LENTEN PROGRAMME FOR 2023

Tuesday evening from 28 February to 4 April Food served from 7:30 - sessions finish by 9:00

SYCAMORE

Each year our Parish tries to offer a Lenten Program to help us deepen our faith. This year we are pleased to announce the return of Sycamore. The format comprises a light meal, short video presentations and an opportunity for small group chat. The material is curated by our own, and much beloved, London Priest Fr Stephen Wang, who now works in Rome.

"Living the Christian Faith in the World"

(1) CREATION, FALL, SALVATION - The goodness of creation. Suffering and sin. The gift of salvation. (2) THE MEANING OF LOVE -What is love? How to love your neighbour. Knowing the love of God.

(3) FINDING TRUE FREEDOM - Is there such a thing as right and wrong? Where can we find moral guidance? How do you discover your true identity?

(4) FORGIVENESS, HEALING AND MISSION - Forgiveness and the Sacrament of Confession. Healing and the Sacrament of the Sick. Christian mission and the call to share our faith.

(5) THE SOCIAL TEACHING OF THE CHURCH - The dignity of the human person and the right to life. Christian teaching about family and society. Speaking the truth and following conscience.

(6) THE CHRISTIAN VOCATIONS - The meaning of vocation. Marriage and family life. Ordination and consecrated life.

See http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/ for registration or hand in completed form to Parish secretary

Thursday evening from 2nd March to 23rd March Refreshments from 7:00pm, talks at 7:30pm 'Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return'



With these words Ash Wednesday encourages us to return to the beginning, to take a step back and gain perspective over our lives and over our faith to prepare ourselves for Easter. Make the most of your Lent by coming to these Lenten talks and prepare well for Easter.

March 2nd: 'Getting the Most out of Lent'. Fr Matthew O'Gorman, Parish Priest of Corpus Christi, Brixton Hill, will base his talk on the powerful witness of St Catherine of Siena. How can she help us to get the most out of Lent?

March 9th: 'Signs of Hope in a broken world'. Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ, Fellow of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge. In a world rife with injustice and conflict how do we find hope this Lent?

March 16th: 'Consolation of the Cross'. Fr Lawrence Pew OP, Prior and Parish Priest of St Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill. He reflects on the consolations we receive from our Crucified Saviour.

March 23rd: 'Preparing for Holy Week'. Fr Tom Lynch, PP of English Martyrs, Strood. Holy Week is the most important and sacred week for Christians throughout the world. How do we prepare for it?



Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



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

Sirach 15: 16-21, Psalm 118, 1 Corinthians 2: 6-10, Matthew 5: 17-37 First Reading: we have free will, but God does not want us to sin. We can choose to keep the

commandments faithfully.

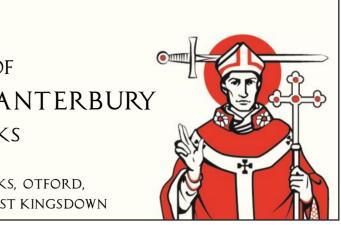
Psalm: following God's law is the only thing which can bring happiness, but to do that requires God's help.

Second Reading: Paul is here cleverly using the Corinthian's own philosophical vocabulary against them: they are claiming to be 'spiritual' but in fact are not. The true wisdom of the Spirit is quite beyond ordinary human knowledge and language.

The sayings in today's **Gospel** are only found in Matthew, although Jesus' claim to be fulfilling the law and the prophets rather than abolishing them and His criticism of the scribes and Pharisees are common enough.

The first point is that we cannot reject the Old Testament: it is part of our salvation history, and Christ does not make sense without it. So the Ten Commandments for example are still in force; we cannot replace them with a vague, hippy-style appeal to love. Secondly, Jesus has some hard things to say about anger, lust, divorce, and oaths. There will few of us who can measure our own lives against these commandments and not be provoked to go to Confession, to acknowledge our shortfalls!

Jesus' admonition to make peace before coming to make an offering at the altar lies behind the practice of Fr Davíd the Sign of Peace at Mass.



12th February 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

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown

TN15 6JP



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

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

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

Academy Principal: Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

> > 2

Executive Head: Mrs Katherine Sexton

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

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

Contents this Week

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TODAY

St Thomas's Masses

It being half-term week there is no Childrens' Liturgy of the Word at the 9:15am Mass. We are still in need of people to help with this. Can YOU volunteer to help?

The Traditional Choir leads the music at the 11:15am Mass.

Supply Priests

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

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.

Otford Ecumenical Meeting

Meeting on Thursday. Please speak to Sarah Harrison if you have any ecumenical matters to raise.

Parish Finance Committee

Meets on Thursday evening. Email Mary Scott if you have any queries.

