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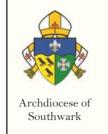
get my ads in the News
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Please email: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk for further details.

MOST HOLY TRINITY SOCIAL EVENT

BEASTS, BISHOPS AND BANKERS: THE STORY OF SEVENOAKS





Parish Newsletter

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

20th November 2022



Today's Mass: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (Year C)

2 Samuel 5: 1-3, Psalm 121, Colossians 1: 12-20, Luke 23: 35-43

First Reading: David becomes the anointed king of Israel, a forerunner of his descendent Jesus Christ, King of the Universe.

Psalm: the psalmist expresses great joy at going to Jerusalem. For Christians this is a metaphor for our joy at going to the heavenly Jerusalem.

Second Reading: St Paul tells us what Christ's Lordship means. Before all time the Word was with the Father and Christ was the agent of creation, and even now He holds all things together. He is also the first-born from the dead: by His death on the Cross Christ reconciled all human beings and all things to the Father.

Gospel: Jesus is King because He is in ultimate control, even on the Cross, where He grants salvation to the penitent sinner. And He can draw good even out of evil. It is precisely by His self-sacrifice on the Cross that Christ can establish His Kingdom, "a kingdom of truth and life, a kingdom of holiness and grace, a kingdom of justice, love and peace" (from today's Preface).

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Sunday 8:00am (Latin)

11:15am 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday Tuesday

9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word)

8:30am - 9:30am

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times:

8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday

Thursday 12:00noon Friday 8:00am Saturday

9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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



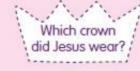
Maze

Lead this king to the best treasure of all.



Crown Sudoku

Can you complete the grid so that every row, column and mini grid has one each of the different crowns?



Jesus is a king like no other. Jesus is a king who shows us how to love, by serving other people. Some people do not believe a king would die on a cross. They laugh at Jesus. An unexpected person, a criminal, believes in Jesus. This thief will enjoy life with Jesus.



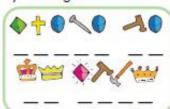
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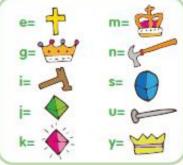




Code

Find the hidden message by cracking the code.





redemporist

Dear Jesus, you are the

king of love, peace and

happiness. Help me to

be loving, peaceful and

happy too. Amen.

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)

James 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' Pravers

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

Youth Sunday

Visit worldyouthsunday.com for resources for your family, your school, your church, and you. Today's Second Collection is for Catholic Youth services.

Adoration and Benediction: 4:30pm

To mark the Feast of Christ the King there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at 4:30pm in St Thomas's today, culminating in Benediction at 5:30pm. A Plenary Indulgence is granted, subject to the usual conditions, to those who recite - in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament - the consecration of the human race to Christ the King and the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Br James, OFM Cap assisting at the three Chapels today.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday: St Thomas' School

Year 3 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. As always parents and family members of children in that Year are especially invited to attend.

SVP sausage roll sale

The ever popular sausage roll sale will take place on Saturday and next Sunday at St Thomas's. The proceeds will support the SVP's work here and abroad.

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 SVP

In addition to financial help and visiting vulnerable people, the Parish SVP team can also provide ongoing phone contact to those for whom an in-person visit 3

may not be appropriate or felt to be over intrusive. If you know of any neighbours or others who might appreciate this please encourage them to get in touch, or if they are happy for you to do so please do on their behalf: email sevenoakssyp@gmail.com or contact Magda in the Parish Office. The SVP team has grown recently and has the capacity to help more people.

Parish Holy Land Pilgrimage 22nd - 29th June 2023

See the 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

We are pleased to say that 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.

Formed.org

Don't forget that as a parishioner you have full and free access to an immense collection of videos, TV programmes, discussions, course, audiobooks, and children's content. Simply

- 1. go to www.formed.org and click 'sign up'
- 2. click 'sign up as parishioner'
- 3. search for 'St Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks'
- 4. enter your name and email address, and click 'sign up'.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Finance

The CAFOD collection in October totalled £1,268.90. The total First Collection for the Parish received in October, via the collection at Mass, bank transfers and Standing Orders, and the card reader, came to £12,003.00. Thank you for your generosity.

