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SMALL NOTICES

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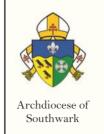
my business or

get my ads in the Newsletter?

Please email:

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk for further details.





PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Y

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter 13th November



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

Malachi 3: 19-20, Psalm 97, 2 Thessalonians 3: 7-12, Luke 21: 5-19

First Reading: the prophet Malachi foretells the coming Day of the Lord, when evil-doers will be consumed by fire but those who fear the Lord will shine out with healing.

Psalm: the Lord - who is understood by Christians to be Christ - will come to rule the people with fairness. Even the seas, rivers and hills will rejoice at this.

Second Reading: St Paul warns against idlers or loafers. Perhaps some expected Jesus' Second Coming to happen so soon that they stopped work and other aspects of daily life, or perhaps some members of the community were failing to contribute their fair share to common funds and to the support of the poor. St Paul had set a good example when he was with them.

Gospel: Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple, the building which occupied the central place in the national life, and which was destroyed in AD 70. He also warns the disciples of the turbulent times to come, when He will no longer be with them.

We can apply these words to today. Many Christian communities in the world are under attack in one way or another, and they will take comfort and encouragement from Christ's words in today's *Gospel*.

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

8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday 12:00noon Thursday

Weekday Mass times:

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 Lituray 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



Scary things

The idea that the Temple could be destroyed was very scary for the Jews. People can be scared of lots of different things.



Some people are scared of repid kena

What else might someone be scared of? Draw it here

Sometimes, Jesus, I get

Thank you for promising

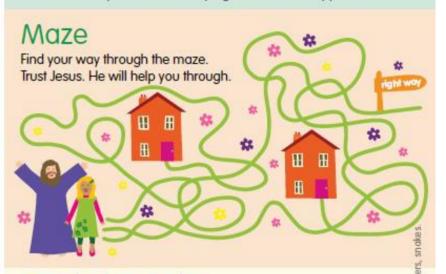
to be with me. Help me

worried and scared.

to trust you. Amen.

redemplorist

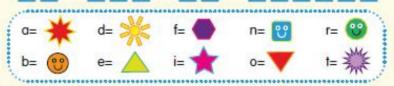
Jesus' friends are admiring the beautiful Temple when Jesus tells them it will be destroyed one day. Other frightening things might happen in the future, but Jesus says he will look after his friends. Jesus will always be with us, helping us whatever happens.



Crack the code

Cross out all the candles to find the message Jesus gives us.





Circle "T" and then circle every other letter. You will

find an important message!

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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.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

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

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

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 Bovle 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

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 9:30am Mass, parishioners at Otford are invited to go on to the Otford War Memorial for the 11:00am Remembrance ceremony, where Adrian Pinington will lay our wreath.

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

Diocesan Second Collection

The Second Collection is for the Archbishop's Appeal; this replaces the previous collection for the Archbishop's Administration Fund. The Archbishop's Appeal seeks to invest faith, hope, and charity into the missionary work of the Archdiocese of Southwark. This new collection will fund three key areas of diocesan responsibility: Youth & Evangelization, Our Faith in Action, and Clergy Care and Formation.

Please use the envelopes for the Archdiocese to be able to reclaim the Gift Aid on your donation. More details at www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal, where you can also donate online.

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Br Ben, OFM Cap assisting at Otford and St Thomas's today.

11:15am Mass

The Traditional Choir provides the music today.

THIS WEEK

Monday: The Pilgrims:

Rhymes to Delight and Entertain

At 2:15pm in the Parish Room, readings chosen by Pat Harman and Linda Young. 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 as always.

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. 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: St Thomas' School

Year 4 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. As always parents and family members of children in that Year are especially invited to attend.

Saturday: Confirmation Mass

On Saturday at 12:30pm in St George's Cathedral, Southwark. Confirmation will be conferred by Most Rev'd Kevin McDonald, Emeritus Archbishop. Music will be provided by the Music Group. Those attending are alerted that trains to Waterloo East will run from Otford, not from Sevenoaks.

Lots of lovely Confirmation gifts as well as Confirmation cards can be obtained from the Repository in St Thomas's.

Next Sunday

The Second Collection will be for Youth work in the Archdiocese and beyond.

NOTICES

Parish Centre survey

The Parish Centre Working Party wishes to elicit your views on its renovation. Please either fill in the survey form 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.

Parish Leads

In accord with the diocesan programme Some Definite Service we now have three 'Parish Leads': Adrian Pinington for Faith Formation, Andrew La Trobe for Evangelization, and Trish Pinington for Catechesis. In addition the Deanery Mentor for Faith Formation is Deacon Neil. Their main function is to liaise between the Parish or Deanery and the diocesan Agency for 3 Evangelization and Catechesis.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Parish Authorised Person

We are pleased to announce that Gilly Fenner is the new Authorised Person for the Parish, in succession to Christine Landon, whom we thanks for doing this job over many years. The Authorised Person is the person who oversees the civil registration of Marriages which take place in our four churches.

