

LUKE AND LYDIA WILSON-BEALES'S CONFIRMATION



THE ALTAR BOYS - DAMIAN AND OWEN INGRAM



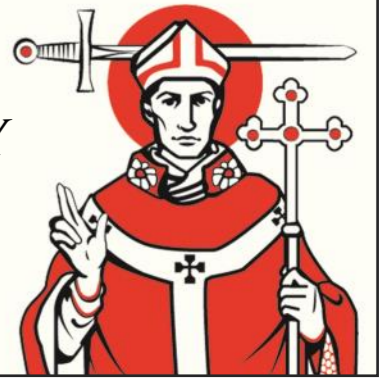
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Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

29th January 2023



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

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13, Psalm 145, 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31, Matthew 5:1-12a

First Reading: throughout the book of *Zephaniah* there is a strong contrast between the proud and the humble. It is, as we would expect, the humble or lowly who will enjoy salvation and peace at the Day of the Lord.

Psalm: a hymn of praise to God who is portrayed as creator and protector of the oppressed. It ends with a statement of the Lord's reign as king of Zion (ie Jerusalem) for ever.

Second Reading: God's call overturns normal human value systems. The Christians in Corinth probably came from the 'lower classes', but this is no accident. God chooses the seemingly weak and foolish in order to shame the wise and powerful in worldly matters.

Gospel: this is the Messiah's inaugural address, a fundamental part of *Matthew*, and better known as the Sermon on the Mount. Notice the detail that "he sat down"; this is not a detail to make the story more interesting, but makes the point that Jesus consciously occupied the Chair of Moses, as a rabbi authoritatively teaching the Law of Moses.

The Sermon on the Mount doesn't just tell Christians how to live but it also emphasises the significance of Jesus: He is the Messiah and this is a description of what life in His kingdom is like.

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

Weekday Mass times:

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

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

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



TRUST GOD!



Jesus goes up a hill and teaches his disciples. He tells them how people can be really happy. If we trust God, we will have the kind of happiness that lasts forever.

Puzzle



Jesus' message today has a special name. Write down the first letter of each object to find out what it is called.



What makes you happy?

Beatrice is a happy girl. These are some of the things that make her happy. Put a circle around any of these things that make you happy. Do you want to add a picture of something else that makes you happy?



What are they doing?

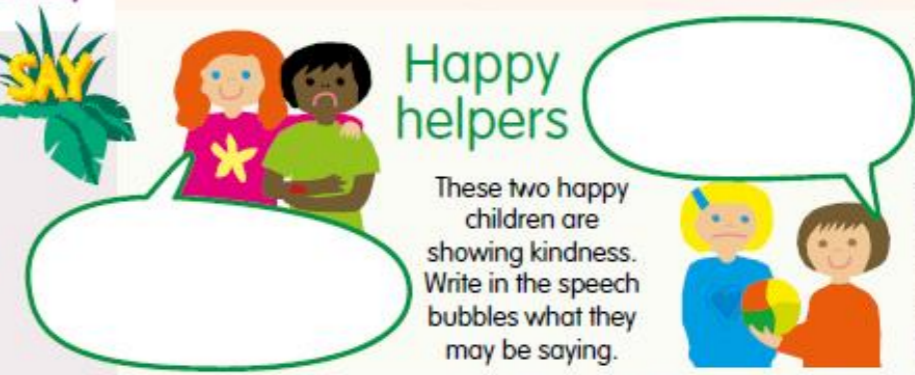
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_ _ _ _ _ j _ _ _ _

(ninetsi) (ot) (suse)



Thank you, Jesus, for showing us how to be happy. Please help me to trust you always. Amen.



Happy helpers

These two happy children are showing kindness. Write in the speech bubbles what they may be saying.

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

Oxford, 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

Weekly Newsletter

Please take this Newsletter home with you, to provide reading and prayerful material for the week, and to ensure you don't miss anything. If you must put it back, **please fold it back as you found it**, so it is available for the next Mass; otherwise the welcomers have to throw them away. On no account put it back if your child has drawn in it. Please be considerate to the welcomers and to those who attend later Masses.

TODAY

Supply Priests

Fr Bryan Wells (if he has recovered from his illness) and one of the Capuchin Franciscans are again helping out today.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group lead the music today.

