

THE STATUE OF OUR LADY AND JESUS
AT THE ROSARY GARDEN AT MOST HOLY TRINITY
ON THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

taken by Mike Delaney



Archdiocese of
Southwark

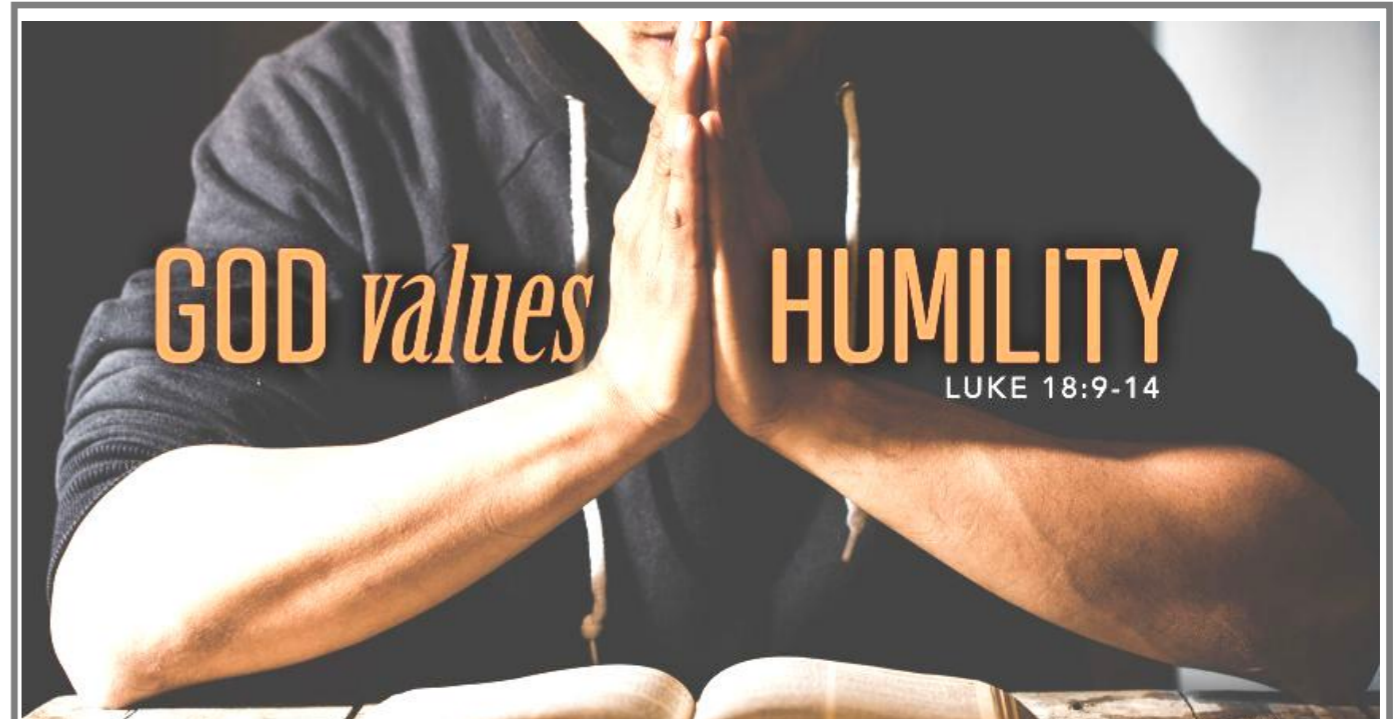
PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

23rd October 2022



Today's Mass: THIRTIETH SUNDAY (Year C)

Sirach 35: 12-14, 16-19, Psalm 33, 2 Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18, Luke 18: 9-14

First Reading: this is part of a poem on the justice of God: God cannot be bribed or influenced by important people, but gives justice to the poor and those in genuine need.

Psalm: this psalm, in the metrical form of a hymn, blesses God for watching over those who humbly trust in him.

Second Reading: in a very personal passage, written near the end of his life when he was in prison, St Paul describes his life as a fight he has fought and as a race he has run, all the while confident in God's salvation.

Gospel: the Parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector. The contrast between the two men is pretty obvious. The Pharisee, whose prayer consists of telling God his strong points, exalts himself by denouncing the tax collector. The tax collector, whose simple and humble prayer gets through to God, is the one who returns home vindicated. This is very comforting to anyone who is oppressed, marginalised or has great problems but who humbly prays to God.

