CONFIRMATION OF WATIPA NANGUZGAMBO



OTFORD COFFEE MORNING





PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



Today's Mass: SECOND SUNDAY of the YEAR (Year A) Isaiah 49: 3, 5-6, Psalm 39, 1 Corinthians 1: 1-3, John 1: 29-34

First Reading: Isaiah is himself a prefiguring of Jesus Christ, as the servant of God who will restore the people of God (the "tribes of Jacob") and be the light of the nations.

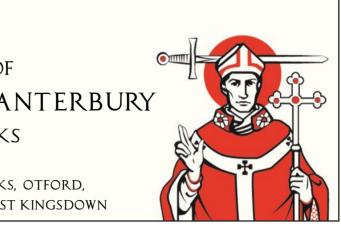
Psalm: the earliest Christians understood this psalm as a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah, which foreshadows the self-offering of Jesus Christ.

Second Reading: this is the beginning of a sequence of *Second Readings* taken from St Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth. The greeting, used many times by St Paul, is the basis for the second form of the greeting said by the Priest at the beginning of Mass, Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Gospel: John the Baptist testifies to Jesus as the Lamb of God and as the Messiah, who has been anointed by the Spirit. The Invitation to Communion at Mass ("Behold the Lamb of God ...") directly quotes these words of the Baptist. These are familiar words and images, but one could spend a long time pondering their meaning.

Today is Peace Sunday 2023. Visit https://paxchristi.org.uk/ for more information.

Fr David



15th January 2023

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday

Tuesday

Sunday 8:00am (Latin) 9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word) 11:15am 6:00pm

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:

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

Saturday



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

Church contact:

Barry Authers

Tel: 01959 524362

sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH

Western Rd, Borough Green

TN15 8AG

TN15 6JP



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

ST JOSEPH'S

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Liturgy of the Word) Thursday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

BOROUGH GREEN

Church contact: Antoni Offert Tel: 07513 041075 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

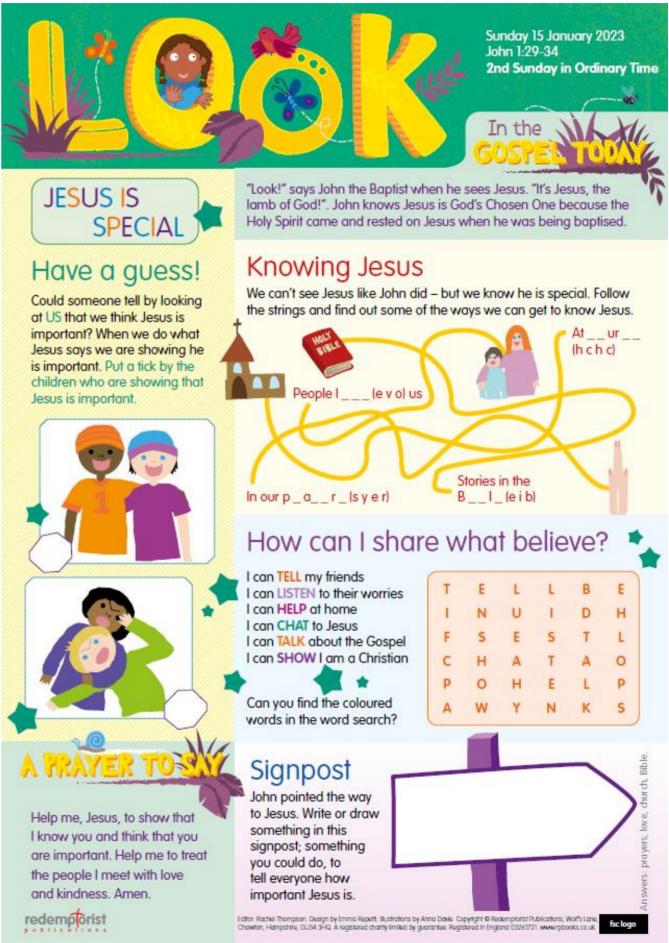
ST BERNADETTE'S WEST KINGSDOWN

Mass times: Sunday 11:00am Friday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am Adoration: Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

