

CHILDREN'S LITURGY IN OTFORD



SMALL NOTICES

Recent Lottery winner requires full time:

- Butler
- Cleaner
- Cook
- Gardener
- Handyman
- Dog handler
- Maid
- Chauffeur
- Secretary

to live and work in my 2 bedroom flat.

Send details to Preston Likely
prestonlikely10@yahoo.co.uk

MISSING BOX OF MATCHES

Has anybody seen a missing box of Swan Vesta matches that I accidentally dropped in Oxford High Street on June 15th 1974?

There is a reward for finding this box
PLEASE CONTACT PRESTON LIKELY
prestonlikely10@yahoo.co.uk



ANIMAL SEANCE

Come along to my animal seance meetings and contact your dearly missed pet.

It doesn't matter what type of pet you had: a horse, pig, dog, cat, pigeon, even a gold fish - I can put you in touch with them!

Please note: your deceased pet may not want to speak to you
For details about future seance meetings, contact Preston
prestonlikely10@yahoo.co.uk

Ford Fiesta For Sale

26.3 owners
457,001 miles on the clock.
Chassis needs welding
Passenger seat is haunted
Only steers to the left
A leopard skin lined boot
Clockwork windscreen wipers
Driver's door made out of papier-mâché
Reverse gear only
Missing keys
This car has also appeared in Coronation Street

Would suit a first time buyer.

£89.50p

Contact: prestonlikely10@yahoo.co.uk

ARE YOU AN ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT ON THE RUN?

If you are an illegal immigrant on the run, and you are lookin' for a place to hide, then contact me. I can offer you accommodation with:

ALL MOD CONS
3 MEALS A DAY
A GARDEN
THE USE OF A CAR
All for FREE

What I ask in return is that you honour and obey the Queen, and vow to love this country. Also, I expect you to change your name to Nigel, if you're a man, or Trudy, if you're a woman, and call me father.

Contact Preston
prestonlikely10@yahoo.co.uk

HOW DO I ADVERTISE MY BUSINESS OR GET MY ADS IN THE NEWSLETTER?

PLEASE EMAIL:

SEVENOAKS@RCAOS.ORG.UK FOR FURTHER DETAILS.



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

22nd January 2023



Are You Coming? Matthew 4:12-23

Today's Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of the YEAR (Year A)

Isaiah 8: 23 - 9:3, Psalm 26, 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17, Matthew 4: 12-23

First Reading: this is the passage of scripture referred to in today's *Gospel*, in which *Matthew* emphasises that Jesus will fulfil this prophecy in His mission to the Gentiles.

The **Psalm** is a simple and confident hymn of trust in the Lord.

Second Reading: St Paul urges the Corinthians to avoid different parties within the Church and tells them to unite around Christ. This is an important text when we are observing the Octave for Christian Unity.

Gospel: Year A is the Year of Matthew, and from today onwards the Sunday *Gospels* work through the First Gospel, allowing the main themes and emphases of Matthew to emerge. In today's **Gospel** Jesus begins His public ministry. First He fulfils scripture by bringing light into darkness and begins His preaching with the message of repentance, then He calls the four fishermen to be His disciples, and finally He begins preaching and teaching, and healing.

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

Weekday Mass times:

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

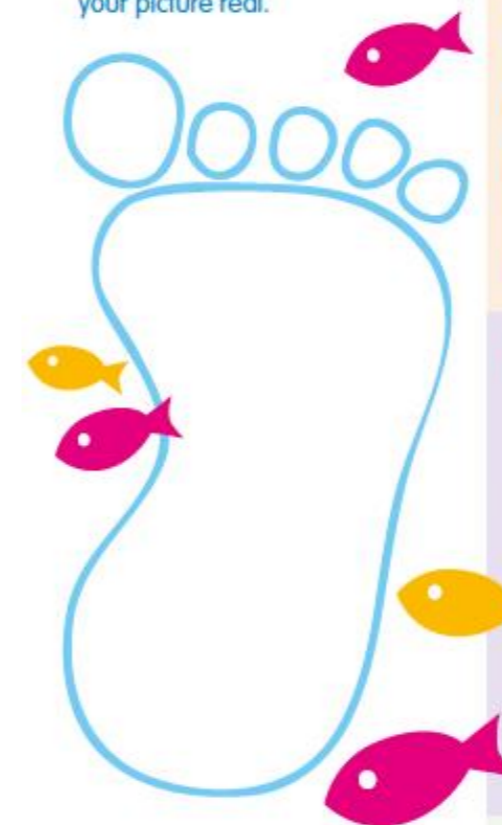
Executive Head:
Mrs Katherine Sexton
Academy Principal:
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



I can follow Jesus

Think of one way you could help at home today. Draw yourself helping at home. Ask Jesus to help you to make your picture real.