St Thomas' School PTA

Raffle tickets will be on sale after Masses at St Thomas's and at Most Holy Trinity today.

Christmas Crib in Shop Windows

We are contacting our participating local shops mainly in central Sevenoaks who put a crib in the windows. Then we deliver and collect after Christmas. We are seeking help just to deliver and collect. We can't leave cribs stuck in the cupboard, can we? It's a quiet form of witness. Offers, enquiries, suggestions email to bobandpat.harman@gmail.com or 01732 453902.

The Holy Father's endorsement: "I wish to encourage the custom of setting it up in the workplace in schools, hospitals, prisons and town squares..." apostolic letter The Meaning and Importance of the Nativity Scene 2016

St Thomas's Repository

Please take a look at what's new on the shelves after Mass. Also, Sophie McBrien will need a helper to manage the Repository after the 9:15am Mass, just for ten minutes. Contact Magda in the Office if you can help.

Quiet Day of Recollection 3rd December

At the Poult House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, led by Gilly Fenner, 10:00am - 4:00pm. An opportunity to prepare for Christmas through the use of poetry, prayer, music, Scripture, and nature. Suggested contribution £5.

For more information and to attend email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com. All welcome but numbers limited to 20.

Job Vacancy at St Dunstan's, Southborough

Part-time Office Administrator to assist in the administration of this small but busy parish and support the Parish Priest. Secretarial experience is essential, along with bookkeeping/financial knowledge. 12 hours per week; DBS clearance may be required. Starting salary £12.50 - £14.50 depending on experience. To apply email your CV by 30th November to southborough@rcaos.org.

Vacancy: Clerk to Trustees

Sevenoaks Almshouse Charity, around 10 hours per week, salaried; further details from gjs@sevenoaksschool.org.

PACT Roadshow in Kent

on Saturday has been postponed.

Friends of Westminster Cathedral events

22nd November 7:00pm: 'Katherine Parr: the sixth wife', talk by Alison Weir. £10.

23rd November 7:00pm: Cathedral Quiz with fish and chip supper. £18.

Tickets from friends@rcdow.org.uk.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

15th March 2023 for four nights, £699 per person sharing with full board. Contact Patricia on 01268 762278.

Fr David, KCHS

Congratulations are due to Fr David, whom the Cardinal Grand Master, Fernando Cardinal Filoni, has promoted to the rank of Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. This is the highest rank attainable by a priest.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

St Matthew: The Ecclesiastical Gospel

N

ext Sunday, the First of Advent, we revert to Year A and St Matthew's Gospel. Even though 'ekklesia' (Church) only occurs twice *Matthew* is often referred to as the 'ecclesiastical Gospel'.

What does this mean?

The role of Peter

The key text here is 16: 17-19: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church I will give you the keys of the kingdom". However much Catholics and Protestants may disagree on the role of St Peter's successor, the Bishop of Rome, it is clear that Peter is seen as the foundation stone of the new Israel, the Church.

Peter's, and the Church's, authority to bind and loose does not mean that the Church decides and heaven merely rubber stamps the decision but, rather, the opposite. Heaven decides and the Church pronounces God's decision. This power belongs to Jesus Christ, but is delegated to Peter and the Church. We can debate how much the 'power of the keys' to bind and loose refers to disciplinary judgement and/or to teaching authority.

The Sermon on the Mount

The binding and loosing pronouncement comes in the middle of a passage about practical issues of church life, and this is a key theme of *Matthew*. The key text in this context is the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5 - 7), which is only found in this Gospel, and which focuses on the nature and demands of discipleship.

