

SOME PARISHIONERS AT MONSIGNOR MATTHEW DICKENS' MASS OF THANKSGIVING



FR DAVID AFTER HIS PROMOTION TO KNIGHT COMMANDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE



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Welcome
 To Our
 Church



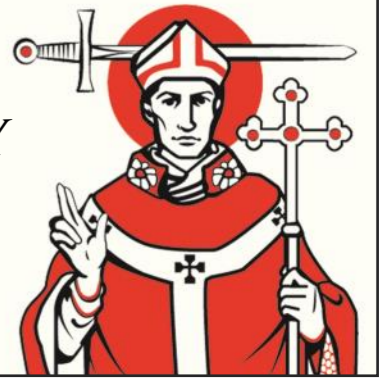
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Archdiocese of
 Southwark

PARISH OF
 ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
 SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
 BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

5th February 2023



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

Isaiah 58: 7 - 10; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 2: 1 - 5; Matthew 5: 13 - 16

First Reading: if we, as the Church, engage in what nowadays we would term social justice – and this is an important theme in the Old Testament prophets – then we will enable God's saving grace to be available to those who need it.

The **Psalm** continues the idea that if the good or just person puts God's virtues into practice he or she will be a light in the darkness.

Second Reading: it seems that the Corinthians did not think highly of Paul's speaking abilities, but Paul makes a virtue out of it by saying that we should not rely on human philosophy but on God's power.

Gospel: this is part of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and these sayings about salt and light follow on from the Beatitudes. Although Jesus says 'you are', these are really commands: this is what Christian disciples should be like. We should also note that 'you' is plural: it is the community, the Church, which is called to be salt and light. Salt brings out the existing taste of the food; if however the Church becomes corrupt or conforms completely to the secular world and fails to bring Christ's teachings to the world, it is useless. Likewise, the Church itself is not the light, but the lamp which enables Christ who is the light of the world to be seen.

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!

I will shine

We shine with God's love when we are kind and helpful.
 Draw yourself inside the lamp doing something kind today.



Jesus says that his friends are salt for the earth and light for the world. A small pinch of salt makes a big difference to the taste of food. Light gets rid of darkness. When we live as God asks, we will shine with God's light and love and make a big difference to the world.

Spot the difference



Jesus' message

Start with the letter arrowed and use every other letter, skipping the S the second time around, to find what Jesus said in today's Gospel.
 You are the _____



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Each letter appears only once in each row and column.

Fill in this table so that the letters SALT fit in every square.

S			T
	T		
	S		
A			S

A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to be like you. Help me to shine with your love and goodness, so that I will make the world a better place. Amen.

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

TODAY

Racial Justice Sunday

Today is Racial Justice Day. The Archbishop last year stated strongly that there was no place for Racism in the Catholic Church, and encouraged all to "...broaden our hearts to love and minds to understand and to recognise that in the cultures of others, in the languages and traditions of others, there is something enormously enriching for the whole of the world."

This year on Racial Justice Sunday, Churches Together in Britain and Ireland encourage us to remember Stephen Lawrence, the 30th anniversary of whose racist killing falls on 22nd April 2023.

Supply Priests

Our regular supply priests - Fr Bryan Wells and the Capuchin Franciscans from Erith - are once again assisting with Masses today.

THIS WEEK

Parish Office

Magda is away on a break this week, so the Office will be closed. Fr David and Fr Peter will do their best to deal with any Office matters.

Day of Prayer for Victims of Human Trafficking

This international Day of prayer and awareness is observed on Wednesday, the memorial of St Josephine Bakhita. It is designated by the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, in remembrance of victims and survivors of labour and sex trafficking.

World Day for the Sick

Saturday - the memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes - is the 31st World Day for the Sick. The Pope's Message this year can be found at <https://bit.ly/WorldDayoftheSick2023>.

NOTICES

Lent 2023

Ash Wednesday this year is on Wednesday 22nd February, and so our Lenten discipline and programmes will soon be upon us. Please see page 8 for more information.

Reception of Holy Communion

A reminder that Holy Communion is administered on the tongue or in the hand. Please note that:

- if you are still choosing to wear a face covering at Holy Mass, it must be removed before the reception of Holy Communion;
- If receiving in the hand, please ensure your hands are clean, that one hand is laid flat upon the other, and that you place the Sacred Host in your mouth in front of the priest before returning to your seat;
- Holy Communion will not be placed into your hand if you are wearing gloves (because of the danger of snagging particles of the Sacred Body);
- those who are not Catholics, or are otherwise not in a position to receive Holy Communion at this time, should not come forward in the Communion Procession. Small children, who cannot be left behind on their own, may come forward with their parent.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

In St Thomas's on Mondays from the end of the 8:00am Mass until 9:30am, and on Tuesdays 6:00pm-7:00pm. In Most Holy Trinity, Otford on Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30pm and on Fridays 11:00am - 12:00noon. In St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown on Wednesdays 12:00 noon - 1:00pm.

