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**Parish Centre Survey**



Archdiocese of Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

6th November 2022



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

2 Maccabees 7: 1-2, 9-14, Psalm 16, 2 Thessalonians 2: 16-3: 5, Luke 20: 27-38

**First Reading:** the two books of the Maccabees were written about 160 years before Christ, following the Great Persecution which began in 167 BC. The king, Antiochus Epiphanes, tried to impose Greek culture and religion on the Jews, who revolted under Judas Maccabeus (hence the name of the books).

Notice the belief in the Resurrection shown by the words of the second brother: *"the King of the world will raise us up"*.

**Psalm:** a psalm which also shows belief in Resurrection: *"I shall be filled, when I awake, with the sight of your glory, O Lord"*.

**Second Reading:** we can be confident in spreading the Lord's message, despite attacks from bigoted and evil people, because the Lord will give us grace and strength in anything good we do or say.

**Gospel:** this passage (and its parallels in *Matthew* and *Mark*) is the only discussion in the Gospels of the Resurrection. Jesus makes two points. First, resurrection life will not be the same as our present one: death will have been abolished, and so there will be no need for marriage for people to continue the family line. Our resurrection bodies will be bodily, but those in heaven will live in a deathless, immortal state, as do the angels. Secondly, the general Resurrection is consistent with the Jewish scriptures ('the law of Moses'); this is the significance of the comment about God being the God of the living.

Fr David





## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### ***Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks***

**Presbytery and Parish Office:** 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

**Website:** [www.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk) **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Gibbons, KHS [davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Peter Littleton [peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Office hours:** Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines [sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:adoration@sevrparish.org.uk)

#### **Altar Servers (St Thomas's)**

Catherine Ingram [ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:ingramfamily15@yahoo.com)

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass**

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

Mark O'Prey [sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakscrow@rcaos.org.uk)

*Otford, 9:30am Mass:*

Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

Fiona Newton - [fionanewton321@btinternet.com](mailto:fionanewton321@btinternet.com)

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

Lonnie Christophers [lonniechr@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniechr@hotmail.com)

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454729

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl [chris.hurl@outlook.com](mailto:chris.hurl@outlook.com)

#### **Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)**

Jim McSharry [jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com)

#### **Church Flowers**

Kate Travers [katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis [sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com)

#### **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme**

Fr Peter Littleton: [peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:peterlittleton@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Gift Aid:**

Sean Corrigan [sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

Secretary: Barry Authers [sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com) and Ann

Livingston [annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annlivingston@hotmail.co.uk)

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: [h.imercer@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](http://www.racet.org)

#### **Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)**

Andrew Pembroke [st.thomas.rota@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomas.rota@gmail.com)

#### **Repository**

Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 11:15am

Sophie McBrien [sophiemcbrien@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophiemcbrien@yahoo.co.uk)

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe [andrew.latrobe@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com)

#### **Retreats**

Catherine Roger [c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com)

#### **St Bernadette's Committee**

Secretary: Jill Gobel [jill.gobel@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.gobel@btinternet.com)

#### **St Joseph's Committee**

Secretary: John Foley [johnandmariefoley@gmail.com](mailto:johnandmariefoley@gmail.com)

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke 01732 450197

#### **Scripture Fellowship**

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson [andrewwilkos@gmail.com](mailto:andrewwilkos@gmail.com)

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

Paul Boyle 07796564018

Kathie Gonzalez [sevenoakssvp@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoakssvp@gmail.com)

#### **Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)**

*West Kingsdown UCM:*

Monica Biggs [mmdbbiggs@outlook.com](mailto:mmdbbiggs@outlook.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## PARISH NOTICES

### TODAY

#### **Supply Priests**

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Br James, OFM Cap assisting today.

#### **11:15am Mass**

The Music Group provide the music today.

#### **Blessing of Graves**

The Blessing of Graves at Greatness Cemetery will take place today (Sunday) at 3:00pm. Meet at the old Catholic section above the Chapel.

We can bless graves at other cemeteries in the parish by appointment: just email me or Fr Peter to arrange it.