It deals with the true character and rewards of discipleship (5: 3-12), the distinctiveness of the disciple (5: 13-16), the ethical demands of the disciple (5: 17-48), religious observance (6: 1-18), the disciple's priorities (6: 19-34), the disciple's attitude to fellow disciples (7: 1-6, 12) and to God (7: 7-11), and ends with contrasts between true and false discipleship (7: 13-27). The Sermon on the Mount has been a mainstay for preachers, teachers and catechists over the centuries, and there is little doubt that is what the author intended.

The ethical and practical teaching in the Sermon on the Mount culminates in the famous Golden Rule (7:12): "In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets". Although this is the sort of saying a Jewish rabbi would make, there is no parallel in rabbinic teaching: Jesus' words are new, radical, and far-reaching.

Discipleship

The word 'mathetes' (disciple) appears frequently in *Matthew*, and the command at the end of the Gospel (also unique to *Matthew*) offers a useful summary of what Christian discipleship involves: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you" (28: 19-20).

First, a disciple is one Baptized in the name of God the Trinity. Secondly, the disciple obeys what Jesus has commanded and teaches this to others. The disciple is thus one who has a relationship with the Triune God and in particular with Jesus Christ, and is one who not only obeys God's commands but passes this on to other people.

Another important word in *Matthew* is 'follow'. The disciples are often described as following Jesus, but this means more than simply shadowing Him. It means adhering to His teaching, conforming their will to that of Christ. Notice that despite the occasions when Jesus taught the crowds – like the Sermon on the Mount – most of His teaching is addressed to the disciples alone, to whom a special revelation is given (even if the disciples are sometimes obtuse or deficient, as Peter often was).

The parable of the weeds and the wheat (13: 24-30)

Matthew understands that the Church consists of both bad (the weeds) and good (the wheat) disciples. All will be subject to judgement, so there is no room for complacency. Chapter 25, which includes the parable of the ten bridesmaids, makes it clear that is not those who say 'Lord, Lord' who will enter the kingdom of heaven but those who do the will of the Father.

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PARISH HOLY LAND PILGRIM AGE 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

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

11:00am West Kingsdown Hans Martin

Monday 21st Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00am Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

Tuesday 22nd S Cecilia, V M

9:30am Fr Thomas Creagh-Fuller RIP

Wednesday 23rd Feria

8:00am David & Colleen Lockyer

and their children

10:00am *Otford* Parish Priests

Thursday 24th SS Andrew Düng-Lac Pr & Companions, MM

10:00am Borough Green Catherine Isaacs - swift recovery

12:00noon Anna Mullan RIP

Friday 25th Feria

11:15am

8:00am All Parishioners

10:00am West Kingsdown The good estate of Lynne Stanley

Saturday 26th of Our Lady

9:30am Fr Joe Andradi

SUNDAY 27th November FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year A)

6:00pm (Sat) Private Intention 8:00am (Latin) Tom Healy RIP

9:15am Leonard Gould RIP

6:00pm Marjorie McBeth RIP

oopiii warjone wcbetii kir

and dec'd members of the White family

9:30am *Otford* People of the Parish

9:30am Borough Green Dec'd members of Foley family

11:00am West Kingsdown Placid Berrett, Pattie Pluck

and Berta & Ruth Lett

Judy West RIP (anniversary)

Departed anniversaries

Catherine Moran, Fr. John Jeffries, Daniel Hennessy, Johanna Smith, Patrick O'Driscoll, Wilhelmina Jaques, Anne Hennessy, Bishop John Jukes, Monique Brittan, George Detrick, Frank Farrell, Kathleen Howard, John Sur, Sharon Hardy, Rosamunde Monague, Peter David, Patricia Walllis, Lawrence Fairman, Leo Cadley, Richard Latter, Richard Morel, Paddy Murphy, Gladys, Cross, Monsignor John Moran, Joe Grochala, Thomas Cadley, Eleanor Keating, Maria Dubiel-Emery, Molly Long, George Kavanagh, Paul Emmelkamp.

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

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

Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est, accipere virtutem et divinitatem et sapientiam et fortitudinem et honorem. Ipsi gloria et imperium in sæcula sæculorum.

Communion

Sedebit Dominus Rex in æternum; Dominus benedicet populo suo in pace.

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