As Jesus is walking by the Sea of Galilee, he sees two brothers, Simon Peter and Andrew. They are fishing. Jesus asks them to, "follow me!". Next, he sees James and John, two more brothers. They are also fishermen, mending their nets. Jesus asks them to follow him too. All the fishermen come straight away!

FOLLOW ME!

Footprints

Find out Jesus' message. Put together the letters in the footprints.



Wordsearch

Find the names of the fishermen in the Gospel who answered Jesus' call.

L	U	A	N	D	R	E	W	J	E
E	V	L	O	S	Y	S	U	A	C
G	A	B	J	R	I	L	E	M	A
S	I	M	O	N	P	E	T	E	R
R	A	G	H	D	E	O	J	S	N
L	I	S	N	A	D	L	O	R	I

A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to answer your call. Help me to do what I am asked straight away. Amen.

Untangle the twine

Help Simon Peter find the net he is mending by following the twine.



CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Website: www.sevrparish.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 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

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 sevenoakscrow@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 Hurl chris.hurl@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)

James McSharry jamesmsharry@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

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

The Word of God

Today is the Sunday of the Word of God. Visit <https://www.godwhospeaks.uk/>, which is the website of the Bishops' Conference Scripture initiative. It is also the Sunday in the Octave for Christian Unity.

Second Collection

The Second Collection is the White Flower Appeal for SPUC. Go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/whiteflower2023> for information, resources, and how to get involved. SPUC campaigns to defend the right to life from the moment of conception until natural death. Please take a card, which you can find by the Newsletters.



Society for the Protection
of Unborn Children

Supply Priests

Fr Bryan Wells and one of the Capuchin Franciscans from Erith are supplying today, at Otford and at St Thomas's.

Christian Unity Services

'Be-longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice' is this year's theme.

The Sevenoaks Unity Service is at The Drive Methodist Church (The Drive, Sevenoaks TN13 3AE) at 4:00pm. Singers are invited to join the united choir; rehearsal at 3:00pm on the day. Please let Valerie Ruddle (01732 450355) know if you would like to sing.

The Otford Unity Service is at the Methodist Church, High Street at 6:30pm.

THIS WEEK

St Thomas's Sanctuary lighting

The work for the new lighting scheme, which was to have been executed earlier, will now start on Monday and end on Friday. There may be some disruption to the electricity supply this week.

Because the electricians need access, Adoration on Monday is cancelled.

Katherine Lester RIP

Funeral Mass at Most Holy Trinity at 11:15am on Monday, followed by Cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium.

Tuesday: 9:30am Mass

Year 4 from St Thomas' School attend this Mass.

Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity

The Octave concludes on Wednesday, the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul. Please continue to pray for Christian Unity at this time.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Thursday: SS Timothy & Titus, Bishops

This is of special interest at St Joseph's, where there is a relic of St Timothy in the Altar. Mass there as usual at 10:00am on Thursday.



Thursday: Parish Centre Working Party

Meeting on Thursday at 8:00pm, in the Parish Room.

NOTICES

Getting Married

Six months' notice is required. If you live in Sevenoaks parish you should contact Fr David (email is best) 6 months before the proposed date.

Baptism of Infants

Parents wanting a child Baptized should obtain a green information/application form (available in the Entrance of all four churches), read it carefully, fill it in, and return it either to a priest or to the Presbytery. Fr David will contact you to confirm the date and time. Nearer the day you will be asked to come to the Presbytery for a preparation session. Please read the rules about godparents closely.