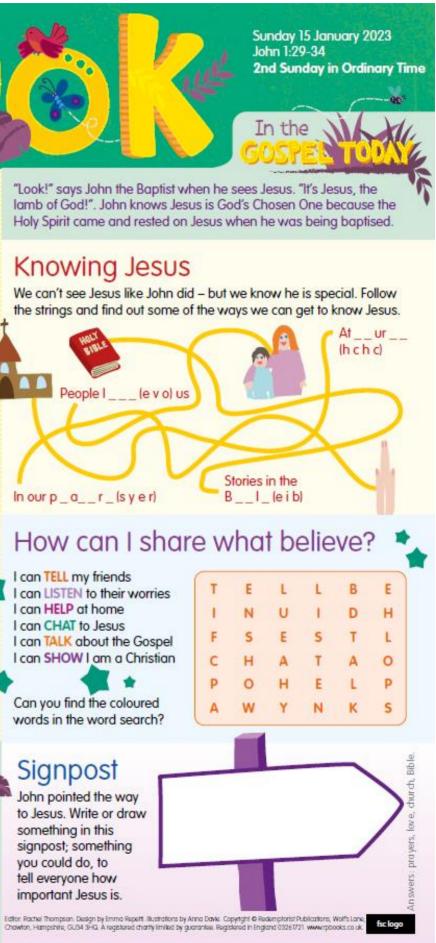
Church contacts: Jill & John Gobel Tel: 01474 853676 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

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

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN







Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

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Executive Head:



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, KCHS 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

FirstHolyCommunion & 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

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

Retreats 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

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TODAY

Peace Sunday 2023

Today is a Day of Prayer for Peace on Earth. The Second Collection today is for Pax Christi. The work of Pax Christi is based on the Gospel and inspired by faith. Its vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, Pax Christi works with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. See page 8 for further information.

11:15am Mass

Hugo Hudson receives his first Holy Communion and Pia Woods is Baptized at the 11:15am Mass today.

Supply priests

Fr Bryan Wells, along with Br James and Br Krzysztof, OFM Cap, are our supply priests this Sunday.



THIS WEEK

Monday: Listening to You

In the Parish Room, 10:30am - midday. We would be very happy to welcome you to our quiet, confidential space in the Parish Room.

2022 has been a difficult year for so many in so many ways and if you would like to come and talk and be listened to, please do come along. There is no need to let us know you are coming. You will be very welcome.

Ronnie Campbell, Kate Travers

Monday: The Pilgrims 2:00pm

All senior parishioners are warmly invited to attend tea and cake in the Parish Room, with Janet Clare giving a talk called '*My life is magic*'.

Tuesday: 9:30am Mass

Year 5 attend this Mass. Parents and family members are especially invited to attend.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (which is a Church week of eight days) begins on Wednesday, and concludes eight days later on the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Please pray for Christian Unity during the Octave.

The Sevenoaks Unity Service this year is at The Drive Methodist Church (The Drive, Sevenoaks TN13 3AE) next Sunday at 6:30pm. The Otford Unity Service this year is at the Methodist Church, High Street, Otford next Sunday at 6:30pm. Can YOU attend, to represent the Catholics of St Thomas of Canterbury Parish?

Friday: Mass at Trinity School

The first in a series of termly Masses in the school Chapel will take place on Friday at 8:45am. It is hoped that ALL Catholic pupils at the school will attend. Parents: please make sure your child at the school knows about it.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

The Second Collection will be the annual White Flower Appeal for SPUC.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

NOTICES

Last chance to join Women's Retreat

The Retreat on 24th to 26th February at The Friars, Aylesford will be facilitated by Sr Aileen Murphy, RLR. The theme is *Welcoming the wilderness, amazing space, amazing grace*. Cost for full board, lodging and the Retreat facilitator is £210. Please complete a registration form or download it from the Parish website, and return it to the Parish Office as soon as possible. Please include a non refundable deposit of £20 (cheque payable to 'RCAS Sevenoaks'). Any queries please contact Catherine Rodger by email at <u>c.rodger@btinternet.com</u> or 01732 458852.

PACT Kent Area Roadshow: 'I was in Prison ... '

On Saturday 4th February, 10:00am - 1:30pm, at Holy Family Church, Bicknor Road, Maidstone ME15 9PS, with PACT CEO Andy Keen-Downs and local Prison Chaplain Fr Gary Dyer. Find out about Catholic social teaching and those affected by the criminal justice system, meet PACT staff and volunteers, and reflect on simple ways you can support Kent prisoners and their families. Register at <u>prisonadvice.org.uk/</u> justpeople-roadshows.

Time to Rethink Abortion Day

Saturday 4th February, at St Mary's College, Oscott (Chester Road, B75 5AA), 10:00am - 5:00pm. Cost: £25 per head, Lunch and refreshments provided, aged 16 or over only. A series of educational sessions, role plays, and top speakers, to equip you to speak about abortion in the kinds of situations you find yourself in every day. Book at <u>https://</u> www.marchforlife.co.uk/re-think-abortion-day/? mc_cid=8cf121c917&mc_eid=8b54e3ce95.



Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

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Retrouvaille: a Programme

for couples struggling in their Marriages

Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Have you stopped talking? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their Marriage. Tens of thousands of couples heading for divorce have successfully saved their Marriage by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information or to register for the next programme in Welwyn Garden City on 24th -26th February, or a virtual weekend on 6th - 9th July, email <u>retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com</u> or visit <u>www.retrouvaille.org.uk</u>.