Loop system

The loop system in St Thomas's is now working well. Set your hearing aid to the T setting to make use of it. All four churches have a loop system for the hard of hearing.

Finance

The Second Collection for totalled £1,416.40. Our local SVP thank you for your generosity.

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).

Most Holy Trinity Otford – Garden Tidy Up

We will be holding a garden tidy-up morning at Most Holy Trinity Otford from 10am - noon on Saturday 26th November. Please come and help us keep the gardens tidy, especially now that we have a lovely new car park to complement the borders. No gardening experience necessary, just a willing pair of hands required! If possible, bring garden tools. Tea & coffee will be served.

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 (01732 458852 or c.rodger@btinternet.com);

Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage 22nd - 29th June

See page 8 for full details of our Parish Pilgrimage next year. We shall stay in Bethlehem, Tiberias (for the Sea of Galilee) and Jerusalem, with daily Mass at a holy place. The Pilgrimage will be led by Fr David. The price is £1,945; this includes flights, half board accommodation (Breakfast and Dinner) and two Lunches, luxury coach, and a local English speaking guide. Single room supplement: £600; travel insurance £94 per person.

Either obtain a booking form from the Parish Office or contact sales@tangney-tours.com. Don't delay: book your place now.

The Pilgrims

Could you offer a lift to an older parishioner who wishes to attend one of the Pilgrims' events? If you see one advertised in the Newsletter and could offer a lift, please phone Magda in the Parish Office. It would be truly appreciated.

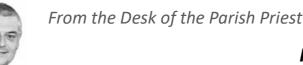
Saturday Rosary

A small group has restored reciting the Holy Rosary in St Thomas's after the 9:30am Mass on Saturdays. It would be wonderful if more people could join them in this most powerful of prayers.

St Thomas' School PTA Raffle

Tickets will be on sale in St Thomas's and Most Holy Trinity after Mass over the next weeks. The School Christmas Fair is on December 9th.







ray in order to Believe, Believe in order to Pray St Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury 1093 - 1109, famously wrote "I seek not to

understand in order that I may believe, but rather, I believe in order that I may understand". Anselm, a Benedictine monk, was very much a man of prayer. So perhaps we can adapt his saying: I pray in order to believe, and I believe in order to pray.

Lex orandi, lex credendi

If you read through the Catechism of the Catholic Church attentively it soon becomes clear that prayer and doctrine are closely interwoven. There is no false separation between doctrine and prayer. Rather, knowing and loving God support each other, and belief in is intimately connected to prayer to the Most Holy Trinity.

This is expressed in the ancient phrase lex orandi, lex credendi which is Latin for 'the law of what is prayed is the law of what is believed'. The Church believes as she prays, and prays as she believes. Very often in the early Church doctrine (such as the Creeds) was articulated only after the liturgy and prayers became widespread, rather than the other way round.

Belief in Catholic doctrine draws us to prayer. Equally our prayer deepens our understanding of doctrine, of the truths of the faith. A clear example of this is the Prayer of the Faithful at Mass, in which our prayer to God the Father in the name of God the Son and in the power of God the Holy Spirit reinforces our understanding of the Most Holy Trinity; and our understanding of the Trinitarian nature of the godhead underpins our prayers.

Effort

Just as the understanding of Catholic doctrine requires study and effort, so also does the practice of prayer. "Prayer is both a gift of grace and a determined response on our part. It always presupposes effort" (Catechism §2725). Since prayer is a loving relationship with God, it places demands on us.

So often people struggle with prayer: they find it is dry, they fail to find time to do it, they get discouraged if there are no instant answers. Imagine a young person who thinks they are in love with another person giving up at the first hurdle; surely they would persevere in seeking what might become their significant life relationship.

Similarly with the search for relationship with God we call prayer. In our busy culture it means setting aside o regular prayer time, and removing distractions (such as the TV being on or family getting in the way). It means studying the different forms of prayer and identifying which one suits you most. And it means sticking at it, persisting in our prayer efforts, not giving up after a short while.

Help

You are not in this alone, and numerous different aids are available. We have a Lectio Divina group in the parish and Mothers Prayers (see p10), as well as annual parish Retreats. You can join one of the Home Faith Cells and discuss prayer, amongst other subjects. Go to formed.org where you will find videos, talks etc on prayer in the Programmes, Audio and Books sections. There are also innumerable websites and apps on prayer available online, not to mention thousands of books written over the centuries by saints and spiritual writers.

Sometimes, perhaps paradoxically, it is easier to pray in the company of other people than on one's own, reciting the Rosary with others, or coming to church for an hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Very often a sick person will appreciate you praying with them when you visit them.

