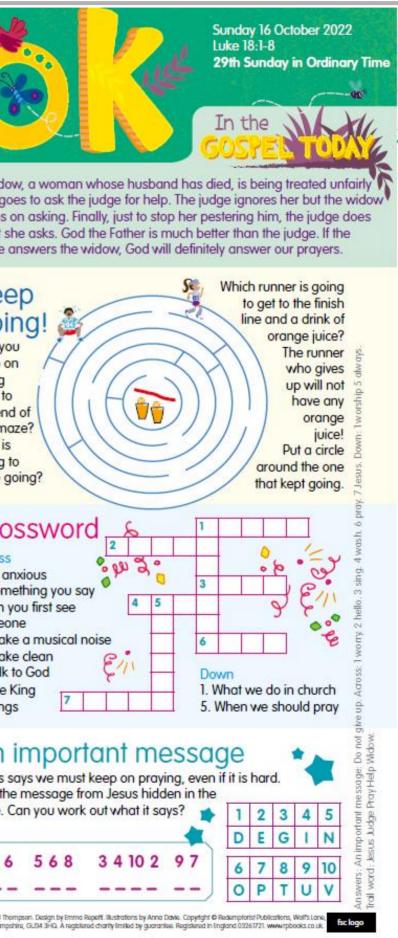
Executive Head: Mrs Katherine Sexton Academy Principal: Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN









ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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 Sort code: 60-60-04, A/N: 46076484 Account name: St Vincent de Paul Society

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

Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 11:15am Sophie McBrien sophiemcbrien@yahoo.co.uk

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 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 the 9:15am Mass and one of the Capuchin Franciscan friars at Borough Green and West Kingsdown. Fr Bryan will also be offering the 10:00am Mass at Otford on Wednesday.

THIS WEEK

Fr Peter

is away on retreat from 17th - 21st and will not be receiving calls, messages or emails.

Fr David's week

You may be interested in a glimpse into Fr David's diary for this week. Apart from the daily Masses (two a day when Fr Peter is away), Confessions, and other routine matters like form signing and Newsletter writing, this week I have a meeting at the Town Council about Remembrance Sunday, Dinner with some parishioners, a Curriculum meeting at St Thomas' School, a diocesan Council of Deans Meeting, and the Blessing of a grave.

Monday: Listening to You Group

Anyone who has been bereaved - recently or a while ago - is invited to come for a cup of tea and a sympathetic chat, on Monday at 10:30am in the Parish Room. Enter by the door marked 14.

If you know someone who has been Bereaved do tell them about this, and offer to accompany them if they would like that.

Monday: Adults interested in becoming a Catholic

Anyone interested in learning more about the Catholic faith, with no commitment at this stage, is invited to an introductory meeting for the Symbolon course tomorrow at 7:30pm in the Upper Room in the Parish Centre. The programme will be offered by a combination of meetings in the Parish Centre and in Church, sessions in private homes, and online by Please contact Andrew La Trobe Zoom. (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com or 07775 738485) as soon as possible if you or anyone you know is interested.

Friday: St Bernadette's Consecration anniversary

Friday is the anniversary of the Consecration of St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown in 1988. Holy Mass of the Consecration Feast at 10:00am, followed by refreshments. All those who attend Mass there and all

parishioners are invited to come and celebrate on Friday.

Next Sunday: World Mission Sunday

Next Sunday the Church throughout the world will celebrate a Day of Prayer for the evangelization of the World. The Second Collection will be for Missio, the Church's official organ for the support of foreign missions. This collection goes in its entirety to support churches, hospitals, schools, and missionary congregations in countries where the Church is new, young, or poor: local church directly helping local church.

NOTICES

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 sign forms for other non Catholic Schools.

Finance

The Offertory (that is, the First Collection) for September, from all sources, was £12,421.67. Thank you.

Mary Scott, Otford Treasurer, reports that the Second Collection for the car park resurfacing now stands at £1.649. This includes sums donated via the card reader or paid directly into our bank account.

Annual Mass Count

Thanks to welcomers and others who did the Mass counting. The average attendance at Sunday Mass this year was 605. In 2019 - the last pre COVID year - it was 815. Our attendance this year is roughly 75% of what it was before the pandemic, and this is more or less the case in all four churches.

We still have work to do, therefore, in winning back those who have not yet returned, those whose attendance is infrequent, those who have lapsed, and indeed those who are not yet Catholics. What can YOU do to assist this most vital evangelization?

St Thomas's Repository

Is open after Saturday Mass 6:00pm and Sunday Mass 11:15am. If you would like to help after the 9:15am Mass please contact Magda in the office. We will soon be filling the shelves with new products in the hope of good Christmas sales.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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 Beasts, Bishops and Bankers: the Story 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.

Life in the Spirit Day of Renewal

At St George's Cathedral on Saturday 22nd October, 10:00am - 5:00pm. Booking is free at bit.ly/ SouthwarkRenewal22.