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



Tax collector puzzle

Fill in the squares to answer the questions.

1. It grows on your head
2. Opposite of down
3. Below your nose
4. They fly in the sky
5. Opposite of high
6. Birds lay them

Colour down the first column.
Can you see the word that describes the tax collector?

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, even though I am very special, I can always try to be better. Help me to remember that I will always need you to help me. Amen.

redemptorist
PUBLICATIONS

Jesus tells a story about two men praying. One thinks he is much better than everyone else. The other, a tax collector knows he is not perfect and says "sorry" to God. Jesus says God is most pleased with the humble tax collector.

Picture quiz

Jesus told stories which were easy to understand. The stories told people about God and how God wants us to live. Under each picture write the first letter of the name of each of these pictures. You will then discover what Jesus' stories are called.



A way to pray

Sometimes it is hard to know how to pray. Use your hand to help you. Colour the hand and try to remember the people each finger reminds you to pray for.



Spot the difference

Here are the two men who went to the Temple to pray.

Spot the five differences between the proud man who thought he didn't need any help, and the humble man who asked for God's help and mercy.



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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

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

World Mission Sunday

World Mission Sunday is being celebrated in every Catholic parish around the world today! It supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries witness to their faith and offer vulnerable women in Ethiopia hope for a better future. Please pray for the mission of the Church throughout the world and give what you can to this very important collection which will sustain the future of our Church.

You can donate via the Second Collection, by the card reader in St Thomas's (select Second Collection), by telephoning Missio (020 7821 9755 office hours) or via Missio's website (missio.org.uk). Use the envelopes to Gift Aid your donation, and either put the envelope in the Second Collection or post it to Missio.

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin friars at St Thomas's and at Otford today.

THIS WEEK

Fr Peter

is away for a few days this week.

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 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 Zoom. Please contact Andrew La Trobe (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com or 07775 738485) as soon as possible if you or anyone you know is interested.

End of Summertime

Next weekend the clocks go back. Don't forget to change your clocks on Saturday evening!

NOTICES

Advance Notice: All Saints' and All Souls' Days

All Saints' Day on Tuesday 1st November is a Holyday of Obligation, a day when you should attend Holy Mass if at all possible. Holy Mass as follows:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 9:30am (St Thomas' School Mass), 12:00 noon, 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am.

St Joseph's: 6:00pm.

On All Souls' Day (Wednesday 2nd November), Requiem Mass for the Faithful Departed:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

The Blessing of Graves at Greatness Cemetery will be on Sunday 6th November at 3:00pm.

Altar Servers' Training

Calling those who have made their First Holy Communion! Four training sessions for new Altar Servers will take place on the Fridays of November - beginning on Friday 4th - at 4:15pm. Meet in the Parish Centre. Contact Catherine Ingram (ingramfamily15@yahoo.com) for more information and to book a place.

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.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Ride & Stride

Congratulations to Charles Sexton and Barry Authers from Most Holy Trinity who took part in the Kent Churches Ride & Stride, and who between them cycled to 56 churches, and raised £1,135.00. Half of this goes to Friends of Kent Churches and half to Most Holy Trinity funds; this sum will go towards the cost of the car park resurfacing. Parishioners at St Bernadette's also participated in the Ride & Stride, and their funds will be publicised shortly.

Recommended website

Christian Art (christian.art) has a daily Gospel reflection with a piece of art, and there is a free email subscription.

Talk organised by the Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Thursday 27th October at 7.00pm in Westminster Cathedral Hall. Creators of Peace (COP) is a global network of people on each continent making a difference - inspired by their participation in Creators of Peace Circles, conferences, dialogues and other COP initiatives. For peace to be meaningful it must be inclusive, but it often isn't. <https://iofc.org.uk/initiatives/creators-of-peace/> Talk by Miranda Shaw and Elizabeth Lasker £10 Tickets from Friends@rcdow.org.uk or 020 7798 9059

March for Life UK

are holding a solemn public witness in Parliament Square in London on Thursday, 12:30pm - 2:00pm, commemorating the passing of the Abortion Act in 1967. Since then 10 million human beings have been aborted. Please attend if you can; wear black or as dark as possible, and don't bring posters. Full details at <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/2022/10/07/join-us-on-the-27th-october/>.

Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District

Annual General Meeting on Thursday 10th November, 7:30pm refreshments and 8:00pm start, at St John's Hill URC. A new Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will need to be appointed; can YOU offer to do one of these roles?

