DO YOU KNOW ALL OF THEM?



SMALL NOTICES

How do I advertise my business or get my ads in the Newsletter?

Please email: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

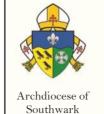


Planning holidays and need a reliable dog sitter?

Call: 07887 429416







Parish Newsletter

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

30th October 2022



Today's Mass: THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY (Year C)

Wisdom 11: 22 - 12:2, Psalm 144, 2 Thessalonians 1: 11 - 2:2, Luke 19: 1-10

First Reading: this is a hymn on God's power and love. God is merciful because he is mighty. He loves all things that are, hating nothing that he has made, sparing all things, and is immanent (present) in all things.

Psalm: the psalmist blesses God for his power and compassion to all his creatures. This psalm was commonly sung in the early Church at midday meal.

Second Reading: Paul refers to the Parousia or Second Coming of Christ and urges caution. "Any letter claiming to come from us" suggests either a forgery purporting to come from St Paul or a letter of his which is being misinterpreted.

Gospel: the calling of Zacchaeus is only told in *Luke*. The incident fits into three of *Luke's* themes: the problem of riches and what to do about it, the identification of Jesus with 'sinners', and the faith which recognises Jesus as the Lord and the change of lifestyle which results.

The final comment about the Son of Man coming "to seek out and save what was lost" points to what is to come: Jesus is nearly in Jerusalem.

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 Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

8:30am - 9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday

Monday

Tuesday

Thursday

Saturday

Friday

Wednesday

10:00am - 10:30am, 5:15pm - 5:45pm

Weekday Mass times:

8:00am

9:30am

8:00am

12:00noon

8:00am

9:30am



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

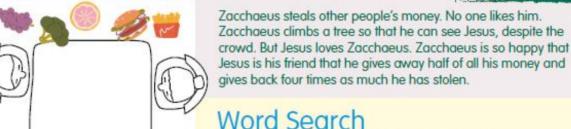
South Park, Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk

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

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN

MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN





Find all these words, remembering to look in every direction!

UP TREE CROWD SEE JESUS HOME CHANGE SHARE GOD

D 0 A D G R S

Finish the picture

Jesus went to Zacchaeus' house for tea. Imagine Jesus visiting you at home. What would you have to eat and drink? Draw it on the table in the picture.



Jesus called Zacchaeus down from the tree but he was also calling Zacchaeus to change his bad ways and to be his friend. Can you spot five differences between these two pictures of Jesus calling Zacchaeus down from the tree?

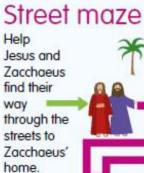
Dear Jesus, you are friends with everyone, even people that no one else likes. Help me

to make sure that no

one is left out. Help me

to be generous. Amen.

redemporis





Editor: Rachel Thompson. Design by Emma Repetti. Mustrations by Anna Davle. Copyright & Redemptorist Publications, Wolf's La

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: 8:00 am, 11:15am Sophie McBrien sophiemcbrien@yahoo.co.uk

RCIA

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

Retreat

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

Once again we welcome Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin friars assisting today and also on Tuesday.

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.

Tuesday: All Saints' Day

All Saints' Day on Tuesday 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.

Wednesday: All Souls' Day

On Wednesday Requiem Mass for the Faithful Departed:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 8:00pm. Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

Those who have been bereaved, whether recently or years ago, are especially invited to the 10:00am Mass at Otford: do come along and enjoy friendship and refreshments after the Mass.

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 this Friday, at 4:15pm. Meet in the Parish Centre. Contact Catherine Ingram (ingramfamily15 @yahoo.com) for more information and to book a place.

Next Sunday: Blessing of Graves

The Blessing of Graves at Greatness Cemetery will take place next Sunday at 3:00pm. We can bless graves at other cemeteries in the parish by appointment: just email me or Fr Peter to arrange it.

NOTICES

Books of Remembrance

Please notify Magda in the Parish Office of any names to be added to the November Books of Remembrance in each of the four churches. All Holy Souls Masses offered in November will be for those named in those Books.