Next Sunday: annual Mission Appeal

We shall be joined by priests from the Society of African Missions (SMA), for whom the Second Collection will be taken.

For more information go to https://www.sma-gb.org/.

PARISH NOTICES

The Pilgrims: Tuesday 21st February

It's Shrove Tuesday! Join us for Pancakes at 10:15am, after the Mass, in the Parish Room.

Ash Wednesday (22nd February)

Mass with the imposition of ashes: St Thomas's 8:00am (Latin) 2:00pm, 8:00pm; Most Holy Trinity 10:00am; St Bernadette's 11:00am; St Joseph's 6:00pm.

Please note the abnormal time (2:00pm) for the School Mass.

Every year several people come to Mass on the first Sunday in Lent and say they forgot about Ash Wednesday. Don't forget it: write it in your diary now.

St Joseph's - World Day of Prayer

Everyone is welcome to the World Day of Prayer on Friday 3rd March at 11:00am. The focus will be on Taiwan. Refreshments will be served afterwards. If you are able to bring a plate of food to share, please sign up on the list in the Narthex.

Advance Notice

There will be a Quiz Night at St Joseph's on Saturday 30th September. Please put the date in your diaries, so you don't miss it.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Mass Intentions

We are very booked up at the moment for Mass Intentions (for example the next available date at St Joseph's is April 9th). If you want a particular date you are advised to book well in advance.

Please use the Mass Intention envelopes, available in each Church Entrance.

Finance

The Second Collection for SPUC came to £554.92. As a matter of interest, £133.71 of this was donated via the card reader at St Thomas's.

The Second Collection for Pax Christi was £413.40.

Thank you for your generosity.

You can always make donations online for the First Collection (donations to the Parish), Second Collection, Mass Intentions, Repository, etc to

> Bank: NatWest A/c name: RCAS Sevenoaks Sort Code: 60 - 19 - 02 A/c No: 25782002.

Please put your name (so we can reclaim any Gift Aid and match the donation to the correct destination) and what it is for (eg CAFOD Collection) in the Reference.

St Thomas's Church & Parish Centre

We keep finding lights left on, windows - even doors - left open and so on, with a consequent waste of energy and money and a security risk. Fire doors are also sometimes left propped open.

If you are the last person down from the gallery, or the last person to exit the Centre, or the last user of the kitchen or the lavatories, please turn off the lights and close the fire doors. Otherwise you could end up being personally liable if there is any damage or a fire, and energy bills are quite high enough without wasting electricity.

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.

CAFOD: the Big Lent Walk

Walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty. Challenge yourself and take on the Big Lent Walk! Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends. Raise money to help people overcome poverty. Search for 'The Big Lent Walk'.

Turin Shroud Exhibition

An exhibition dedicated to the Turin Shroud, featuring a life-size replica and various attendant exhibits, will be at St George's Cathedral from 12th to 27th February.

The Archbishop has granted a partial indulgence to the faithful who venerate the replica. This may be applied to any person living or dead. Free entry.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The Legacy of Pope Benedict XVI: 4. Summary



reviously I have written about Pope Benedict's Encyclicals, so I won't repeat that, except to say that if you haven't read Deus Caritas Est ('God is Love') then do so; it is short and easy to read. I have described his thought in certain key areas. There is little disagreement about his importance as a theologian: he wrote more than 60 books as well as countless articles, speeches and other works. Indeed the argument is being made that should he be canonised as a saint he should be ranked as a Doctor of the Church, only the third Pontiff to be so after Pope St Leo the Great and Pope St Gregory the Great.

But what of his legacy apart from his theology? He largely continued the approach of his predecessor and friend Pope St John Paul II, and was regarded as being on the conservative side, restating traditional Catholic teaching on the controversial issues of the day. He had had a reputation as the 'panzercardinal' as Prefect of the CDF, and so it came as a surprise when his first Encyclical, Deus Caritas Est, was about love.

He was a very gentle and humble man, and as I have hinted very much an academic theologian, not an administrator or man of decisive action. It was on his watch that the scandal of child abuse in many countries broke, and although he passed strict legislation against child abusers and was the first Pope to meet abuse victims, it was widely considered that he didn't succeed in mastering the problem.

He was very much a Pope of unity. He made overtures to the Eastern Orthodox, for example renouncing the title Patriarch of the West (although quite why this title upset the Orthodox is beyond me; I would have thought it was one papal title of which they approved; can anyone enlighten me?) and set up the Ordinariates to bring Anglicans into the barque of Peter while continuing to have their Anglican patrimony.