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.

THE ANGELUS

Fr. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,
C. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
C. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. And the Word was made flesh,
C. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc...

Fr. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
C. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord,
Your Grace into our hearts;
that as we have known the incarnation of Christ,
your Son by the message of an angel,
so by His passion and cross
we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection.
Through the same Christ, our Lord.

Amen



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Prayer 2

The sources and manner of Praying
"The will to pray in a daily, sustained and structured manner is essential for becoming a prayerful person" (Irish Catechism).

Daily familiarity with Scripture is a rich source of prayer: it is not simply reading a portion of Scripture but also conversing with God, whose Spirit inspired the text and who draws us to appreciate *"the supreme advantage of knowing Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:8).*

By our actual participation in the Liturgy - the prayer of the Church - we encounter God the Holy Trinity and we receive the graces necessary for salvation.

Above all prayer is a personal relationship with Christ. Our final goal is permanent union with God, and prayer is a principal means to achieve this. Along with faith our prayer conveys hope in our eternal purpose and includes love, the source and destiny of prayer.

Christian prayer is always Trinitarian. The sweep of our prayer is directed toward the Father, but access to the Father is through the Son, Jesus Christ, so we can also address our prayers to Christ. But we pray in the power of the Holy Spirit; it is the Holy Spirit who helps us draw near in our prayer. *"Nobody is able to say 'Jesus is Lord' except in the Holy Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:3).*

Prayer in Communion with Mary

"Because of Mary's singular co-operation with the action of the Holy Spirit, the Church loves to pray in communion with the Virgin Mary, to magnify with her the great things the Lord has done for her, and to entrust supplications and praises to her" (Catechism §2682).

This twofold movement of joining Mary in praising God for his gifts to her and seeking her intercession finds a privileged expression in the Hail Mary, perhaps the most widely prayed prayer after the Lord's Prayer. The first half comes from the Archangel Gabriel's annunciation to Mary (*Luke 1: 26-56*); the second half was developed early on in the Church's tradition.

The Holy Rosary involves vocal prayers, including the Our Father and Glory Be and especially the Hail Mary, and at the same time meditating on various mysteries of Jesus and our salvation. We used to have the Rosary recited after Saturday Mass, but it stopped when the people involved moved away; it would be good to restart it.

We do not pray to Mary in the same way as we pray to God. In prayers such as the Hail Mary we ask her

intercession on behalf of our needs, whereas when we pray to God we ask him directly for our needs and for favours.

The analogy I use is that invoking Our Lady or one of the saints in heaven is like writing a letter to someone in a very remote place; they will receive it more efficiently if someone who is going there takes it than trusting to the vagaries of the post.

Guides for Prayer

Throughout the history of the Church, saints have left a rich heritage of prayer, by the example of their lives, by their writings, and by their continued prayers in heaven on our behalf. Numerous schools of spirituality - such as Benedictine, Franciscan, or Ignatian - have developed as part of this heritage, part of the living tradition of the Church, and we are free to adopt a spirituality which suits us.

Prayer guidance

"Prayer is an act by which one enters into awareness of a loving communion with God" (Irish Catechism).

"The Word of God, the Liturgy of the Church, and the virtues of faith, hope and charity are the sources of prayer" (Catechism §2662).

"Prayer is rather like parking: you try to get as near as possible" (Frank Skinner).

Prayer in the Church

Parents - in the domestic Church that is the family - are the first teachers of prayer. Family prayer, on a daily basis, is the best school of prayer, as children witness it, participate in it, and come to regard it as normal and natural. Do you set aside time to pray as a family? Priests and deacons have a responsibility to lead public prayer with reverence, to teach people how to pray, and to lead by example. I am conscious of my own unworthiness in this.

Religious education in our Catholic schools always includes training in how to pray as well as finding time for communal prayer, in addition to the teaching of the truths of the faith.

Parish prayer groups are a great source of renewal in prayer, as they encourage members to persevere and share ideas: nowadays these are WhatsApp groups as well as groups which meet physically.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

Message from Missio

'You shall be my witnesses' (Acts 1:8) is this year's theme and challenge chosen by Pope Francis. On World Mission Sunday, every Catholic community, in every country, sends a powerful message of faith, hope and love. We come together as a parish community in prayer and solidarity with the Global Catholic community and explore how we bear witness to God's love.

