

DEACON NEIL AT CHRISM MASS



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

30th April 2023



Today's Mass: **FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER**

Acts of the Apostles 2: 14, 36-41, Psalm 22, 1 Peter 2: 20-25, John 10: 1-10

Traditionally, although not officially, today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, because of the theme of the readings. It is also as a result a World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

First Reading: this continues St Peter's Pentecost homily, in which he stresses the need for repentance and Baptism. And some 3,000 did as he urged. Imagine if we had 3,000 people to be Baptized at the Easter Vigil!

Psalm: the famous and very popular Psalm 22 is recited, with its theme of Christ as our shepherd: He leads us to the waters (Baptism), anoints our heads with oil (Confirmation), guards us in life, and brings us to eternal life "*in the Lord's own house*" (in heaven).

Second Reading: in today's passage from his First Letter Peter, referring to *Isaiah 53*, speaks of Christ as the shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

Gospel: in a slightly confusing image, Christ is both the shepherd – the gatekeeper – and the gate. It is only by following Christ, the Redeemer, the Mediator between man and God, that we can be saved.

Fr David



GET HOOKED ON CROCHET



LEARN AND RELAX WHILE YOUR CHILDREN ARE AT
SCHOOL OR HAVE A NIGHT OUT!
MORNING CLASSES AVAILABLE AND THURSDAY
EVENINGS

TO BOOK EMAIL:
AGA.DRENDA@HOOKANDHELP.COM

£15

All materials and a cuppa included!

www.hookandhelp.com

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

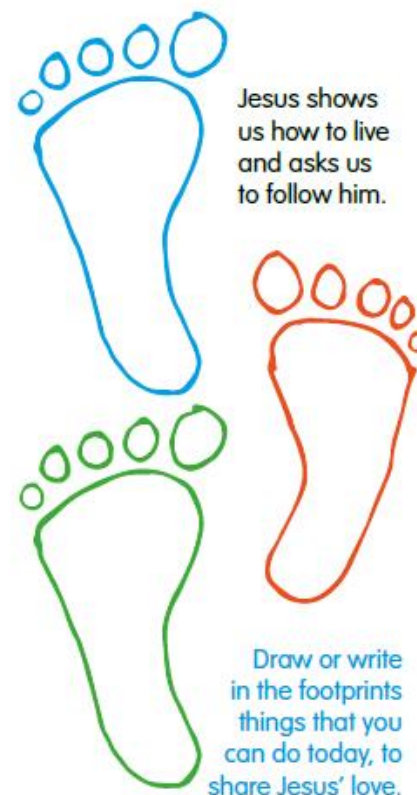
Executive Head:
Mrs Katherine Sexton
Academy Principal:
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



JESUS LEADS
THE WAY!

I can follow
Jesus when I...



A PRAYER TO SAY

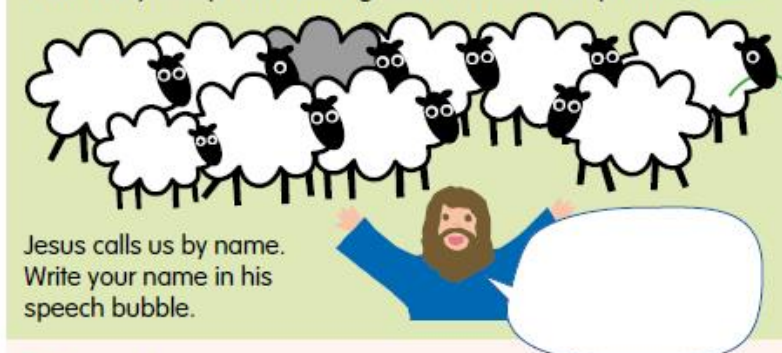
Help me, Jesus, to listen to you. You show me the way to live. Help me to live like you, sharing love and kindness with everyone I meet. Amen.

redemptorist
publications

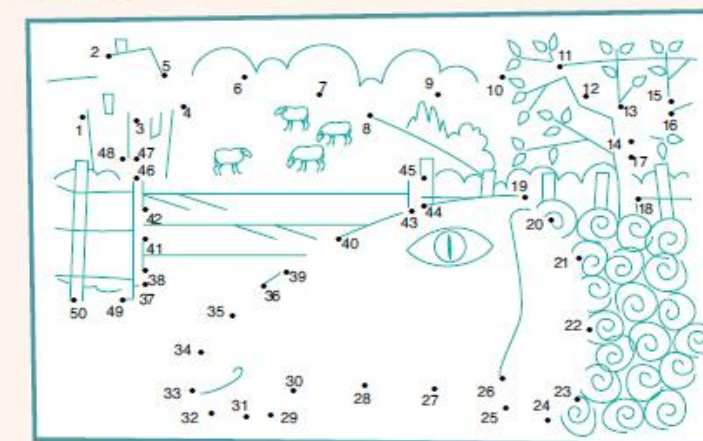
Jesus goes up a hill and teaches his disciples. He tells them how people can be really happy. If we trust God, we will have the kind of happiness that lasts forever.