Lent would be a good time to start attending this valuable prayer time.

Friends of the Holy Land Charity Concert

The London Welsh Male Voice Choir with guest soloists The Priests, in support of Christians in the Holy Land. Thursday 16th February, 7:30pm, in Westminster Cathedral.

Tickets can be brought through Eventbrite: search *LWMVC Concert at Westminster Cathedral*.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Episcopal Ordination of Bishop-Elect Philip Moger

On Tuesday 21st February at 12:30pm in the Cathedral. Those attending are asked to be seated by midday. For those unable to attend in person, it will be live-streamed at <https://bit.ly/EpiscopalOrdination23>.

Inauguration Mass for CARITAS Southwark

On Saturday 18th March at 12:30pm in the Cathedral. CARITAS Southwark is an initiative intended to encourage us all to actively engage with our faith in words and deeds. Representatives from the parish are invited to attend.

Catholic Spirituality Network Conference 2023

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Hope - Opening spaces for conversation and encounter. Keynote speaker Dr Clare Watkins with Sr Regula Hug, SSA. Monday 20th - Wednesday 22nd March, The Hayes Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Booking form at <http://www.csnretreats.org.uk/conference.php> or catholicspiritualitynetwork@gmail.com or 07756 864784.

THE MEMORARE

REMEMBER, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

Our Father

who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth
as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

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.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI: 3.b Liturgy continued



Chapter 4 of Part 2 of *The Spirit of the Liturgy* is on the Reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. The Tabernacle, the fulfilment of what the Ark of the Covenant represented, is the place where God truly dwells: "in the humblest parish church no less than the grandest cathedral". "A church without the eucharistic presence is somehow dead".

Ratzinger's next chapter is about Sacred Time: "all time is God's time". Sunday, as the day of Resurrection, becomes very important, as the 'measure of time'. The seasons of the Church's calendar – Easter, Christmas, etc - also become very significant, drawing us into the sphere of eternity and drawing all time into the hands of God.

Part 3 is entitled Art and Liturgy. Christian images or icons are (or should be) sacramental (making historical events present in visible form), eschatological (images of hope for the future), sacred (leading us to prayer), liturgical (images are at the service of the Liturgy), incarnational (the absence of images would contradict the Incarnation), Christological (leading us to Christ), and Trinitarian (leading us to God, the Holy Trinity).

The second chapter in this part is about Music and Liturgy. Ratzinger points out that 'to sing' is one of the most frequent words in the Bible, and the singing of the Church comes out of love for God; as St Augustine says "singing is a lover's thing".

The final Part 4 is about Liturgical Form. Here we see the nub of Cardinal Ratzinger's understanding of Liturgy: "the greatest gift of Christian faith is that we know what right worship is". Our rites have developed over many centuries and in many different places, and are thus bound to the Tradition of the faith: "the greatness of the liturgy depends ... on its unspontaneity". One's individual creativity cannot –

and must not – replace the Liturgy as we have received it and as the Church ordains it. There must therefore not be what he calls 'tomfoolery and banal experiments' in the Liturgy. Liturgy, and the Mass in particular, is an expression of ecclesiality and of the Church's identity.

The final chapter concerns the Body and Liturgy. The Eucharist is first and foremost the *actio divina*, the action of God. We, as Vatican II put it, should have active or actual participation, which means that we play our part in the *prayer*.

Posture is important. Kneeling does not come from any culture, it comes from the Bible; Jesus knelt to pray in the Garden of Gethsemane for instance. Likewise prostration, which occurs on two occasions: on Good Friday and at Ordinations. These bodily gestures are the bearer of spiritual meaning, which is why genuflection (bending the knee) is so important – as a Christological gesture – and cannot be abandoned. Striking the breast at the *Confiteor* is another example of a Biblical gesture, when we acknowledge our guilt and beg for forgiveness.

Finally, silence is also a part of the Liturgy; it is a positive stillness before the mystery, and is spiritually helpful after Holy Communion.

Pope Benedict elicited some controversy with his Apostolic Letter *Summorum Pontificum* issued in 2007, granting freedom to use the previous *Roman Missal* (of 1962), that is the Traditional Latin Mass or Tridentine Rite as it is often if inaccurately called, stating that it had never been abrogated. Its use is consistent with his understanding of the Liturgy, but essentially he saw it as an act of unity within the Church, out of pastoral concern for those who wished to celebrate it. This is sometimes referred to by commentators as the Hermeneutic of Continuity as opposed to the Hermeneutic of Rupture.

