

OUR PARISH

West Kingsdown, St Bernadette's



Easter Garden at St Thomas's

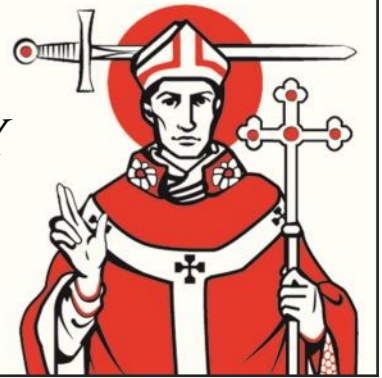


Vigil Mass in Otford
and a small goodbye fete



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

23th April 2023



Today's Mass: THIRD SUNDAY of *EASTER*

Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 22-33, *Psalm* 15, *1 Peter* 1: 17-21, *Luke* 24: 13-35

First Reading: the readings from *Acts of the Apostles* continue throughout the 50 days of Eastertide. The early Church we hear about in these readings is the first fruit of Christ's resurrection and the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, on the day of which St Peter preaches the homily recorded in today's reading.

Psalm: this is the Psalm to which St Peter refers in the middle of his homily in the *First Reading*.

Second Reading: St Peter says that newly Baptized Christians must live in the world as strangers or transients, now that Jesus – by the shedding of his blood on the cross – has paid the ransom to free them from their previous state of sin.

Gospel: although we are in Year A (the Year of *Matthew*), today's *Gospel* is from *Luke*, and is the famous and touching account of two disciples on the road to Emmaus, who only recognised Him at the breaking of bread. This is one of the many passages in the Scriptures from which the Church's understanding of the Eucharist is derived, and notice especially that Jesus performed the same four fold action as at the Last Supper and at the Feeding of the 5,000. As early as the *Acts of the Apostles* was written, the 'Breaking of Bread' was a technical term for the Eucharist; it doesn't just refer to having an ordinary meal.

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



JESUS HAS THE ANSWERS

Jesus can help

Jesus helps his two friends understand all that has happened. Do you sometimes need help understanding things? Who explains things to you when you don't understand?

Draw a picture of that person, write their name and say thank you to God for that person.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, when I don't understand things. Give me the courage to ask for help and the determination to keep on trying. Amen.

The disciples don't know what to do now Jesus has died. Two of them leave Jerusalem to go home. A stranger walks with them and explains how God always knew what would happen. The stranger joins them for food. When he breaks the bread they realise it has been Jesus all along! He is alive! Now they understand.

Maze

Help the disciples get from Jerusalem to Emmaus before dark.



Breaking bread

When Jesus broke the bread the disciples recognised him.



Grace

Use some of these words to make up your own Grace, or blessing, to say today. Then find them in the word search.

LORD
THANK
YOU
ALL
MADE
LOVELY
FOOD
HELP
HUNGRY

T	H	A	N	K	H
M	L	O	R	D	U
A	H	E	L	P	N
D	O	O	F	A	G
E	Y	O	U	L	R
L	O	V	E	L	Y

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 Vipin James, SDV vipinjames@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 jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

Church Flowers (St Thomas's)

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

Parent & 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)

Can help financially, practically, and through visits to the

isolated or housebound. Contact Paul Boyle 07796564018 or

Kathie Gonzalez sevenoakssvp@gmail.com

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)

Monica Biggs mmdbbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

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TODAY

Second Collection

For the maintenance of St George's Cathedral. At St Thomas's you can donate by the card reader: simply select 'Second Collection'.

Supply priests

We are grateful to Fr Bryan Wells and the Capuchin friars for their assistance today.

THIS WEEK

Monday: St George, Patron of England

The Solemnity of the Patron of England is transferred this year to Monday. Holy Mass in St Thomas's at 8:00am.

Tuesday: St Mark, Evangelist

Holy Mass in St Thomas's at 9:30am.

Fr Vipin

Fr Vipin goes on Thursday on a break to India, booked before he was appointed here. He returns on 17th May.

Friday: Josie Haynes RIP

Funeral Mass in St Joseph's at 11:30am, followed by Committal at Vinters Park Crematorium.

Saturday: St Catherine of Siena, Patron of Europe

Holy Mass at 9:30am, followed as normal by the Holy Rosary.

Next Sunday: Prayer for Vocations

Next Sunday is the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood. The Second Collection will be for the Archdiocesan Priests' Training Fund. This helps to defray the cost of training Priests and Permanent Deacons, and supports the ongoing formation of the Clergy.

NOTICES

New to the Parish?

Welcome! Please register on the Parish website (www.sevrparish.org.uk): just click on PARISH REGISTRATION. You can also download Standing Order and Gift Aid forms.