During his visit to Great Britain in 2010 Pope Benedict XVI addressed representatives of British society, including senior politicians, in Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament. Shortly afterwards, I happened to be in the United States. One Sunday I attended Mass in the Cathedral in Boston, which turned out to be the annual 'Red Mass' for the lawyers. The Archbishop of Boston, Cardinal O'Malley, quoted extensively from the Pope's speech in his homily. The following Sunday I visited the Cathedral in New York, where again I found extensive extracts from the speech in the Archdiocesan monthly newspaper. It is clear that the speech will become a classic statement of the relationship between state and religion.

You can find the speech on the Vatican website (go to Benedict XVI, Speeches etc).

Benedict starts by saying that Catholic social teaching – with its emphasis on the unique dignity of every human person and on the duty of civil authority to foster the common good – has much in common with the British tradition – with respect for the rule of law, a strong sense of the individual's rights and responsibilities, and equality of all citizens before the law. But without strong ethical foundations democracy becomes fragile. For example, Benedict says that *"the lack of a solid ethical foundation for economic activity has led to the grave difficulties now being experienced"*.

The central question is "where is the ethical foundation for political choices to be found?" The Catholic tradition maintains the role of religion is not to propose objective norms, and still less to propose concrete solutions, but to shed light upon the discovery of moral principles. Without the corrective supplied by religion, reason can fall prey to distortions, as when it is manipulated by ideology or applied in a partial way; this is what gave rise to the totalitarian ideologies of the twentieth century.

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI: 1. Religion and society

The worlds of secular rationality and religious belief need each other; a profound and ongoing dialogue will be for the good of our civilisation. Religion is *"not a problem for legislators to solve, but a vital contributor to the national conversation"*. The increasing marginalisation of religion, especially of Christianity, is worrying therefore, not just because it indicates a failure to appreciate the rights of believers to freedom of conscience and of religion, but also because it contravenes the legitimate role of religion in the public square.

The Pope then goes on in his speech to list examples of notable co-operation between the UK government and the Holy See, including in the areas of peace, human rights, international development and aid, and environmental responsibility. He concludes his speech with a reference to the vital contribution that religious belief has made and can continue to make to the life of the nation.

Benedict is not saying that religion must control society or culture, or that religious leaders should dictate government policy, nor that individuals must be made to conform to Catholic moral teaching. Rather, he is pointing out that Western civilisation, and modern democracy, could not have evolved without the Christian tradition. We neglect the origins of our society at our peril.

And, in a society like the British one, which prizes tolerance and individual liberty, it is paradoxically contrary to that to marginalise Christianity, to deny freedom of conscience to people of religious beliefs, to assert that religion has no place in society or government decisions.

One commentator at the time said that on leaving Parliament after the speech he *"felt like I've witnessed a genuine historical moment"*. Benedict referred to the fact that he speaking in a very historic place, the place where St Thomas More was tried, who although he was the King's 'good servant' he had to follow his Christian conscience, and several former Prime Ministers and other dignitaries were present.

The context, then, was very historic, but Benedict made similar points in other contexts in other places. I have no doubt that the arguments he made in his Westminster speech will remain for years, perhaps centuries, a classic statement of the relationship between religion and the state.

PEACE SUNDAY

The theme this year is *No one can be saved alone. Combatting COVID-19 together, embarking together on paths of peace*. The Pope's Message for the 56th World Day of Peace can be found at <u>https://www.vatican.va/content/</u><u>francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20221208-messaggio-56giornatamondiale-pace2023.html</u>. A selection of Pope Francis' comments in the past year, supplied by Pax Christi, the International Catholic Movement for Peace:

"I would like to lament... three world wars in a single century! The one of 1914-1918, the one of 1939-1945, and this one! This one [in Ukraine] is a world war, because it is true that when empires, either on one side or the other weaken, they need to make a war in order to feel strong – and also to sell weapons! I believe that today the greatest calamity in the world is the arms industry. Please! I've been told, I don't know if it's true or not, that if we didn't make weapons for a year, we could end world hunger." *On the plane from Bahrain, November 2022*

"The Holy See continues steadfastly to maintain that in the twenty-first century nuclear arms are an inadequate and inappropriate means of responding to security threats, and that possession of them is immoral. Their production diverts resources from integral human development and their employment not only has catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences, but also threatens the very existence of humanity." *To members of the Diplomatic Corps accredited to the Holy See, January 2022*

"Why, then, wage war on each other over conflicts that we should resolve by talking to each other as fellow people? Why not rather join our forces and resources to fight together the real battles of civilization: the fight against hunger and thirst; the fight against disease and epidemics; the fight against today's poverty and slavery? Why? Certain choices are not neutral: to allocate a large part of spending to weapons means taking it away from something else, which means continuing to take it away yet again, from those who lack the basic necessities. And this is a scandal...