Follow Jesus!

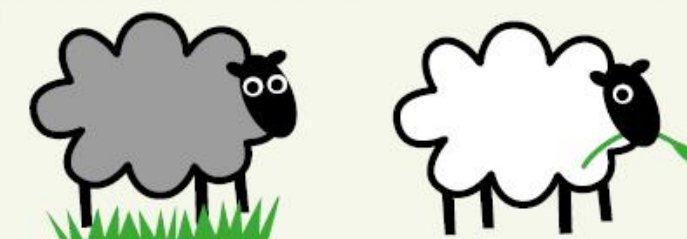
How many sheep are following Jesus the Good Shepherd?



Puzzle Dot to dot of sheep in a field with a gate



Spot the difference Can you spot five differences between these sheep?



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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

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 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

TODAY

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood

The purpose of this day is to publicly fulfil the Lord's instruction to "*Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest*" (*Matthew 9:38, Luke 10:2*). Please pray that young men hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the Sacred Priesthood, as well as to the Permanent Diaconate, religious life, Societies of Apostolic Life or Secular Institutes. The Priesthood has always been essential to the life of the Church. After their Ordination, our priests dedicate their lives to serving Christ and His people in our parishes, hospitals, schools, prisons and in service to the needy.

We have three men in formation for the Priesthood in our Archdiocese. WE NEED FAR MORE, to replace the priests retiring or dying. If you are a young man, IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BECOME A PRIEST? See Fr David or Fr Vipin if so. If you are a parent, have you discussed the possibility with your son(s)? If you are anyone else, please pray for more Vocations.

It costs £30,000 a year to sponsor each seminarian, and they study for 6 years before Ordination. The Second Collection today is for the Priests Training Fund. You can donate by

- putting money in the second collection
- using the card reader in St Thomas's
- making a bank transfer to the Parish Account (put Priests Fund as the reference)
- donating online at www.rcaos.org.uk/donate/PTF
- telephone weekdays 9:00am - 5:00pm 020 7960 2504
- scanning the QR code on the posters.

Please use the envelopes to Gift Aid your donation to the Second Collection.

Otford Mass

We welcome Isabelle, Abigail, and Amelia O'Sullivan, to be Baptized at this Mass.

9:15am Mass

Tea/coffee and biscuits served after Mass, in the Parish Room. Do stay and have a chat with others.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group leads the music today. We welcome at this Mass Fernanda and Sophia Dos Anjos Corrêa De Oliveira, receiving their first Holy Communion.

Supply Priests

In Fr Vipin's absence, we thank our supply priests: Fr Christopher Morris at the 8:00am Mass, Fr Bryan Wells at the 9:15am Mass, one of the Capuchin friars at the Sunday 6:00pm Mass, and Fr Mark Odion, MSP, at Borough Green and West Kingsdown.

THIS WEEK

Supply Priests

We thank Fr John Diver, PP of Westerham, Canon Luke Smith, and Fr Bryan Wells, assisting at various Masses this week.

Monday Bank Holiday

Holy Mass in St Thomas's at 9:30am, not 8:00am. The Parish Office is closed on Monday. It is the Feria of St Joseph the Worker, and a Day of Prayer for God's Blessing on human work.

Friday: Mass for the Coronation

The Bishops' Conference has requested that on Friday each parish celebrates Mass for His Majesty King Charles III, the day before his coronation. Mass at the usual times: 8:00am in St Thomas's and 11:00am in St Bernadette's.

To assist those celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III, the Archbishop has granted a dispensation from Friday Abstinence on Friday.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Next Sunday: Second Collection for Malawi

With apologies for yet another important Second Collection, next weekend we shall take a collection to be sent to Malawi for cyclone relief. The disastrous effects of Cyclone Freddy were recorded a few weeks ago in this Newsletter, in a message from Fr Boni. The money collected will be sent to the Archdiocese of Blantyre, for their relief efforts.

NOTICES

St Joseph's Big Help Out

Can YOU come along on Monday 8th May (Bank Holiday Monday) to help with the garden work party at St Joseph's, 10:00am - 12:00 noon? There is much to do, particularly at the back of the church.