Sick or housebound

What with COVID, changes of priest and so on, it is possible that we have inadvertently lost sight of those who should be receiving Holy Communion at home, or in an old people's home, or who would simply welcome a visit. Please contact one of the Clergy or Magda if you are being missed out or you know someone who is. The Parish SVP will visit anyone who would like them to.

Baptism of Infants

Parents wanting a child Baptized should obtain a green information/application form (available in each Church Entrance), 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.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Parish Garden Party

This year the annual Garden Party is on Sunday 4th June, 12:00 noon - 4:00pm. Save the date so you don't miss it.



You're Invited!

Easter Quiet Day

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 13th May at The Poul House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity to continue the Easter experience in our lives by reflecting on Thomas' and Peter's experiences of the resurrected Christ. The day will be led by Sevenoaks parishioner Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for 20 years. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes as part of the day will be outside. Suggested contribution £5. All are welcome though numbers are limited to 20. If you wish to attend please email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com.

Prayer Vigil on the 55th anniversary of the Abortion Act

This Thursday 7:30-8:30pm. Join March for Life UK on the anniversary of the Abortion Act at Westminster Cathedral Piazza for a candlelight prayer vigil to remember those lives lost to abortion, as well as those hurt by it. Candles and posters will be supplied. More info can be found at marchforlife.co.uk. We cannot allow this day to pass by like any other - even if others forget, we must remember. Although this will be a Christian, prayer filled evening, we also welcome those without religious beliefs to join us in a time of peaceful reflection.

March for Life UK

Archdiocesan Life in the Spirit Seminars 2023

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis and the diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal team are again organising Life in the Spirit Seminars for the Archdiocese during Eastertide. The Seminars will run on five Tuesday evenings (2nd, 9th, 16th and 30th May and 6th June) at St George's Cathedral and at local hubs across the Archdiocese (including Tunbridge Wells), as well as on Zoom, with a Pentecost Saturday retreat day for all participants at St George's Cathedral on Saturday 27th May.

All parishioners would be most welcome: inspiring talks and music, small group sharing and daily reflections. The Tunbridge Wells Hub will be run on Tuesday evenings 7:30pm at St Augustine's. Please register on bit.ly/SOUTHWARK2023 and select the Tunbridge Wells Hub option or for further details email Deacon Neil edmtunbridgewells@rcaos.org.uk. We look forward to welcoming you.

Neil Philipson



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Saints this Week



There are some major saints this week.

St George (Monday)

George, sometimes called George of Lydda, was, according to tradition, a Christian soldier in the Roman army, a member of the Emperor's Praetorian Guard. He was

sentenced to death for refusing to renounce his Christian beliefs and died – a martyr – in the Diocletian persecution of 303.

The legend that he killed a dragon – who was killing villagers – and rescued a princess who was to be the dragon's next victim only dates from the 11th century. Clearly it is only a legend, but one which became very popular at the time of the crusades as one of the military saints.

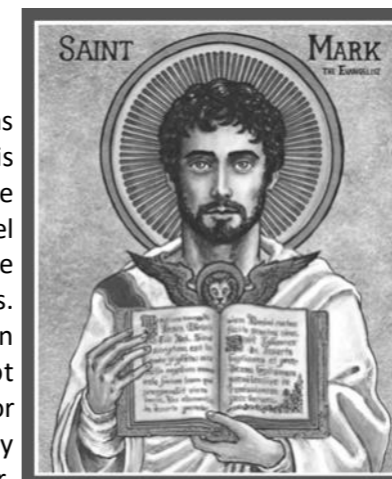
This popularity led to George becoming the patron saint of England in the 14th century, and his cross (the red cross on a white background) is the flag of England and part of the Union Flag of the UK. He is also a patron saint of Ethiopia, Georgia (the country), Malta and Gozo, Aragon, Valencia, the Balearic Islands and Catalonia in Spain, and Portugal. In addition he is the patron saint of the scouts, soldiers (especially cavalry), and, somewhat puzzlingly, of skin disease sufferers.

His feast day is actually 23rd April, but as our national patron his feast ranks as a Solemnity and so is transferred this year from the Sunday to Monday.

St Mark

(Tuesday)

Mark (also known as John Mark) is considered to be the author of the Gospel of Mark and so is one of the Evangelists. The most common theory is that he got his information for the Gospel directly from St Peter.



According to Acts 15:39 he accompanied Barnabas to Cyprus after the Council of Jerusalem.

According to tradition he founded the episcopal see of Alexandria, in northern Egypt, and his symbol is the winged lion; this is how he is often depicted in art.

The Gospel was written in Greek for a gentile readership, and probably written in Rome. Most scholars think *Mark* was the earliest Gospel, but not everyone agrees with this. It is certainly the briefest, but mysteriously ends halfway through a sentence.