All Mass collections worldwide and every single donation on World Mission Sunday supports churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. The collection, co-ordinated by Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – brings the Church together in compassion and communion, providing mission dioceses with the essential support they need to become self-sufficient: local church directly helping local church!

This year we are highlighting the powerful witness of faith, hope and love in Ethiopia. It is a country well-known for the suffering it has experienced through intense famine and desperate poverty. Sadly, our sisters and brothers continue to need our support. The Kidist Mariam Centre in the Ethiopian town of Meki, provides a safe, supportive, and educational environment for vulnerable women just like Sara, pictured with her daughter on our World Mission Sunday poster and donation envelope. The Kidist Mariam Centre has seen nearly 3,000 women complete training courses and build brighter futures for themselves and their families.

Beth's life has been completely transformed by the Centre. She needed to support her mother, sister and brother by travelling to another country as a domestic worker. Unfortunately, when she went overseas the families were not kind to her, and she suffered years of abuse. After returning to her homeland, she was introduced to a local Catholic priest who encouraged Beth to seek assistance through the Kidist Mariam Centre.

Maria – a Spanish lay missionary and Director of the Centre – remembers when she first met Beth: 'She came to our Centre to get advice. We started employing her as a cleaner because she needed some immediate help to support her family. And little by little she developed an interest in becoming a food preparation student. We have a project in the rural area with women raising goats to produce milk. And Beth is the one in charge of preparing goat's cheese. It's most impressive that she's so happy now, she's so self-confident. And she's even taught many other people.'

Beth's faith has been a beacon through some of her darkest moments. And in sharing her faith, witnessing to her experiences of Christ's mercy and healing, Beth is helping other women at the Centre. She says, 'I believe that God is always before you and behind you in all your troubles... He is prominent for a person like me, who has fallen in life. God is my life and my everything.'

Beth is very grateful for the care she has been receiving from the Centre, which would not be possible without the faithful support of people like you through the international Missio network and World Mission Sunday donations. We know that we are all facing many challenges this year. Anything you are able to give will be so gratefully received. The Gift Aid envelopes include different ways to give, including online and by credit and debit cards. This World Mission Sunday please hold Beth, and all those who live out that call to be witnesses by supporting women just like her, in prayer.


Today. Tomorrow. Together.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 23rd October

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 24th *Feria*

8:00am

Tuesday 25th *Feria*

9:30am

Wednesday 26th *Feria*

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 27th *Feria*

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

Friday 28th *SS SIMON & JUDE, App*

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Saturday 29th *of our Lady*

9:30am

SUNDAY 30th October

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

THIRTIETH SUNDAY (C)

Joan May RIP (birthday)

Fr Mark Wharton

Barbara Winter RIP
and the comfort of her family

Felicidad Adnaf RIP (4th anniversary)

Michael McSharry RIP (birthday)

Vicky Lepore - good health

People of the Parish

Rhuna Mary Price RIP

Mgr O'Brien RIP

Suzanne Marie Elliott RIP

Anna Mullan RIP

Marie Authers

Brian Fernandes - good health

Bishop Howard Tripp RIP

Parish Priests

Bernard Gerald Price RIP

Peace in the World

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY (C)

Fr Brian Letherland RIP

Keith D'Souza RIP

Stanislaw Czaja
and Stefania & Jan Ociepa RIP

People of the Parish

Tadeusz Jedrzejczyk RIP (1st anniversary)

Fr Colin Murphy RIP

Special Intention for Jon Le Sbirel

Hammond McCauley, RIP
UCM Justice and Peace Office

Departed anniversaries

Harry Smith, Lucy Parker, Dudley Glenister, Joseph Maverley, Kathleen Baxter, Gillian Turner, Peter Brett, Christopher Hogben, Barbara Man, Valerie Staples, Theresa Palmer, Eric Griffiths, Bernard Price, Margaret Clarke, Suzan Vasini, Giorgio Siniglia, Norah Berry, Jean Still, Eleanor Hammerson, Maria Galuszka, Mary Kay, Priscilla Cramer, Joan Mierons, Denice Fabian, Angela Simmonds, Henry Joseph Halpin, Jack Jaques, Baby Lacour.

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord
and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace*

*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

Lætetur cor quærentium
Dominum. Quærite Dominum,
et confirmamini, quærite faciem
eius semper.

Communion

Lætabimur in salutari tuo, et in
nomine Domini Dei nostri
magnificabimur.