Visit to the Relics of St. Bernadette in Aylesford

The relics of St. Bernadette of Lourdes will be in Aylesford Friary from Monday 24th - Friday 28th October. See the website for more details (https:// www.thefriars.org.uk/home). Fr. Peter will be visiting on the afternoon of Thursday 27th October, leaving at 3.30pm and staying for the Mass at 5pm, followed by torchlight procession. If anyone would like to join him, please email peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk and he will be in touch as soon as he returns from retreat on Saturday 22nd.

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.

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 4 marriages looking to make their marriage better.

There is no group sharing.

Booking is essential and there is a nominal charge of f10 per couple. The next sessions will be on 22nd October and 26th November. More details from Carole Batty (mflkent@rcaos.org.uk).

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

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



have written about prayer before, but it is such an important subject that I am returning to it, with acknowledgement to the Irish Catholic Catechism for Adults.

God's Universal Call to Prayer

"For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look turned toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy" (Catechism of the Catholic Church §2558, quoting St Thérèse of Lisieux).

This is one of hundreds of descriptions of prayer from throughout Christian history I could have quoted. "True prayer is nothing but love" wrote St Augustine. "Prayer" said St John Vianney "is the inner bath of love into which the soul plunges itself". Abbot Marmion defined prayer as 'just spending time with God', while St Francis de Sales remarked: " everyone of us needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy – then we need an hour".

Definitions like these are helpful, but the important thing is not knowing about prayer but actually praying. As the Rule of St Benedict says "If a man wants to pray, let him go and pray".

Scripture: the Old Testament

Scripture reveals the relationship between God and his people as a dialogue of prayer. He constantly searches for us, and God initiates the activity.

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob witness to faith and to prayer. In each case God's call came first and these patriarchs responded in faith and trust, but not without a struggle. Centuries later God called Moses, whose story dramatically illustrates the value of intercessory prayer as he begged God for mercy and guidance for the people journeying to the Promised Land.

Other examples of faith and prayer include the holy woman Hannah, who longed for a child: God answered her petition and she bore a son, Samuel, who became a prophet and judge (see 1 Samuel 2 for her song of praise and joy). Esther was another woman of faith who relied on God in prayer; her prayer and God's response are remembered in the annual Jewish Feast of Purim.

The Psalms

The psalms are a masterpiece of prayer, and "these incomparable prayers nourished the people both personally and communally" (Irish Catechism). They were sung in the Temple, in synagogues, in families,

Praver 1

and in individual prayer and are part of the celebration of every Mass, as well as forming the heart of the Liturgy of the Hours. Canticles from other books of Scripture are also prayed at Lauds and Vespers and other offices.

The Prayer of Jesus

The most important example of prayer is obviously that of Jesus Christ Himself. He clearly learnt prayer from Mary and Joseph, and joined in prayer in the synagogue and Temple. But He also had His heavenly Father as the source of His prayer, revealed when He was twelve: "I must be in my Father's house" (Luke 2:49).

The Gospels describe the numerous times Jesus went away from the crowds to pray, and in the Garden of Gethsemane He prayed in agony to the Father.

He also taught His disciples to pray, giving us the prayer we call the Paternoster or Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 5-15 and Luke 11: 1-4) and validating prayer of petition (Matthew 7: 7-12)

In Christ's parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee the tax collector begins his prayer with the words 'God, be merciful to me a sinner', showing humility and repentance (Luke 18:13).

Lectio Divina

Lectio Diving is a reflective reading of Scripture leading to meditation on specific passages. It relies on the guidance of the Holy Spirit as the person praying reads a Scripture and pauses to seek out the meaning that God wants to convey through his Word.

Prayer in the New Testament

At Pentecost, after a novena (nine days of prayer) in the Upper Room, the disciples experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit to spread the Good News. The first Christians "devoted themselves to the Apostles" teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer" (Acts 2:42).

The letters of St Paul show him to have been a man of intense prayer; he frequently praises God for blessings received, makes intercession for graces for the communities he has evangelized, and describes his own personal prayers to God. St Paul calls us to 'pray constantly' (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

KING CHARLES III

From the Archbishop: His Majesty King Charles III recently invited senior faith leaders to Buckingham Palace in order to address us. I attach a copy.

Cardinal Nichols said of the meeting: 'In my personal conversation with the King, I assured him that the Catholic community had continued, during these days of mourning, in heartfelt prayer for his mother. He expressed his gratitude for this. And then, turning back to me, he asked me to ensure that the Catholics of England and Wales knew of his thanks and gratitude for these prayers.'



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

Friday, 16th September 2022

REMARKS TO FAITH LEADERS

My Lord Archbishop, Dean, Ladies and Gentlemen.

I am very grateful to have had this opportunity to meet you all, so soon after my Accession, in what are inevitably the saddest of circumstances for me and my Family. I have been touched by your kind words of condolence more than I can possibly say. They mean a great deal to me.