He is the patron of notaries, of several cities in Italy, especially Venice, of lions, insect bites, struma (a swelling of the thyroid gland in the neck, apparently), and against impenitence.

St Catherine of Siena

(Saturday)

We are on much surer historical ground with St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, and a Patron of Europe. She lived from 1347 to 1380 and was a member of the Third Order of St Dominic. She was a mystic, activist, and an author, and was very significant in Church history: she persuaded Pope Gregory XI to leave Avignon for Rome in 1376. It was very exceptional at that time for a woman to have had such importance in politics and in history.

Her many patronages include people ridiculed for their piety, nurses, and sick people. In 1999 Pope St John Paul II made her a patron of Europe. She is not to be confused with St Catherine of Alexandria (of Catherine wheel fame) or any of the other saints of the same name.

Her writings, including a treatise called *The Dialogue of Divine Providence*, letters and prayers, describe her mystical or ecstatic visions, and attempts to achieve union with God. She practised extreme asceticism, to the extent in her later life of living solely on the Eucharist. She described God as the "sea, in which we are the fish".



WOMEN'S RETREAT AT AYLESFORD

It was so good to be able to go again to Aylesford Priory for a weekend Retreat. We were blessed with blue skies and sunshine, which meant tranquil walks in the grounds, contemplating the enlightening sessions of our inspiring facilitator Sister Aileen Murphy from Dublin, a sister of the order of La Retraite.

The theme was the "**Wilderness -Amazing space, amazing grace**" and we had six sessions, starting with **Beloved is where we begin – Christ's Baptism**. Then sessions on *listening deeply, fullness of life in the emptiest of places, hidden treasures, testing times and untangling the threads that bind*.

Sister Aileen knew well how to lead in a gentle, quiet, sensitive way, allowing everyone to contribute their thoughts in their own time. Splitting into small groups allowed more sharing of ideas on the meaning for us of the *six tenets of the Lord's Prayer: faith, surrender, service, abundance, forgiveness & strength*.

Saturday & Sunday Masses were joyful with a packed Chapel & Fr Michael anxious to leave no-one standing. In addition to all the local people, there was our Retreat group & the Retreat for the LGBTQ group.

It was a weekend of rich spiritual food, but also most enjoyable full breakfasts, lunch and evening meals in the historic Pilgrims' Hall and a social get-together on Saturday evening.

Such Retreats which grew out of the Parish Mission are to be highly recommended and thanks go to Catherine Rodger for organising them.

Isobel White



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 23rd April	THIRD SUNDAY of EASTER
6:00pm (Sat)	Parish Priests
8:00am (Latin)	Marguerite & Edward Maxwell RIP
9:15am	Holy Souls
11:15am	Frank Haggarty RIP
6:00pm	Canon Martin Lee RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Natalina Morbi RIP (10 th anniversary)
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	John Gobel (70 th birthday)
Monday 24th	S GEORGE, M Patron of England
8:00am	Tony Ropek RIP & the comfort of his family
Tuesday 25th	S MARK, Ev
9:30am	Good intentions of the donor's family
Wednesday 26th	Feria
8:00am	Brandon Gough RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Ann & Alan Campion
Thursday 27th	Feria
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Wellbeing of Anne Lamerton
12:00noon	Eileen Pritchard RIP (anniversary)
Friday 28th	Feria
8:00am	John Gibson RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Brenda Ellie RIP
11:40am	<i>Funeral Mass — Josephine Haynes RIP</i>
Saturday 29th	S CATHERINE of SIENA, VD Patron of Europe
9:30am	Herbert Inglin RIP
SUNDAY 30th April	FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER
6:00pm (Sat)	Fr Peter Littleton
8:00am (Latin)	Sarah Boyle RIP
9:15am	Pauline Pakenham RIP (1 st anniversary)
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	George Alfred Micallef RIP (5 th anniversary)
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Gwen Farrell
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Archie Payne RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Herbert Inglin RIP

Departed anniversaries

Nora Saunderson, Thomas Molloy, Maria Semmens, Dick Meakins, Edward Olliffe, Maria Elliot, Silvia Pragnell, Ernest Unwin, Ralph Toomey, Germaine Tallents, Grace Curtis, Julia Edwards, Eileen Sharman.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord | and let perpetual light shine upon them. | May they rest in peace

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

The sick

Angela Brunning, Tony Barrett, Frank Eastbrooke, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Jane Tabor, Ken Holmes, Mary & Chris Scott, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

For those preparing for the Sacraments

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

lubilate Deo, omnis terra, psalmum dicite nomini eius, date gloriam laudi eius, alleluia.

Communion

Cognoverunt discipuli Dominum Iesum in fractione panis, alleluia.

