

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 1st January *MARY, the HOLY MOTHER of GOD*

6:00pm (Sat)	Sean Brady
8:00am (Latin)	Jean McKernan RIP
9:15am	Canon Frank O'Sullivan RIP
11:15am	Barbara Hinjenston Randolph RIP
6:00pm	George & Anne (wedding anniversary)
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Special Birthday
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	James & Carmela Gibson RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	People of the Parish

Monday 2nd *SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, BB DD*

9:30am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
--------	------------------------------

Tuesday 3rd *Christmas Feria*

9:30am	Thomas Ahern RIP
--------	------------------

Wednesday 4th *The Beatified Martyrs of the Diocese*

8:00am	John Gibson RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Jeremiah Gould RIP

Thursday 5th *Christmas Feria*

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	John Rodrigues RIP (anniversary)

FRIDAY 6th *The EPIPHANY of the LORD*

8:00am (Latin)	Fr Patrick Haran RIP
9:30am	People of the Parish
8:00pm	Fr Patrick Haran RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Good intentions of the donor
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Good health of Larry Price
6:00pm <i>Borough Green</i>	In thanksgiving

Saturday 7th *Christmas Feria*

9:30am	Victoria Lapore RIP and the comfort of her family
--------	--

SUNDAY 8th January *BAPTISM of the LORD*

6:00pm (Sat)	Theodora Wilson RIP
8:00am (Latin)	Valerie Hooper RIP
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	Sue Timson RIP
6:00pm	Dympna Cearney RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Margaret Mary Healy RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Parish Priests
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	John & Kathleen Doyle (anniversary)

Recently Departed

Margaret Thackaberry
Josephine Coakley
Katherine Lester, Margaret Dickens
Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord ...

LATIN MASS ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Lux fulgebit hodie super nos, quia natus est nobis Dominus; et vocabitur admirabilis, Deus, Princeps pacis, Pater futuri sæculi: cuius regni non erit finis.

Communion

Jesus Christus heri et hodie, ipse et in sæcula.

Advanced Altar Servers' Training - Year 7 and above

Training sessions for the Advanced Altar Server course - for those in Year 7 and above who regularly serve at Mass - will take place on the first two Fridays of January, beginning this Friday, at 5:00pm for one hour, in the Parish Centre. Contact Catherine Ingram (ingramfamily15@yahoo.com) for more info and to book a place.

Thank you

Enormous thanks are due to flower arrangers, Crib decorators and all who decorated our Churches for Christmas, to the Catenians for the tree in St Thomas's Entrance, to the Repository personnel, to all our musicians and singers, to Ministers of Holy Communion, welcomers and Mass readers, to Altar Servers, to the Crib Service organisers, to the collection counters, and to all who helped our Christmas Liturgies go so well. Thanks very much to Borough Green Parish Council for providing chocolates for the children.

For the most part numbers appeared to be almost back to their pre-Covid levels. Don't relapse! Keep on practising your faith, and attend Mass on Sundays and Holydays.

Fr Peter and Fr David thank all those who kindly gave them Christmas cards, presents, and good wishes. Thanks also for the Christmas Offering.

Fr Boniface Tamani also sends Christmas greetings to everyone.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS

www.sevtrparish.org.uk 01732 454177

Today's Mass: *MARY, the HOLY MOTHER of GOD*

Numbers 6: 22-27, Psalm 66, Galatians 4: 4-7, Luke 2: 16-21

1st January 2023

This is the oldest Feast of Our Lady in the Calendar of the Roman Church.

First Reading: the Aaronic Blessing, a New Year Blessing. 'My name' in the Old Testament means God himself.

The **Psalm** invokes God's Blessing and contains a message of salvation.

The **Second Reading** carries forward the theme of salvation: the appointed time of salvation has come, with the birth of God's Son to a woman (ie Mary), whose coming enables us to become adopted children of God.

The **Gospel** on this Octave Day of Christmas is that of the Christmas Mass of the Dawn, with the addition of the verse of Christ's circumcision, which reminds us that the Incarnation was the beginning of our Redemption.

Notices

Supply Priests

We welcome Fr Bryan Wells and Fr Mark Odion, MSP today, and also Fr Bryan on Friday.

FRIDAY THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

The Epiphany is one of the most important days in the Church's year, as it recalls the manifestation of Jesus to the world, as its Saviour. It is a Holyday of Obligation (so, as a Feast, the Friday Abstinence does not apply).

First Reading: the prophet Isaiah pictures salvation coming to the nations like light in the darkness but – and this is the important point – only by way of Israel, the people of God. The reference to camels and gold and incense is inevitably seen as a prediction of the visit of the magi as recounted in the *Gospel*.

Psalm: again this 'royal psalm' is seen as a prediction of, and celebration in song of, the visit of the wise men.

Second Reading: the Church has selected this extract from the letter to the Ephesians to underline the main significance of the Epiphany, that is the revelation of Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the Gentiles (or 'pagans') as well as the Jews.

Gospel: *Matthew* wonderfully relates the visit of the magi (or 'wise men') to Jesus in Bethlehem, bringing their three gifts: gold for a king, frankincense for God, and myrrh for the Anointed One, the Messiah. *We Three Kings of Orient Are* - the famous hymn by John H Hopkins Jr - well brings out the deeper meaning of the gifts.

Holy Mass:

St Thomas's Sevenoaks: 8:00am (Latin),
9:30am (School Mass), and 8:00pm;
Most Holy Trinity, Oxford: 10:00am;
St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am;
St Joseph's Borough Green: 6:00pm.



THIS WEEK

Bank Holiday Monday

Holy Mass at the new Bank Holiday time of 9:30am in St Thomas's. No Adoration this day. The Parish Office is closed.

New Lighting Installation in St Thomas's

The work on the new Sanctuary lighting begins on Tuesday, for a week. This may cause some disruption to the electricity supply at times.

NOTICES

Primary School Applications

Parents of children who were born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 can now apply for primary school places for their children. Applications should be made through the Local Authority online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Please note that the closing date for applications is 16th January 2023.

Families wishing to apply to St Thomas' Catholic Primary School in Sevenoaks also need to complete and return a Supplementary Information Form to the school, which can be downloaded from the school website at <https://www.saintthomas.co.uk/admissions/>. Email Fr David to make an appointment for him to countersign the form.

Parents with children in the Nursery class at St Thomas' are reminded that their children will not automatically be given a place in the Reception class; you have to make a formal application for a Reception place through the Local Authority and submit a Supplementary Information Form to the school.

St Joseph's - Sunday 8th January

Coffee after Mass when we shall say goodbye to Julie Lee, who is moving across the pond, and thank her for all her contributions to the local community over the years.

Crib Offerings

All donations placed in any of the Crib in the four Churches will be sent to the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, earmarked for schools etc in Bethlehem and the West Bank.