In prayer, the essential thing is that people pray as best they can. It is not a competitive sport. It doesn't matter if other people pray for longer than you, or in a certain way. What matters is that you find your way to pray to God, speaking to him as well as listening to him.

For your thoughts or for discussion

- How do we develop our dependence and reliance upon God in a world that promotes self-reliance?
- How do the teachings of Christ and His Church enrich our prayer?
- Prayer is not reserved for the select few, it is a gift available to all men and women. How can we all receive this gift?

Far and away the most important aspect of being a Christian disciple is prayer (always remembering that the greatest prayer we offer is the Holy Mass). If we are serious about our faith then we will take prayer seriously. We will strive to become people who pray, people who have room for prayer at the centre of their lives, room for a relationship with the one, true God who loves us with perfect love.

PARISH HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2023

22nd – 29th JUNE 2023 Spiritual Director: Fr David

ITINERARY

Thursday 22nd June

Flight (El Al) from London Heathrow to Tel Aviv. Transfer to Tiberias for 2 nights.

Friday 23rd June

Visit to Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, and Capernaum, and boat journey on the Sea of Galilee. Mass at the Primacy of Peter. Lunch of St Peter's fish included.

Saturday 24th June

Visit to Cana (the first miracle), Nazareth and Mount Tabor (mount of the Transfiguration). Mass in Cana. Transfer to Bethlehem for 2 nights.

Sunday 25th June

In Bethlehem, including the church of the Nativity; Mass in Bethlehem.

Monday 26th June

Visit to Bethany (for Mass), Lazarus' tomb, Jericho, River Jordan and the Dead Sea. Lunch included.

Tuesday 27th June

Jerusalem for 3 nights. Mass in the church of the Holy Sepulchre, and tour of Jerusalem including the Via Dolorosa and the Western Wall.

Wednesday 28th June

Visit to Pater Noster church, Mount of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, church of the Dormition. Mass in the chapel of Dominus Flevit.

Thursday 29th June

Mass at Latin Patriarchate. Return flight to London.

INFORMATION

Basic price: £1,945 per person for two sharing a room. Single room supplement: £600 per person; travel insurance: £94 per person.

The price includes half board (Breakfast and Dinner) accommodation with private facilities, 2 included Lunches, all tips and entrance charges, local English speaking guide, and luxury coach.

Please note the Itinerary is subject to change. There is some walking involved, especially in Jerusalem and to and from the coach and the holy place.

In addition, we shall organise a coach to and from Heathrow airport, which will be an additional charge.

If you have any queries contact Fr David.

TO BOOK

Contact Tangney Tours at <u>sales@tangney-tours.com</u> or 01732 886666 or contact Magda in the Parish Office for a booking form.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 13th 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 (36th anniversary)

11:15am Bernard Page RIP

6:00pm Victoria Beth Georgina Lepore RIP

9:30am Otford Jimmy Falvey RIP9:30am Borough Green Georgia Glover RIP11:30am West Kingsdown John Gibson RIP

Monday 14th Feria

8:00am Christine Hallam & her family

Tuesday 15th Feria

9:30am John Farren RIP

Wednesday 16th Feria

8:00am Good health & wellbeing of Jovita Rodrigues

10:00am *Otford* Our Parishioners

Thursday 17th Feria

10:00am Borough Green Pat Farrell RIP

12:00noon Neil D'Souza RIP (anniversary)

Friday 18th Feria

8:00am Enrique Viñuales RIP

10:00am West Kingsdown James & Carmela Gibson RIP

9:30am All sick

SUNDAY 20th November THIRTY-FOURTH SUNDAY (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Angela Murphy

8:00am (Latin) Constance Mary Edwards

9:15am Margaret Cullen
11:15am Bernard Page RIP
6:00pm People of the Parish
9:30am Otford Jane Thompson RIP

9:30am Borough Green Good health & wellbeing of Ida Rodrigues

5

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Departed anniversaries

Jan Jablonski, Dorothy Pakenham, Maureen Baldridge, Constance Edwards, Hilda Scarhill, Jeremiah O'Dwyer, Timothy Carroll, Margaret O'Callaghan, Louise Gouldstone, Richard Latter, Winnie Havercan, Reginald Frith, Edith Scott, Arthur Strain, Francis Comerford, Rose Anne Gilgan, Margaret Trousdell, James Cairney, Terence Oung, Thomas Brady, Jeannine Greene, Dorothy Schnorr, Tim Downs, Patricia Wright, Leo Monaghan, James Currin, John Staples, Winifred Lyons, Jean French, Monique Brittan, Baby Mercer, Susan Hatfield, David Murphy.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light

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

Dicit Dominus: Ego cogito cogitationes pacis, et non afflictionis; invocabitis me, et ego exaudiam vos, et reducam captivitatem vestram de cunctis locis.

Communion

Mihi autem adhærere Deo bonum est, ponere in Domino Deo spem meam.