Archdiocesan Life in the Spirit Seminars 2023

The Archdiocesan Agency for Evangelization 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 at 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.

Deacon Neil

Southwark Vocations Webinar

Have YOU ever considered you may be called to the priesthood or the religious life? Southwark Vocations will be hosting a 60 minute webinar on Tuesday 9th May at 7:00pm, entitled *The Good Shepherd Calls*, where different presenters - including Seminarians - will share their experiences about discovering God's plan for each one of us. Please join us by registering for this event in advance by using following link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/9121212121>

Summer Garden Party: Change of date

The annual Garden Party will now take place on Sunday 16th July, from 12:00 noon onwards. Please note the change in your diary and wall calendar. You don't want to miss this great social occasion!

Podcast

Fr David features in a recently recorded podcast. You can listen to it at <https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/this-turbulent-priest/id1645064182>.

Kings Chamber Orchestra

In St Bart's Church, Otford on Saturday, 13th May at 7:00pm (doors open 6:15pm). Hear music ranging from Vivaldi to Boccherini to the Sound of Music. Tickets £15 or £10* (* may have restricted view) from eventsstbarts@gmail.com or 07928 121930. Paying bar before the concert and during the interval.

Trinity School

The school is struggling to attract teachers because of the cost of housing in the area. If you can offer a room or other suitable accommodation to rent out, please contact Debbie at headsqa@trinitysevenoaks.com. For Safeguarding reasons, this needs to be in a place without a current student at the school.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Catholic Funerals

As Holy Week and Easter are about death and resurrection, it seems timely to remind readers about Catholic Funerals. Sometimes people think it is morbid to plan their Funeral, but it is a kindness to the family if you do so, because it relieves them of the angst as to what to do when the time comes. And still we hear about cases where devout Catholics do not have a proper Catholic Funeral, because they have not left Funeral instructions and their next of kin are uninterested.

In addition there has been a big shift in the nature of Funerals in this country in recent years. Fewer and fewer Funerals are religious ones: only 1 in 10 people now want a religious Funeral of any kind. Instead there has been a big increase in secular Funerals, led by a 'celebrant', and a noticeable trend towards seeing Funerals as a celebration of someone's life, with all sorts of music (I was once asked if they could have *Paddy McGinty's Goat* played at the Funeral Mass!), readings, and random things like having balloons or everyone wearing yellow.

The Catholic Funeral

So perhaps it is necessary to be reminded of the nature of the Catholic Funeral. When someone we have loved dies, we experience a complex and varied range of emotions of grief. The Catholic Funeral offers a ritual, in which we say our farewells, and this ritual is important for human beings; witness the distress the family experiences when someone just disappears and there can be no Funeral.

The encounter with God, our Creator and our Redeemer, in Word and Sacrament gives us a space for our sorrow, and helps us to recognise our mortality. The one sure fact of life is death; all the more reason to plan your Funeral now. The Funeral also offers the chance to say sorry to the deceased for anything on one's conscience. This is all additional to the thanksgiving for the person and their life.

Above all, at a Catholic Funeral we offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and assist the departed with our prayers, as they pass from this life to the next. The Funeral Mass enables the mourners to feel they are doing something to help the deceased, and what greater thing could this be than offering Christ's saving sacrifice? Again the prayers help mourners in their grief, especially in the reminder of our Christian hope: that those who have died in Christ will rise in Christ, to eternal life. This perspective gives strength and comfort to those who are bereaved. This Christian hope is symbolised by the lit Paschal Candle next to the coffin and in the sprinkling of the coffin with holy water (which reminds us of Baptism).

At a Catholic Funeral the dead person is entrusted to the mercy of God and we pray that ultimately that person will be re-united with Christ in eternal life.

Practicalities

If someone dies, the next of kin should contact a Funeral Director, asking for a Catholic Funeral. Ideally the coffin will be brought into church the evening before. The Funeral Mass is arranged jointly by the priest and the family, who can select hymns and readings from the approved selection. Someone can give a Eulogy, which helps to make the ceremony more personal.

We can only conduct a Catholic Funeral, from the approved *Order of Christian Funerals*, so although there is choice of readings and so on, the set rite has to be followed. Only church music such as hymns is permitted, so don't ask me for *Paddy McGinty's Goat* or the answer will be no! And don't ask for a reading from the deceased person's favourite Winnie the Pooh story instead of Sacred Scripture. A printed Order of Service is usual, but not compulsory.