Mass of Thanksgiving for the Ministry of

Mgr Matthew Dickens as Vicar General

On Saturday at 12:30pm in St George's Cathedral, Southwark, followed by a Reception in Amigo Hall. Mgr Matthew was a regular supply priest here until quite recently, and many of you may wish to attend. Nearest station: Waterloo East.

Trinity School Prayer Space

Parishioners are warmly invited to experience Trinity School's Prayer Space on Thursday 9th February at either 9am or 10:00am. RSVP to cheath@trinitysevenoaks.com, saying that you are from St Thomas's Catholic Parish and specifying which time you would like to attend.

Knock Pilgrimage 15th March

4 nights full board; £699 per person sharing, £150 single supplement. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Parish Centre Survey

Thanks to all who completed the recent survey. A summary of the responses can be viewed on page 8. The Working Party will now proceed to the next phase: having examined the various possibilities and solicited parishioners' views, it will now begin to formulate a plan for the refurbishment of the Centre.

Sadly for us, Amanda Buttinger - who has been convening the Working Party - is moving away from the parish, and we thank her for her work on this project and as a member of the parish Finance Committee. Christina Rose has kindly agreed to take over from her organising the Parish Centre Working Party.

Sevenoaks Loaves & Fishes Foodbank

January is a tough month for everyone, mentally and financially. At the Foodbank, our stock is low but the number of clients stays high. We are desperate for tinned meat (but no Fray Bentos please), tins of custard and rice pudding. As St Valentine's Day is approaching, I would like to give a small present to our clients who, for most of them, are single and won't receive anything. My aim is to collect a candle for everyone as a sign of love. I am grateful for any donation. Thank you.

Isabelle Mercer



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI: 2. Jesus of Nazareth



In August 2000, approved by the then Pope John Paul II, the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith published a declaration called *Dominus Iesus* ('The Lord Jesus'), which asserted that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation and that the Catholic Church is the sole true Church. The principal author is widely thought to be the then Prefect of the Congregation, one Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger.

This document, which was based on the teaching of the Second Vatican Council as well as the foundation of scripture, asserted what it called (in typical Roman or Vatican jargon) the Unicity and Universality of the salvific mystery of Jesus Christ. Quoting a phrase used by John Paul II in *Fides et Ratio*, the declaration states that "*The revelation of Christ will continue to be "the true lodestar" in history for all humanity*".

Having become Pope, Benedict XVI published a three volume work on the life and teachings of Jesus: *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration* in 2007, *Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week* (2011) and *Jesus of Nazareth: The Infancy Narratives* (2012). Benedict explicitly stated in the introduction that the books were not an exercise of his papal magisterium, but written purely in his personal capacity. In other words, Catholics are not obliged to agree with him.

Jesus of Nazareth is an extraordinary work, and I recommend you buy and read it. Most of us struggle to find the time to read such books; how a busy Pope found the time to write it is a marvel. Benedict had been, and remained at heart, a scholar whose mission was always to explain the Catholic faith. This work is a summary of his 60 years of theology and of his role as a pastor of souls; it is scholarly yet written so clearly that it is easily readable; it is the best introduction to

Benedict's thought and, at the same time, a most moving reflection on the significance of Jesus Christ. It is a perfect example of his ability to state profound truths simply.

Volume 1 covers the main part of Jesus' life and ministry, up to His Transfiguration, and is heavily based on the Gospel of *John*. This includes Christ's Baptism, His Temptations, the Sermon on the Mount, the Lord's Prayer, the message of the parables, the calling of the Twelve, the Confession of Peter, and the Transfiguration. In this "*personal search for the face of the Lord*" (see Psalm 27:8), Benedict asserts that Jesus was an historical figure, but that we have to interpret His significance theologically.

Volume II is about Holy Week, ie the period from Jesus' Entrance into Jerusalem to His Resurrection, and Benedict writes: "*Only in this second volume do we encounter the decisive sayings and events of Jesus' life ... I ... hope that I have been granted an insight into the figure of our Lord that can be helpful to all readers who seek to encounter Jesus and to believe in him*". The book is full of theological insights. For example the reflection on the Garden of Gethsemane examines the Passion of the Son as not simply the bodily sufferings of the Crucifixion but also as a metaphysical agony in which the Son drinks 'the chalice of wrath' prophesied by Jeremiah (*Jer* 25: 15-38); He who is Life itself takes on Himself the full horror of sin and evil.