I also wanted, before all of you today, to confirm my determination to carry out my responsibilities as Sovereign of all communities around this country and the Commonwealth and in a way which reflects the world in which we now live.

I am a committed Anglican Christian, and at my Coronation I will take an oath relating to the settlement of the Church of England. At my Accession, I have already solemnly given— as has every Sovereign over the last 300 years — an Oath which pledges to maintain and preserve the Protestant faith in Scotland.

I have always thought of Britain as a 'community of communities.' That has led me to understand that the Sovereign has an additional duty – less formally recognized but to be no less diligently discharged. It is the duty to protect the diversity of our country, including by protecting the space for Faith itself and its practise through the religions, cultures, traditions and beliefs to which our hearts and minds direct us as individuals. This diversity is not just enshrined in the laws of our country, it is enjoined by my own faith. As a member of the Church of England, my Christian beliefs have love at their very heart. By my most profound convictions, therefore – as well as by my position as Sovereign – I hold myself bound to respect those who follow other spiritual paths, as well as those who seek to live their lives in accordance with secular ideals.

The beliefs that flourish in, and contribute to, our richly diverse society differ. They, and our society, can only thrive through a clear collective commitment to those vital principles of freedom of conscience, generosity of spirit and care for others which are, to me, the essence of our nationhood. I am determined, as King, to preserve and promote those principles across all communities, and for all beliefs, with all my heart.

This conviction was the foundation of everything my beloved mother did for our country, over her years as our Queen. It has been the foundation of my own work as Prince of Wales. It will continue to be the foundation of all my work as King.

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

SUNDAY 16 th Oc	tober	TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY (C,
6:00pm (S	at)	Holy Souls
8:00am (L	atin)	Archbishop Michael Bo
9:15am		Barry Burns RIP (4 th an
11:15am		People of the Parish
6:00pm		Cyril Waite RIP (birthd
9:30am Otford		End of pandemic
9:30am Borough Green		Peace in Ukraine
11:00am <i>V</i>	Vest Kingsdown	Marie Lourdes Radego
Monday 17 th	S Ignatius of	Antioch
8:00am		Wellbeing of John Smo
Tuesday 18 th	S LUKE, Ev	
9:30am		Oksana Popova RIP
Wednesday 19 th	^h Feria	
8:00am		Tony Gates RIP
10:00am <i>C</i>	Otford	Lionel D Edwards for a quick recovery
Thursday 20 th	Feria	
10:00am <i>B</i>	orough Green	Holy Souls
12:00noon		Phylis Briody (90 th birt
Friday 21 st	Feria [excep	t St Bernadette's]
8:00am		Good intentions of the
	Vest Kingsdown	-
Saturday 22 nd	S John Paul I	•
9:30am SUNDAY 23 rd Oc	tohor	Holy Souls THIRTIETH SUNDAY (C)
		Joan May RIP (birthda
6:00pm (S		Fr Mark Wharton
8:00am (Latin)		
9:15am		Barbara Winter RIP and the comfort of I
11:15am		Felicidad Adnaf RIP (4 ¹
6:00pm		Michael McSharry RIP
9:30am <i>C</i>	Otford	Vicky Lepore - good he
9:30am <i>B</i>	orough Green	People of the Parish
11:00am <i>V</i>	Vest Kingsdown	Rhuna Mary Price RIP

(C)	Departed anniversaries	
	Thomas White, Margery Gordon,	
Bowen RIP	Margaret Gates, Joan Wallis,	
anniversary)	Margaret Bryer, Yeminsi Ogunkola, Gerry Howard, Mary	
	Henry, Mary Maguire, Sean	
	Mullan, Genowefa Best, Olive	
hday)	Archard, Patrick O'Driscoll, Susan	
	Oliver, Walter Crosland, Rosemary	
	Spurling, May Chown, John	
egonde RIP	Delaney, Anne Hickey, Mary Biggs, Ronald Mooney, Piers de	
80	Havilland, George Foucher, Kerry	
	Holleran, Ann Wells, Edwina	
moker	Playfair, Leontine Eagleton.	
	Eternal rest grant unto them,	
	O Lord	
	and let perpetual light	
	shine upon them.	
	May they rest in peace	
ry after operation		
ry alter operation	Please remember the sick who	
	have been commended to our	
	prayers, especially:	
irthday)	Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham,	
	Deidre Thomas, Ann Steven,	
the donor's family	Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken	
egonde RIP	Holmes, Mary Scott, Sean	
	Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes.	
	care and nursing nomes.	
day)	LATIN ANTIPHONS	
aay)	Entrance	
f har family	Ego clamavi, quoniam exaudisti	
of her family	me, Deus; inclina aurem tuam, et exaudi verba mea. Custodi	
(4 th anniversary)	me, Domine, ut pupillam oculi;	
RIP (birthday)	sub umbra alarum tuarum	
health	protege me.	

Communion

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