Plenary Indulgence

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, may be gained once in any church today, on All Souls' Day, or next Sunday, on the usual conditions (recitation of the Our Father and Creed, sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's Intention).

Those who visit a cemetery between 1st and 8th November and pray for the faithful departed may also obtain a Plenary Indulgence for the Holy Souls.



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) are now on sale at Most Holy Trinity, or contact Mary Scott on 01959 928944 or 3maryscott@gmail.com to secure your tickets. Capacity is limited, so do get your ticket asap.

The Pilgrims: Rhymes to Delight and Entertain

On Monday 14th November at 2:15pm in the Parish Room, readings chosen by Pat Harman and Linda Young. November is that in-between month: golden Autumn is over and it is too early to celebrate Christmas. So as to enliven the shorter days there will be an engaging mix of amusing old favourites and thoughtful verse featuring animals and birds, something for everyone with time to get your responses after each reading. Tea, home made cake, and chat to top off a sociable time together.

Parish Women's Retreat

The parish Men's Retreat at Aylesford was an enjoyable and generative experience. It is now time for the Women's Retreat at The Friars, Aylesford, $24^{th} - 26^{th}$ February 2023. Theme: *Welcoming the wilderness, amazing space, amazing grace*, facilitated by Sr Aileen Murphy, RLR, a La Retraite sister currently working on the retreat team at the Manresa Jesuit Centre of Spirituality in Dublin.

Cost for full board, lodging and the Retreat facilitator

is £210; cheque for £20 non refundable deposit should be made payable to RCAS Sevenoaks. Please complete a registration form from the Entrance or download it from the parish website. Lift shares to Aylesford will be organised. Queries to Catherine Rodger (c.rodger@btinternet.com or 01732 458852). The registration form and deposit should be returned to the Parish Office by Sunday 7th January 2022.

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?

Warm Spaces Project

The Community Safety Unit of Sevenoaks District Council is promoting Warm Spaces in the area. Warm Spaces are safe and friendly public places where people of all ages can go to comfortably spend time. Their web page is www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/warmspaces. Is this something YOU could organise?

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.

Holy Trinity Otford Social Evening

Tickets will be on sale after masses at St Thomas and Most Holy Trinity.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Prayer 3



t Mass, just before the Gospel is read, we make the sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and heart. These symbolise three kinds of prayer: meditative, vocal, and contemplative.

Vocal Prayer

Jesus taught His disciples a vocal prayer – the Lord's Prayer – and often prayed aloud, in the synagogue and Temple and in the Garden of Gethsemane. *John* 17 recounts Our Blessed Lord's 'High Priestly Prayer'. Since we are bodily beings we need to express ourselves orally, and so vocal prayer is important, spoken and sung.

Meditative Prayer

In meditative prayer we use our minds to ponder the will of God and his plan for our lives. "Meditation engages thought, imagination, emotion, and desire" (Catechism §2708). The Church provides many aids to meditation: Scripture, icons, liturgical texts, hymns and poems, writings of the spiritual fathers, pious websites, and even my scribblings in this Newsletter!

Contemplative Prayer

"Contemplative prayer ... is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love" (Catechism §2724). Like all prayer, this form requires a regular time each day or week. In contemplative prayer we rest attentively before Christ, if possible before the Blessed Sacrament, in a time of listening and love.

My own efforts at contemplative prayer are paltry, but Fr Peter is a shining example to us all.

The Work of Prayer

Prayer requires time, attention, and effort. It needs discipline. It is what spiritual writers call 'spiritual combat'. The Tempter will try to draw us away from prayer by introducing acedia (sloth or laziness), distraction, and dryness. The *Catechism* even has a section (§§2725 – 2745) called 'The Battle of Prayer', giving practical advice.

For example, distraction is a major concern for most people who pray. The answer is simply, after finding oneself distracted, to turn back to the form of prayer in which we were engaged, to turn back to the presence of the Lord. A distraction can reveal one's true attachments, but a humble awareness of this can move us to ask Christ to help purify our minds and hearts.

Pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

A seeming impossibility, you might think. One answer to this is that this instruction is addressed to the whole

Church. Thus, if you attend weekday Mass - the greatest prayer of the Church – and then other people celebrate Mass in other places, as the earth goes through its daily cycle, the Church as a whole is praying somewhere at all times.

The hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the various churches of our parish also help in this regard. The times are listed on page 2 of this Newsletter; can you commit to coming for one of these hours to pray?

Prayer is centred upon God. Thus we are getting closer to constant prayer if we pray 'thank you' every time we receive a Blessing, if we intercede for every person in need we encounter, if we praise God for every good situation (such as a beautiful sunset), and above all if we see God's hand at work in every aspect of our daily lives.

For your thoughts or for discussion

- What are you doing to deepen your prayer life? Do you use spiritual reading to help your prayer? Do you persevere in your prayer?
- If you don't already do so, can you attend a weekday Mass? Can you pray some of the Liturgy of the Hours (you can find this at <u>universalis.com</u>)? Can you pray the Rosary as a family? Can you attend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament?
- How is your prayer connected to your Christian life?

Erroneous conceptions of Prayer

Prayer is not simply a psychological activity, to relax us and make us feel better and less stressed. Nor is prayer to be reduced to mere ritual words and postures. It is also wrong to think of prayer as something we do in church but which doesn't relate to our everyday lives. And we should resist the temptations which cast doubt on the usefulness or even the possibility of prayer.

What if our intercessory prayers seem unanswered? Do not be troubled if God does not immediately appear to give what you ask him; he will give you what you need or what is good and at the appropriate time. "Do not be troubled if you do not immediately receive from God what you ask him; for he desires to do something even greater for you, while you cling to him in prayer" (Evagrius Ponticus).

We are called to show trust in God like that of sons or daughters to their parents; this is called filial trust. "Filial trust is put to the test when we feel that our prayer is not always heard, but the Gospel invites to ask ourselves about the conformity of our prayer to the desire of the Spirit" (Catechism §2756).

9

HALLOWEEN: TIPS FOR PARENTS

Halloween is, of course, All Hallows Eve, that is to say the eve of All Saints Day. But somehow this has been hijacked by the importation of American customs, including carved pumpkins, dressing up as witches, fairies or demons, and trick & treat. This raises significant concerns:

- many children in this country celebrate Halloween but not Christmas (at least as the Feast of Our Lord's Incarnation) let alone Easter;
- the proper reason for Halloween is ignored in favour of the American import of witches etc;
- All Saints and All Souls' Days get ignored;
- tricking and treating can be genuinely frightening for some people such as elderly women living on their own;
- children eat too many sweets because of the tradition of giving trick & treaters sweets, to the chagrin of their parents and dentists.

So what can parents do about it? Some suggestions.

- 1) Explain what Halloween really means. 'Hallow' means 'holy', as we say in the Our Father 'hallowed be thy name'. All Saints Day is also called All Hallows Day, because it is the Feast Day of the holy or hallowed people (one might say the 'haloed people'), the saints. Explain who the saints are if they don't know.
- 2) When the children get a bit older you can explain to them that the Catholic Church deliberately placed religious feast days over pagan holidays Christmas replacing winter light festivals such as the Saturnalia is an example in an attempt to divert people from pagan to Christian beliefs and practices.
- 3) One good suggestion is to dress up the kids in saints costumes instead of witches and so on. They can choose their favourite saint and dress up accordingly. This enables them to celebrate Halloween with their friends and so not feel left out but puts the Christian understanding of Halloween back at the centre. Get the children to find information online about their saint (which might be their own Baptismal name).

Above all do not dress up the children as witches or goblins.