In the third volume Benedict presents the stories of Jesus' infancy and childhood as being as relevant today as they were two thousand years ago. The Nativity is not merely an event in the past but one of 'unfolding significance' for people today.

In the Foreword to Volume III Benedict expresses the hope that his book "*will be able to help many people on their path toward and alongside Jesus*". As the publishers put it in the blurb: "*there is no greater vocation for a Pope than to preach the Gospel and this is what in this book Pope Benedict has done with conviction and urgency. It is a masterpiece of its kind*".

RESULTS OF PARISH CENTRE SURVEY

70% of respondents use our Parish Centre

Some parishioners (15%) do not use the centre because of the poor condition of the building or because there are no suitable activities for them or their families

The vast majority of respondents (79%) agree that our Parish Centre should be mixed use, offering adult space for clubs and meetings as well as child-friendly space for learning and

The survey was conclusive in identifying updated kitchen and toilet facilities as the number one priority

A wide range of households use our Parish Centre, including families with primary or secondary-age children (53%) and pensioners (38%)

Organised programmes, clubs and activities such as the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes, and The Pilgrims, are when most parishioners use our centre

Almost half of parishioners (44%) prefer to use the centre in the evenings (7- 11pm)

More than half of parishioners are satisfied with the centre, but a significant number are either dissatisfied (23%) or very dissatisfied (2%)

More modern and comfortable furniture, fixtures and fittings and Wi-Fi connectivity and I.T. upgrades were also identified by respondents as high priorities

Survey responses were finely balanced between those who would like to have one large hall and those who prefer a suite of small meeting rooms

The majority of respondents (77%) attend Mass at St Thomas's at least once a week

No specific access requirements were identified through the survey, although several respondents (15%) felt that improved lift or ramp access would be important

*Based on a sample of 47 parishioners surveyed in November 2022

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 22nd 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 *Oxford* Leo & Reggie Frith (baptism)
 9:30am *Borough Green* Canon Colm Acton RIP
 11:00am *West Kingsdown* St Bernadette's UCM (renewal of vows)

Monday 23rd *Feria*

8:00am All dec'd: Andradi - Brown family
 11:15am *Oxford* Funeral Mass: Katherine Lester RIP

Tuesday 24th *S Francis de Sales, B D*

9:30am All dec'd: Gough family

Wednesday 25th *The CONVERSION of S PAUL, Ap*

8:00am Mark Pembroke RIP
 10:00am *Oxford* Margaret Dickens RIP

Thursday 26th *SS Timothy & Titus, BB*

10:00am *Borough Green* Sibling's successful treatment
 12:00noon Sister Thaddeus

Friday 27th *Feria*

8:00am John Gibson RIP
 10:00am *West Kingsdown* Josephine Coakley RIP

Saturday 28th *S Thomas Aquinas, Pr D*

9:30am Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP

SUNDAY 29th January *THIRD SUNDAY of the YEAR*

6:00pm (Sat) James & Carmela Gibson RIP
 8:00am (Latin) Mark Pembroke RIP
 9:15am Sister Thaddeus
 11:15am Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI
 6:00pm Canon Colm Acton RIP
 9:30am *Oxford* People of the Parish
 9:30am *Borough Green* John Gibson RIP
 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Josephine Coakley RIP

Baptism

Welcome to

Pia Woods

who was Baptized at St Thomas', Sevenoaks

Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers, especially:

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

Deacon Samuel Gyepi-Garbrah, Ethel Whiddett, Oswald Brown, Mary Collier, Daniel Driscoll, Brian Denton, Erin Smith, Vera Hearn, Mary Wilkinson, Joan Harris, Rosemary Creagh, Alan Meerton, Bill Alen, Alice Wright, Stanislaw Galuszka, Bill Sherratt.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Cantate Domino canticum novum, cantate Domino, omnis terra. Confessio et pulchritudo in conspectu eius, sanctitas et magnificentia in sanctificatione eius.

Communion

Ego sum lux mundi, dicit Dominus; qui sequitur me, non ambulat in tenebris, sed habebit lumen vitae.