### 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](mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com) or 07775 738485) as soon as possible if you or anyone you know is interested.

#### **Tuesday: St Thomas' School**

Year 5 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. As always parents and family members of children in that Year are especially invited to attend.

#### **Annual Deanery Requiem**

The annual Requiem Mass for departed Clergy of the Deanery is at St Dunstan's, London Road, Southborough on Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Everyone is welcome to attend.

#### **Tuesday: Catechists' Evening**

8:00 - 9:30pm on Thursday, in the Parish Centre.

#### **Friday: St Bernadette's Committee**

The West Kingsdown local committee meets after Mass on Friday. If parishioners have anything they want the committee to discuss, please speak to Kathy Buck or indeed any committee member.

#### **Friday: Altar Servers' Training**

Training sessions for new Altar Servers at 4:15pm. Meet in the Parish Centre. Contact Catherine Ingram ([ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:ingramfamily15@yahoo.com)) for more information and to book a place.

#### **Saturday: Most Holy Trinity Otford Social Evening**

At 7:30pm in the Club Room at Otford Village Memorial Hall. A talk by Jonathan Fenner on *Beasts, Bishops and Bankers: the Story of Sevenoaks* will be followed by cheese & wine. Tickets (£15) from Mary Scott on 01959 928944 or [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com).

#### **Next Sunday: Remembrance Sunday**

Fr David will represent the Catholic Church at the Sevenoaks Remembrance at 11:00am at The Vine War Memorial, and James McBrien will lay our parish wreath.

After the Mass, parishioners at Otford are invited to go on to the Otford War Memorial for the 11:00am Remembrance ceremony.

Parishioners at West Kingsdown are invited to attend the 11:00am Remembrance at the Church of England Church, and Mass next Sunday will therefore start at 11:30am.

#### **Next Sunday: Diocesan Second Collection**

The Second Collection will be for the Archbishop's Appeal; this replaces the previous collection for the Archbishop's Administration Fund. This new collection will fund three key areas of diocesan responsibility: Youth & Evangelization, Our Faith in Action, and Clergy Care and Formation. For more details see page 8.



# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## NOTICES

### Parish Centre survey

The Parish Centre Working Party wishes to elicit your views on its renovation. Please either fill in the survey attached to the Newsletter, and hand it to a priest or otherwise return it to the Presbytery, or fill it in online on the parish website. Please do this by the end of the month. This is YOUR chance to say what you envisage as the best way forward for the Parish Centre.

### The Pilgrims: Rhymes to Delight and Entertain

On Monday 14th November at 2:15pm in the Parish Room, readings chosen by Pat Harman. November is an in-between month; so, to enliven the shorter days there will be an engaging mix of amusing old favourites and thoughtful verse featuring animals and birds. Tea, home made cake and chat top off a sociable time together.

### Flower workshop

There will be an extra Flower workshop, to make Christmas wreaths, on Monday 28th November. Contact Kate Travers for more information ([katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)).

### Parish Women's Retreat

At The Friars, Aylesford, 24th - 26th February 2023. Theme: *Welcoming the wilderness, amazing space, amazing grace*, facilitated by Sr Aileen Murphy, a La Retraite sister. Cost for full board, lodging and the Retreat facilitator is £210; cheque for £20 non refundable deposit made payable to RCAS Sevenoaks. Please complete a registration form or download it from the parish website. Queries to Catherine Rodger ([c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com) or 01732 458852).

### World Youth Day 2023

This will be in Lisbon from 31st July to 7th August 2023. Anyone who will be between 18 and 35 then and who is interested in attending please contact Fr Peter.

### Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District

Annual Meeting on Thursday, refreshments from 7:30pm for meeting at 8:00pm, at St John's United Reformed Church, St John's Hill, Sevenoaks.

### Pact Roadshow in Kent

On Saturday 26th November, 10:00am - 1:30pm at Holy Family Church, Bicknor Road, Maidstone, ME15 9PS: *How can we respond to Jesus' call to visit those in prison?* The Roadshow will be enriched by the presence of a Catholic prison Chaplain, Fr Gary Dyer, and Pact's CEO Andy Keen-Downs. At the morning you can learn what Catholic social teaching has to do with the criminal justice system, meet Pact staff and volunteers, and reflect on ways you can put faith into action to support Kent prisoners and their families. More information from Theresa at [parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk](mailto:parish.action@prisonadvice.org.uk).