Continuing to spend on weapons sullies the soul, sullies the heart, sullies humanity. What is the use of solemnly committing ourselves all together, on an international level, in campaigns against poverty, against hunger, against the degradation of the planet, if we then fall back into the old vice of war, into the old strategy of the power of armaments, which takes everything and everyone backwards? A war always takes you backwards, always. We walk backwards. We will have to start over again." *To members of the organisation 'Ho avuto sete' March 2022*

"How then does one become a peacemaker? First of all, one must disarm the heart. Yes, because we are all equipped with aggressive thoughts against each other, and cutting words...

How does one demilitarize the heart? By opening ourselves to Jesus, who is 'our peace' (*Eph* 2:14); by standing before his Cross... by receiving from him, in Confession, 'forgiveness and peace'. This is where we begin, because being peacemakers, being saints, is not our ability, they are gifts, it is one of his gifts, it is grace.

Brothers and sisters, let us look within and ask ourselves: are we peacemakers? In the places where we live, study and work, do we bring tension, words that hurt, chatter that poisons, controversy that divides? Or do we open up the way to peace, forgiving those who have offended us; do we care for those who are at the margins, do we redress some injustice by helping those who have less? This is called building peace." *Angelus, Feast of All Saints, November 2022*

"As we contemplate those glorious wounds, our incredulous eyes open wide; our hardened hearts break open and we welcome the Easter message: 'Peace be with you!'..... Dear brothers and sisters, every war brings in its wake consequences that affect the entire human family: from grief and mourning to the drama of refugees, and to the economic and food crisis, the signs of which we are already seeing. Faced with the continuing signs of war, as well as the many painful setbacks to life, Jesus Christ, the victor over sin, fear and death, exhorts us not to surrender to evil and violence. Brothers and sisters, may we be won over by the peace of Christ! Peace is possible; peace is a duty; peace is everyone's primary responsibility!" *Urbi et Orbi, Easter 2022*

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

SUNDAY 15th January SECOND SUNDAY of the YEAR

SUNDAY 15" January SECON	D SUNDAY of the YEAR
6:00pm (Sat)	Thomas Ahern RIP
8:00am (Latin)	Paul Galia
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	Joseph & Freda Ford, Canon Anthony Fo and all dec'd in the family
6:00pm	Rita Lewis RIP
9:30am Otford	Agnes Kelly RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Pax Christi
11:00am West Kingsdown	John Gibson RIP
Monday 16 th Feria	
8:00am	Fr Joe Andradi
Tuesday 17 th S Anthony, Ab	
9:30am	Good health & safe travels of the donor
Wednesday 18 th Feria [Churcl	h Unity Octave begins]
8:00am	Ken Connele RIP (1 st anniversary)
10:00am Otford	Friends & Sevenoaks Loaves and Fishes Foodbank
Thursday 19 th Feria	
10:00am Borough Green	Julie Lee - best wishes for new life in US
12:00noon	In thanksgiving
	for a lifetime of graces and blessings
Friday 20 th <i>Feria</i>	
8:00am	Victoria Lapore RIP
10:00am West Kingsdown) John Gibson RIP
Saturday 21 st <i>S Agnes, V M</i>	
9:30am	John Gibson RIP
SUNDAY 22 nd January THIRD	SUNDAY of the YEAR
6:00pm (Sat)	Stefania & Jan Ociepa, Stanislaw Czaja
8:00am (Latin)	Ashian Myers RIP
9:15am	SPUC
11:15am	In thanksgiving: Mercado family
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am Otford	Leo & Reggie Frith (baptism)
9:30am Borough Green	Canon Colm Acton RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	St Bernadette's UCM (renewal of vows)

	Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially:
n Anthony Ford Y	Frank Eastbrooke, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken Holmes, Mary Scott, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes.
	• • •
	Departed anniversaries
	Pat McGowan, Mary Potter, Lisa Jane Taylor, Martha Jeffrey, Derek Crofton, Marie
of the donor	Fitzgerald, Denise Hafford, John Fortune, Erna Schwarz, Laura Coyle, Pat Edwards,
ersary)	Sara Gallagher, Helen Cheshire, Mary McCoy, Margaret Reid, Patricia
ank	Winkley, Sidney Gomar, Alan Peters, Nora Mackie, John O'Leary, Albert Munden,
new life in USA	Harry Healy, Simon Emmerson, Nora McCoy.
nd blessings	Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace
	LATIN ANTIPHONS
	Entrance
nislaw Czaja	Omnis terra adoret te, Deus, et psallat tibi; psalmum dicat nomini tuo, Altissime.

Communion

Nos cognovimus et credidimus caritati, quam Deus habet in nobis.