Then the Committal can either be a burial at a cemetery or cremation at a Crematorium. The latter is permitted to Catholics, as long as the choice is not intended to deny the doctrine of the resurrection of the body.

LOCAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

These are not full Minutes (for which see the Secretary) but a report of the main items.

St Joseph's Committee meeting 23/02/2023

There has been subsidence on the boundary with the new build on the old DIY site. We have a party wall agreement, and will monitor this closely. The developers have to make good any problems they cause.

The balance of the account at 01/01/2022 was £1,062.96, despite the recent purchase of a thurible and stand. It is proposed to get a dishwasher for the kitchen.

The Quiz Night will again be held, on 30/09/2023. The Committee will investigate the possibility of a Dinner, using outside caterers.

Sean Corrigan volunteered to be the St Joseph's Returning Officer for the Parish Pastoral Committee, should one be needed.

Various building and maintenance items were addressed, and Antoni Offert outlined the plan for a stainless steel crucifix on the front façade.

The congregation will be consulted about the possibility of Adoration in St Joseph's.

St Bernadette's Committee meeting 10/03/2023

John Gobel reported on the finances, which will be boosted by a legacy from Canon John Bailey's Will of approximately £92,000. This money can be used for the following projects. Progress, if slow, has been made on a new Meeting Room, on the car park, new fencing, and refurbishing the outside statue of Our Lady. We are waiting for the weather to improve before planting the Queen Elizabeth memorial tree.

The new numerals under the Stations of the Cross look very good, and only cost £20.09! There will be the usual Easter Raffle, drawn on Palm Sunday, with proceeds going towards the Lady statue refurbishment.

Dave Havercan volunteered to be the St Joseph's Returning Officer for the Parish Pastoral Committee, should one be needed.

Most Holy Trinity Committee meeting 15/03/2023

Mary Scott reported that the bank balance at the end of 2022 was £2,900 (independently validated) and that she can now make payments by bank transfer. The fundraising event in November was a great success, and it is proposed to hold a similar event this November.

Jonathan Fenner agreed to be the Returning Officer if needed. The cassocks will be dry cleaned before Easter. Gilly Fenner will draft a protocol for using the Meeting Room (eg after a Baptism).

The May Procession will be on Sunday 21st May at 3:30pm. We will give the village Fete a miss this year, because of lack of available people. The St Edith Devotions will be on Sunday 17th September. There will be a fire drill one day.

Various premises and garden issues were determined (except that the moles will be left alone).

The next meeting is provisionally fixed for Thursday 14th September at 11:00am.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 30th April

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 1st May

9:30am

Tuesday 2nd

9:30am

Wednesday 3rd

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 4th

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

Friday 5th

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Saturday 6th

9:30am

SUNDAY 7th May

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

FOURTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Fr Peter Littleton

Sarah Boyle RIP

Pauline Pakenham RIP (1st anniversary)

People of the Parish

George Alfred Micallef RIP (5th anniversary)

Gwen Farrell

Archie Payne RIP

Herbert Inglin RIP

S Joseph the Worker

John Gibson RIP

S Athanasius, BD

George Alfred Micallef RIP

SS PHILIP & JAMES, App

Peter Hallet RIP

Marie Authers RIP (5th anniversary)

The ENGLISH MARTYRS

Ella Nimmo RIP

John Berry RIP

Feria

John Gibson RIP

Ruth Lett RIP

Feria

Parish Priests

FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

People of the Parish

John Berry RIP

Wellbeing of Bridget Keohane

Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP

Holy Souls

Marie Authers RIP (5th anniversary)

Special Intention

Ruth & Bertha Lett RIP

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 YOUR PRAYERS

Recently Departed

Maria Taylor

Departed anniversaries

Joyce Donoghue, John Wyer, Ellen Galligan, Theresa Staples, Philomena Campbell, Patrick O'Keefe, Fred Tester, Mimi Coker, Walter Campbell, Raymond Roberts, Mona Jenkins, Dickie Mallock, George Brunning, Nigel Authers, James Rudden, Freda Ford, Rita Cressey, Veronica Murphy, Mary Cadley, Bernard Moose, Eleanor Lynes, Joseph McDermott, Roland Chown, Keith Viner.

Eternal rest grant unto them...

Baptism

Welcome to

Skyla Kruger

who was Baptized at
St Thomas's, Sevenoaks

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Misericordia Domini plena est terra; verbo Domini caeli firmati sunt, alleluia.

Communion

Surrexit Pastor bonus, qui animam suam posuit pro ovibus suis, et pro grege suo mori dignatus est, alleluia.