- 4) If you are into crafts and handiworks, you could get the children to draw a saint, paint saints onto eggs, carve a saint or the rosary on to a pumpkin, make a sweets container marked with 'All Saints Day treats', etc. You can find ideas for All Saints family games and activities online, eg at https://www.catholicicing.com/all-saints-day-party-ideas-for-kids/.
- 5) If you have older children Halloween may be an appropriate time to discuss with them the reality of suffering and death and our Christian understanding of what happens after death. On All Saints Day we recall all the holy people who have ever lived, and remind ourselves of the universal call to holiness (as Vatican II put it) so that we can go to Heaven and enjoy eternal happiness with God. On All Souls' Day we pray for all the Faithful Departed, aiding their progress through Purgatory towards heaven.
- 6) Teach the children this verse
 On the eve of All Saints Day,
 Jack-o'-Lanterns light the way.
 God's children need no longer fear
 the ghosts and goblins gathered here.
 For evil ghouls with icy breath
 must bow to Him who conquered death.



Because Halloween has been taken over by the secular world, many Christians have bought the myth that this is a pagan holiday and walked away from this holy time. But Halloween gives us an opportunity to explore, teach, and pass on our faith. This can be done not just by parents educating their children but by everyone at work or in social contexts. **Most importantly, attend Holy Mass as a family on All Saints Day.**

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 30th October THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Fr Brian Letherland RIP 8:00am (Latin) Keith D'Souza RIP 9:15am Stanislaw Czaja

and Stefania & Jan Ociepa RIP

11:15am People of the Parish

6:00pm Tadeusz Jedrzejczyk RIP (1st anniversary)

9:30am *Otford* Fr Colin Murphy RIP

9:30am Borough Green Special Intention for Jon Le Sbirel

11:00am West Kingsdown Hammond McCauley, RIP

UCM Justice and Peace Office

Monday 31st Feria

8:00am Mary Edith Hibling RIP

TUESDAY 1st ALL SAINTS

8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls

9:30am All departed in our Parish 12:00noon People of the Parish

8:00pm All dec'd of the donor's family

10:00am *Otford* Dennis Beckwith RIP 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Queen Elizabeth II RIP

6:00pm Borough Green Special Intention for Jon Le Sbirel RIP

WEDNESDAY 2nd ALL SOULS' DAY

8:00am (Latin) Dec'd members of

the Rodriques & D'Souza families

10:00am Otford Frank Haggarty RIP and all dec'd members of

the Smith & Fell families

8:00pm Peggy Spiers RIP

Thursday 3rd Feria

10:00am Borough Green All Souls

12:00noon Thomas Healy RIP (4th anniversary)

Friday 4th S Charles Borromeo, B

8:00am Isla Fishwick RIP (6th anniversary) 10:00am *West Kingsdown* In thanksgiving for our Priests

Saturday 5th of our Lady

9:30am Parish Priests

SUNDAY 6th October THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Frank Haggarty

8:00am (Latin) Good intentions of the donor's family
9:15am Wojciech Werner Rip (2nd anniversary)

11:15am Bob Slaughter RIP 6:00pm People of the Parish

9:30am *Otford* Fr Thomas Creagh-Fuller RIP

9:30am Borough Green Nelly Gavghran RIP

11:00am West Kingsdown Peracid Berrett, Pattie Pluck,

Baptism

Welcome to

Sophia Rose D'Souza

who was Baptized at Most Holy Trinity, Otford

Departed anniversaries

Mary Grabham, Mary Hibling, Jean Campbell. Desmond Hickey,.
Annie and May Chapman, Jim and Mary Yeomans, Sidney Claydon, Brian Connolly, Larisa Taylor, May Gerald Castelli, Bernard Dwyer, Sally Jackson, Dennis Beckwith, Michael Coffey, Maria Guidbaldi, Nellie Castelloe, Doris White, Peter Lee, Annie Quinne, Eugene Elizabeth, Leslie Black, Edwards Kieran.

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

Lynne Stanley, 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

Ne derelinquas me, Domine Deus meus, ne discedas a me; intende in adiutorium meum, Domine, virtus salutis meæ.

Communion

Sicut misit me vivens Pater, et ego vivo propter Patrem, et qui manducat me, et ipse vivet propter me, dicit Dominus.