### Upcoming Baby Loss Support Service

On Sunday 27th November at 3:30pm in Westminster Central Hall, organised by Saying Goodbye (part of the Mariposa Trust), for all who have lost babies at any stage of pregnancy, at birth or in infancy, whether the loss was recent or a while ago. Babies and children are welcome to attend with their families. For up to date details see [www.sayinggoodbye.org](http://www.sayinggoodbye.org).

### Advent Quiet Day

On Saturday 3rd December at The Poult House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, Scripture and nature the day will prepare for Christmas through consideration of the Genealogy and the Great O Antiphons. The day will be led by Gilly Fenner; for more information and to attend please email her: [gf58b@icloud.com](mailto:gf58b@icloud.com). Please bring a packed Lunch; tea/coffee and biscuits will be provided; please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes as part of the day will be outside; suggested contribution £5.

### 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](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/warmspaces). Is this something YOU could organise?



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

## Prayer 4

### Jesus taught us to pray

Jesus prayed always. For example, *"while Jesus after His own Baptism was at prayer, heaven opened"* (Luke 3:21). He prayed before His choice of the Twelve Apostles, and before He asked them who they thought he was. He prayed during His transfiguration at the Last Supper, in Gethsemane, and on the Cross.

The Gospels tell us He prayed often but don't much tell us how or what He prayed. But the Apostles were so moved by his praying that they asked Him to help them to pray: *"Lord, teach us to pray"* (Luke 11:1). He responded with what we call the Lord's Prayer.

St Luke's and St Matthew's Gospel give us the text of the Lord's Prayer (albeit slightly differently; we must remember that the ancient world was one in which few were literate, and so things were handed on by word of mouth and slight differences could occur) but also include further teaching on prayer by Our Lord.

In St Matthew the Lord's Prayer is accompanied by instruction on how *not* to pray: *"when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites ... when you pray, go to your private room ... do not babble as the gentiles do ..."* (Matthew 6: 5-13).

In St Luke's Gospel Christ also offers advice about prayer: *"ask, and it will be given you ... how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"* (Luke 11: 9-13). Asking for needs is good, and we must persevere in our petitionary prayer, but God, the loving father, will give us what we need, in the way that we need it and in the best time frame (not necessarily instantly, as we might like).

In the parable of the tax collector and the Pharisee (Luke 18: 10-14) Jesus teaches the importance of penitence and humility in our prayer.

### The Lord's Prayer

It is known as the Lord's Prayer because Jesus, our Lord, is its author. St Augustine wrote seven commentaries on it, so important did he consider it. It is an integral part of the Mass and other Liturgies, and is at the very heart of every individual and communal prayer.

Our union with Jesus in Baptism, in which we become adopted children of God, enables us to address God as 'Our Father'. The 'our' is an indication that we are a pilgrim people, bound together by the New Covenant; we are not merely individuals in a personal relationship with God, and so we do not say 'My Father'. In other words, the Our Father is the prayer of the Church.

In saying 'Father' we understand God to have a special relationship with the Baptized People of God, caring for us like a good human father. But we must remember that our human speech and thinking is limited, and recognise that there is no gender in God.

After 'Who Art in Heaven' - which refers not to a place *"but to God's majesty and his presence in the hearts of the just"* (Catechism §2802) - there are seven petitions. First is 'Hallowed be Thy Name'. It is not that we make God's name holy but that we pray that we shall always hallow or respect God's name.

We then pray for the coming of God's Kingdom, that God's will be done on earth as in heaven, for our daily bread, for forgiveness for our sins ('trespasses'), that we may not be lead into temptation, and that we be delivered from evil.

'Give us this day our Daily Bread' authorises us to pray for our material needs, including the earthly food necessary to sustain life, but also refers to the spiritual nourishment of the Bread of Life we receive in Holy Communion (see Catechism §2861).