His 'other worldliness' became evident when he inadvertently upset many Moslems in a speech at Regensburg, although somewhat ironically the violent reaction somewhat illustrated the point he was trying to make.

In the short term a major part of his legacy was his resignation in 2013, citing age and health concerns. It remains to be seen if subsequent Popes follow his example in this; if they do his resignation will seem both significant (in enabling papal resignations, something which hadn't happened for hundreds of years) and normal. He was, perhaps, overwhelmed by the scale of the problems he faced.

Benedict was, despite his shyness, a very popular Pope, attracting many more pilgrims to Wednesday audiences than Pope Francis does, and there is no doubt that his papacy inspired an upturn in priestly vocations. Although he became Pope Joseph Ratzinger never sought or loved power.

But above all Joseph Ratzinger's legacy will be intellectual. As a man of deep faith, he was an influential expert at the Second Vatican Council, he engaged in the debate on faith and reason, he championed the validity of faith in what has become a profoundly relativistic age, and most of all he sought to show how Jesus Christ is the centre of all things and gives direction and a greater horizon to human beings in an age beset by the trivialising of life and the reduction of the true meaning of the human person.

According to their 'Formula' every Jesuit is supposed 'to keep God before his eyes as long as he lives'. Throughout his priestly and episcopal life, his academic teaching, his service in the Vatican curia, and his pontificate, Benedict did just that. With a very sincere and evident personal faith he kept God, not just any God but the "face we recognise in love lived out to the end, Jesus Christ", constantly before his eyes.

Let me conclude with some words of Pope Benedict, spoken at the Synod of Bishops in 2008:

"The history of salvation is not a small event, on a poor planet, in the immensity of the universe. It is not a minimal thing which happens by chance on a lost planet. It is the motive for everything, the motive for creation. Everything is created so that this story can exist, the encounter between God and his creature".

LENT 2023

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 Holv 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 Fridays at 6:00pm (note change of day and time).
- 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 the 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 <u>http://eepurl.com/hVT7Dv</u> and set aside space for reflection.

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

SUNDAY 12th February SIXTH SUNDAY of the YEAR

6:00pm (Sat)	Dec'd members Watson &
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	More vocations to the Sacr
11:15am	Margaret Dickens RIP
6:00pm	Danielle Harty Brandao RIP
9:30am Otford	Lisa Emms RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Martin & Vivienne Andrew
11:00am West Kingsdown	Peace in Ukraine

Monday 13th Feria 8:00am

9:30am

Beryl Pluck RIP

Tuesday 14th SS CYRIL & METHODIUS, Patrons of Europ

Dora & Eugene Binken RI

Wednesday 15 th Feria	
8:00am	Recovery and good health Donald D'Souza
10:00am Otford	Holy Souls

Thursday 16th Feria

10:00am Borough Green In thanksgiving 12:00noon Timothy & Cleta Andradi

Friday 17th Feria 8:00am

9:30am

Brendan Meegan RIP 10:00am West Kingsdown Pope Emeritus Benedict

Saturday 18th of Our Lady

John Gibson RIP

SUNDAY 19th February SEVENTH SUNDAY of the YEAR

6:00pm	(Sat)	Joe Roe RIP
8:00am	(Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am		Society of the African Missions
11:15am		Tim Kelly RIP (anniversary)
6:00pm		Bishop - Elect Philip Moger
9:30am	Otford	Margaret Dickens RIP
9:30am	Borough Green	Archie Payne RIP (anniversary)
11:00am	West Kingsdown	Good estate of Lynne Stanley

	PLEASE PRAY
& Landon families	Departed anniversaries
acred Priesthood	Mary Barrett, Annie Curtis, Martin Wood, Canon John Bailey, Margaret Reid, James Lunn, Julia Brooks, William Pragnell,
RIP	Agnes Duncan, Betty Crawley, Sheila Nettleingham, Ursula Cassidy, Charles Hatfield, John & Donald McCarthy,
ews RIP	Reginald Palmer, Carrie Doran, James Daly, James Ratchford, Agnes Duncan, Frank Conroy, Elenor Middleton, Joan Edbrooke, Patricia Crosland, Mary Sparsholt, Albert Barnes, Nora Kelleher, Patricia Nash, Emily Thorpe, Mary Connolly, Christopher Glanville, Kathleen Rocke
e IP	Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.
h of	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.
XVI RIP	LATIN ANTIPHONS (8:00am Mass)
ssions	Entrance Esto mihi in Deum protectorem, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias. Quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu, et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me.
y)	Communion
jer	Sic Deus dilexit mundum, ut Filium suum unigenitum daret,

dilexit mundum, ut n unigenitum daret, ut omnis qui credit in eum non pereat, sed habeat vitam æternam.

5