He also inserted St Joseph's name in the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Eucharistic Prayers. Otherwise Pope Benedict made few liturgical administrative orders, preferring to lead by example, always celebrating papal Liturgies with reverence, humility and a profound sense that they were oriented towards God, not the Pope. Anyone hoping to understand Benedict's thought, not to mention the rich liturgical theology of Catholicism, needs to read his writings on the subject.

LENT 2023 IN SEVENOAKS PARISH

Ash Wednesday / February 22nd

Holy Mass with imposition of ashes:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 2:00pm (attended by the School Key Stage 2), 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's: 11:00am.

St Joseph's: 6:00pm.

Sycamore Lent Programme

- **Tuesdays in Lent – starting on Tuesday 28th February – at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.**
- Six sessions about how to live the Christian faith in everyday life. What are the common challenges that we meet, and how can we live out our different vocations and grow in holiness and love?
- The program will be the Sycamore pathway *Living the Christian Faith in the World* (visit <https://www.sycamore.fm/pathways/b-formation-pathways/living-faith-in-the-world/>).
- The format is the same as we did before the pandemic struck: a light meal will be served at the beginning, then short video presentations and an opportunity for group discussion.
- To register (this is helpful for catering) please go to the link on the Parish website (<http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/>).
- Ending at 9:00pm.

Thursday evening talks

- **On Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd March, 7:30 – 9:00pm.**
- A series of individual in-depth talks, followed by discussion. The speakers are Fr Matthew O’Gorman (PP Brixton Hill), Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ (Fellow, Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge), Fr Lawrence Lew OP (Prior of St Dominic’s), and Fr Tom Lynch (PP Strood).
- Refreshments served at the beginning.

Stations of the Cross

† St Thomas’s, Sevenoaks on Fridays at 8:00pm.

† Most Holy Trinity, Otford on Thursdays at 7:30pm, instead of the usual Holy Hour.

† St Joseph’s, Borough Green on Thursdays after the 10:00am Mass.

† St Bernadette’s, West Kingsdown on Fridays at 7:30pm.

The four recordings of the Way of the Cross (one for each church) will again be viewable on the parish website.

Sacrament of Penance

“According to the Church’s command, after having attained the age of discretion, each of the faithful is bound by an obligation faithfully to confess serious sins at least once a year” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* §1457). Confessions are heard in St Thomas’s on Saturdays 10:30 – 11:00am and 5:15 – 5:45pm. Priests will always hear your Confession at other times and in three Chapels if they can.

‘Renewed in Hope’

The Archdiocesan Spirituality Commission is offering a Retreat experience for individuals in Lent 2023. Drawing on the Sunday Mass readings it will help participants to find fresh ways of living and working in hope. It is based on a weekly email with a link to a 20 minute video, in which the Archbishop will introduce the theme and a witness will speak of the relevance in their daily life.

All you have to do is to sign up at <http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv> and set aside space for reflection.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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>Otford</i>	Edmund Thomas Watts RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Paul Lester RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Robert Kemp

Monday 6th *SS Paul Miki and Companions, MM*

8:00am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
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Tuesday 7th *Feria*

9:30am	Recovery and good health of Donald D’Souza
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Wednesday 8th *Feria*

8:00am	Good estate of Eileen Teevan
10:00am <i>Otford</i>	John Gibson RIP

Thursday 9th *Feria*

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Mary Etheridge RIP
12:00noon	James & Carmela Gibson RIP

Friday 10th *Scholastica, V*

8:00am	Safe overseas travel of Donor’s family
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Good estate of Nolie Simmonds

Saturday 11th *Our Lady of Lourdes*

9:30am	Sheila Tomkins RIP
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SUNDAY 12th February *SIXTH SUNDAY of the YEAR*

6:00pm (Sat)	Dec’d members: Watson & Landon family
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	More vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
11:15am	Margaret Dickens RIP
6:00pm	Danielle Harty Brandao RIP
9:30am <i>Otford</i>	Lisa Emms RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Martin & Vivienne Andrews RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Peace in Ukraine

Departed anniversaries

Louise Comerford, John Havercan, Stephanie Catherwood, Mary Linda Meaden, Marie Temple, Bridget Jones, Canon John Bailey, Margaret Reid, Ursula Cassidy.

**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:**

Tony Barrett, 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.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Venite, adoremus Deum, et procidamus ante Dominum, qui fecit nos; quia ipse est Dominus Deus noster.

Communion

Beati qui lugent, quoniam ipsi consolabuntur. Beati qui esuriunt et sitiunt iustitiam, quoniam ipsi saturabuntur.