Notice that one has a condition: if we want to be forgiven our sins we must forgive others. The best way to obtain mercy is to be merciful: *"Blessed are the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them"* (Matthew 5:7).

### The Lord's Prayer

*"The pattern of all Christian prayer and the prayer that unites all Christians is the Lord's Prayer, the prayer Jesus taught His disciples. It is a summary of the whole Gospel and holds within it a synopsis of all that is meant by Christian prayer".*  
(Share the Good News 61)

### Amen

The Lord's Prayer when recited on its own, as all prayer should, concludes with the 'Amen', which means 'so be it' or 'let it be so'. We joyfully assent to the prayer that Jesus has taught us.

# ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL



## ARCHBISHOP'S *Appeal*

Investing faith, hope, and charity into the missionary works of the Archdiocese of Southwark.

Your donation will fund three key mission areas:

Youth & evangelization	Our Faith in Action	Clergy Care & Formation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Youth ministry in parishes and schools</li> <li>Development of parish catechists</li> <li>Adult formation resources</li> <li>Catholic Chaplains in Schools and Universities</li> <li>Marriage and Family Life courses</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social outreach projects in Catholic parishes and schools</li> <li>Helping those in need: the poor, hungry, homeless, lonely, elderly, refugees, and marginalised groups</li> <li>Racial Justice and Inclusion</li> <li>Prison Ministry</li> <li>Ecumenical Projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Care for priests in their retirement and ill-health</li> <li>Ongoing Formation of Clergy in active ministry</li> <li>Formation of seminarians and Deacons</li> </ul>

The Archbishop's Appeal will also have benefit for parishes and schools by awarding grants to projects that take place there, enabling them to develop existing projects or start something new within the key mission areas identified above.

This will be the Second Collection next Sunday. You can also donate online and learn more at [www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal](http://www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal).

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> November THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat)	Frank Haggarty RIP
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Wojciech Werner RIP (2 <sup>nd</sup> anniversary)
11:15am	Bob Slaughter RIP
6:00pm	Good intentions of the donor's family
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Doris Rackley RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Nelly Gaughran RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Peracid Berrett, Pattie Pluck, Bertha & Ruth Lett

## Monday 7<sup>th</sup> DEDICATION of the CATHEDRAL CHURCH

8:00am	Fr Ignatius Lazzari RIP
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## Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am	Mary Etheridge - good health
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## Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> DEDICATION of the LATERAN BASILICA

8:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Paul Robert Hugh Edwards RIP Dr Lionel R L Edwards RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Agnes Kelly RIP (anniversary)

## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> S Leo the Great, P D

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Sarah Boyle - good health
12:00noon	Amanda Latter RIP

## Friday 11<sup>th</sup> S Martin of Tours, B

8:00am	Anna Mullan RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Janet Thompson RIP

## Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> S Josaphat, B M

9:30am	Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP
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## SUNDAY 13<sup>th</sup> November THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Douglas, Mona & Anne Jenkins RIP
9:15am	Richard Latter RIP (36 <sup>th</sup> anniversary)
11:15am	Bernard Page RIP
6:00pm	Victoria Beth Georgina Lepore RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Jimmy Falvey RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Georgia Glover RIP
11:30am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	John Gibson RIP

### Baptism

Welcome to

### Olivia Hinchey

who was Baptized at St Thomas', Sevenoaks

### Departed anniversaries

Florian Rodriguez, Doris White, Joseph Donovan, Thomas Healy, Mary Loveden, Terry Baxter, Maurice George Rodgers, Edward Dodd, Bridget McGavin, Leon Burnett, John Fleming, James Johnston, Nora Bishop, Fr Michael Lane, David Green, Eric Smith, Pat Keown, Doris Rackley, Celia Rudden, Ben Dwyer, Morvenne Tomlinson, Eric Mottram.

### Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord

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

Intret oratio mea in conspectu tuo; inclina aurem tuam ad preces meas, Domine.

### Communion

Cogoverunt discipuli Dominum Iesum in fractione panis.