THIS WEEK

St Thomas' School

Year 3 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday. Parents and other family members are always especially welcome to attend these Masses.

Thursday: Candlemas

Candlemas - or the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - falls on Thursday. Holy Mass at St Joseph's at 10:00am and at St Thomas's at 12:00 noon, both beginning with the Candlemas ceremonies, including the Blessing of Candles.

Parish Office

Magda will be away on a break later this week, so the Office will not be open on Thursday or Friday. Call in Monday to Wednesday (9:00am - 12:00 noon) for routine matters like booking Mass Intentions. Notices for this Newsletter should be received by email by Monday.

Anne McDonnell RIP

Reception of the Body into Most Holy Trinity on Thursday at 4:00pm. Funeral Mass at 11:00am on Friday, followed by Interment at the Tunbridge Wells Cemetery.

Friday: Blessing of Throats

On what would be the memorial of St Blaise if we weren't observing St Laurence of Canterbury in this diocese there will be the traditional Blessing of Throats at the end of the Holy Mass at St Thomas's at 8:00am and at St Bernadette's at 10:00am.

Maria Cerullo RIP

Funeral Mass in St Thomas's on Friday at 11:00am, followed by Interment in the Greatness Cemetery.

PARISH NOTICES

Fr Paul Okora

Fr Paul has recently been Incardinated into Southwark Archdiocese, that is to say he has transferred from the Ogoja Diocese. Consequent upon his Incardination the Archbishop has appointed him Parish Priest of St Pius X, Norbiton. Previously he was Parochial Administrator. We send him our congratulations and best wishes.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Calendar

If you think Fr David makes up some of the Saints' days etc, you can view the Diocesan Calendar online: <https://rcaos.org.uk/faith/ordo/>.

Proposed Parish Pastoral Committee

Please see page 8 for information about the proposed Parish Pastoral Committee. Do read it carefully, so you are clear about what the Committee is and is not. Do invite the Holy Spirit to guide you in considering standing for election or to assent if you are asked to be a nominated member by Fr David.

More information about the elections will be given shortly.

DIOCESAN & OTHER NOTICES

The Episcopal Ordination of Philip Moger: 21st February

The Episcopal Ordination of the Bishop-Elect will take place in St George's Cathedral on Tuesday 21st February at 12:30pm. All are welcome to attend; please be seated by midday. Refreshments afterwards. For those unable to attend in person, it will be livestreamed at <https://bit.ly/EpiscopalOrdination23>.

Inaugural Mass for CARITAS Southwark: 18th March

At St George's Cathedral on Saturday 18th March at 12:30pm. Representatives from every parish are invited to attend. CARITAS Southwark is an initiative to encourage us all to actively engage with our faith in words and deeds.

Sacramental Guidelines

The Archbishop has asked the Agency for Evangelization and Catechesis to review the *Sacramental Guidelines* currently established for our

Archdiocese. The purpose of the review is to understand more fully the current sacramental practice in our parishes and to inform the development of new, updated guidelines. If you are a Parish Lead or are involved in catechetical work in the parish, please contact Fr David participating in the review.

'Growing in Faith Together'

This new online course has been developed in collaboration between the Southwark Marriage & Family Life Team, the Southwark Agency for Evangelization, and SycamOre. It consists of four one hour long sessions via Zoom, and is a wonderful opportunity for

- ♦ married couples to enrich their friendship and love,
- ♦ engaged couples who have completed their Marriage course and who want to continue exploring their faith together.

The course runs on Tuesday evenings, 8:00 - 9:00pm, starting on 28th February. Register at <https://aec.rcaos.org.uk/together>.

'Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ' Weekend

If you are mourning after the death of a loved one, this weekend may be for you. It is at The Friars, Aylesford 24th - 26th March. Cost £230 single, £210 shared. Please phone 01622 717272 or email reception@thefriars.org.uk.

Crib Offerings

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| The Crib Offerings were | |
| Sevenoaks | 212.52 |
| West Kingsdown | 46.80 |
| Borough Green | 69.15 |
| Otford | 20.40 |

Thank you. The total of £348.87 has been sent to support the work of the Latin Patriarchate in the Holy Land.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI: 3.a Liturgy



As a University professor, as a Cardinal at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and as Pope, Benedict was always a theologian who thought and prayed with the Church. First and foremost he was a sort of supercharged catechist, and as a priest was always mindful of the centrality of the Sacred Liturgy. It is no surprise, therefore, that many of his writings were about the Liturgy, for it is in the sacramental life of the Church that we encounter the living God who 'has become flesh and dwelt among us' (John 1:14).

Christianity is not a religion of abstract concepts. Christ went to great lengths to emphasise his bodily Resurrection: "touch and see" etc (Luke 24:39; see John 20:27). It is Christ's body that we encounter when we meet the divine; His body is what we must touch to believe. Jesus Christ is thus not an idea, He is a person; He left behind not just His teachings but Himself, and He leaves Himself to us in the Sacred Liturgy. The worship of the Church (Christ's continuing Body on earth) is where we meet God, where we have communion with God.

This permeates Benedict's many writings about Liturgy (and indeed all his writings), and the principal book in which he expresses this is *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, written as Cardinal Ratzinger in 2000. The first part deals with the basic question 'what is the Liturgy?' This includes a fascinating analysis of the Exodus which, he says, was not only an important historical event in the history of the Hebrews but was also a liturgical event in which God consecrates the Hebrews to himself as a worshipping community. It is for this reason that God gives them the Promised Land, because it is the place (the Temple in Jerusalem) where the Liturgy will take place. The land thus becomes a divine dwelling where the Creator himself abides. The true worship revealed

in the Exodus is in stark contrast to the golden calf incident, a human generated cult, which "is a warning about any kind of self-initiated and self-seeking worship".

In chapter 2, Ratzinger considers creation and the cosmos, and asserts that "the goal of worship and the goal of creation as a whole are one and the same – divinization, a world of freedom and love". The Eucharist anticipates the goal of creation and at the same time urges it on.

In chapter 3, about the Biblical origin of Liturgy, he explains how the Liturgy takes place in the context of the struggles of mankind and society to find atonement, forgiveness, and reconciliation; this is made easier when we realise that the only gift we should give to God is himself. "Christian liturgy is liturgy on the way, a liturgy of pilgrimage toward the transfiguration of the world, which will only take place when God is 'all in all'".

Part 2 of *The Spirit of the Liturgy* is about time and space in the Liturgy. Here my brain starts to spin, as it does when I think about Einstein's Theory of Relativity, but let us try to understand! The foundation of the Liturgy is the historical death and Resurrection of Christ, but "Christian worship is surely a cosmic liturgy, which embraces both heaven and earth".

Christian worship operates on three levels. On the past it recalls the saving acts of Jesus, especially at the Last Supper and His Resurrection. Liturgy also operates in the present, as it makes present those saving acts; at Mass we make our own sacrifice as Christ makes His. The Liturgy is also eschatological, that is to say it concerns the future: it is a foretaste of the eternal banquet in heaven to come. In the Liturgy earthly time and heavenly time meet.

Chapter 2 is about Sacred Places and the significance of Church Buildings. Our Churches are based on Jewish synagogues, but with certain innovations. First, our Liturgy is oriented towards Jesus Christ, not the Temple in Jerusalem. Secondly, the Altar on which the Eucharistic sacrifice is celebrated is the "place where heaven is opened up" and is central to our worship. The third innovation is that our worship focusses not just on the Torah (the Jewish Scriptures) but especially on the Gospels.

PROPOSED SEVENOAKS PARISH PASTORAL COMMITTEE

Composition

The Parish Priest presides, as with all committees, but the committee will elect a Chair and Secretary. There will be 8 elected members: 5 from St Thomas's and one each from Most Holy Trinity, St Joseph's and St Bernadette's, plus up to 5 appointed by the Parish Priest. The committee should include a wide variety of people. The Parish Clergy will attend *ex officio*.

Members will serve for three years; this three year term constitutes a three year planning cycle.

Members, who must be registered in the Parish database, should be parishioners noted for their faith, good morals, and prudence. Ability to study, ponder, and recommend is vital. Members should be representative of the local community.

The elections and appointments will take place in Lent 2023.

Role of the Committee

Its role is (in the words of Canon Law) to investigate, ponder, and recommend (Canon 511). Like all parish committees it will be advisory to the Parish Priest; he will consult the committee to access members' practical wisdom.

The committee's first task is to study Pastoral matters brought before it, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and then reflect on and evaluate those matters, and then make recommendations. Prayer is an essential underpinning of this process, as is discernment about where God is leading the Parish.

The primary matters for the committee's consideration are evangelization and outreach, pastoral care, development of ministries to different people (eg youth, families) and faith formation.

What the Committee is not

The Committee is not necessarily responsible for implementing recommendations: this may be done by another Parish group, by an ad hoc group formed for the purpose, or by identifying those who have the God given gifts required. The Parish Priest may often ask committee members to implement a recommendation: in this they will be volunteers acting under the Parish Priest's direction.

The Committee cannot change Canon Law or Church doctrine (and so it is not a debating chamber). It will liaise with the three local 'outstation' committees on pastoral matters, but is not responsible for financial or premises matters, which are the remit of the Parish Finance Committee, or for local practicalities which are the remit of the three local committees.

Nor is its role co-ordinating the various Parish committees, volunteers and groups.

Meetings

An initial day of recollection will be held at the beginning of the triennium, which members must attend. Meetings will then be held every other month, and for no longer than 2 hours.

The Parish Pastoral Committee will be commissioned on or near Pentecost.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 29th January *FOURTH 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 RIP |
| 6:00pm | Canon Colm Acton RIP |
| 9:30am <i>Oxford</i> | People of the Parish |
| 9:30am <i>Borough Green</i> | John Gibson RIP |
| 11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i> | Josephine Coakley RIP |

Monday 30th *Feria*

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 8:00am | Good intentions of the donor's family |
|--------|---------------------------------------|

Tuesday 31st *S John Bosco, Pr*

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| 9:30am | Peter and Audrey Finn RIP |
|--------|---------------------------|

Wednesday 1st February *Feria*

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 8:00am | Special Intention |
| 10:00am <i>Oxford</i> | Denise Hafford RIP |

Thursday 2nd *The PRESENTATION of the LORD*

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 10:00am <i>Borough Green</i> | Mary Etheridge RIP |
| 12:00noon | Pat Harman (85 th birthday) |

Friday 3rd *S Laurence of Canterbury, B*

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 8:00am | Recovery and good health of Donald D'Souza |
| 10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i> | Josephine Coakley RIP |
| 11:00am | <i>Funeral Mass: Maria Cerullo RIP</i> |
| 11:00am <i>Oxford</i> | <i>Funeral Mass: Anne Marie McDonnell RIP</i> |

Saturday 4th *of Our Lady*

| | |
|--------|-------------------|
| 9:30am | People in Ukraine |
|--------|-------------------|

SUNDAY 5th February *FIFTH SUNDAY of the YEAR*

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 6:00pm (Sat) | Bob Hilton RIP (anniversary) |
| 8:00am (Latin) | People of the Parish |
| 9:15am | Gerry Leavey |
| 11:15am | Frank Haggarty RIP (anniversary) |
| 6:00pm | Joseph Fumihide Shoji RIP and all the Shoji family |
| 9:30am <i>Oxford</i> | Edmund Thomas Watts RIP |
| 9:30am <i>Borough Green</i> | Paul Lester RIP |
| 11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i> | Robert Kemp |

Baptism

Welcome to

Ivy Mastrantone

who was Baptized at
Most Holy Trinity, Otford

*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

Martha Griessen, Derek
Goldsmith, Norah Healy, Irene
Brian, Bart McGirr, Kitty
Meaden, Anne Sommer, Tom
Loader, Ivan Jones, Madeleine
Campbell, Gillian Carlton,
Hilary McNabb, Rosemary
Remnant, Maureen Smith, Mai
Jordan, Theresa Corry,
David Van Hesteren.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Salvos nos fac, Domine Deus
noster, et congrega nos de
nationibus, ut confiteamur
nomini sancto tuo, et gloriemur
in laude tua.

Communion

Illumina faciem tuam super
servum tuum, et salvum me fac
in tua misericordia. Domine,
non confundar, quoniam
invocavi te.