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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

7th May 2023



Today's Mass: FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts of the Apostles 6: 1-7, Psalm 32, 1 Peter 2: 4-9, John 14: 1-12

First Reading: the early Church was increasing so rapidly that some officials had to be appointed to oversee the distribution to the needy, and to avoid disunity among the followers. Here we see the origins of the Order of Deacons: the apostles selected the seven men, laid hands on them, and commissioned them for service ('diakonia' in Greek). Deacons have an important liturgical role in Mass and an important ministry to those in need.

Psalm: this hymn of praise has one enigmatic feature: the full psalm has the same number of verses as letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Second Reading: St Peter thinks of the Church as a building, not literally but metaphorically as the people of God. And in a well-known phrase he describes the people of God in language previously applied to Israel. It is in Baptism that we become "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a consecrated nation, a people apart ...", in short the People of God.

Gospel: in this extract from His discourse at the Last Supper, as told by *John*, Jesus announces that He will be going away, to the Father. But we can follow Him, because He "is the Way, the Truth and the Life". At the end of the *Gospel* He refers to the Church, which will continue the mission of the risen Christ after His return to the Father.

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



Sunday 7 May 2023
John 14:1-12
5th Sunday of Easter

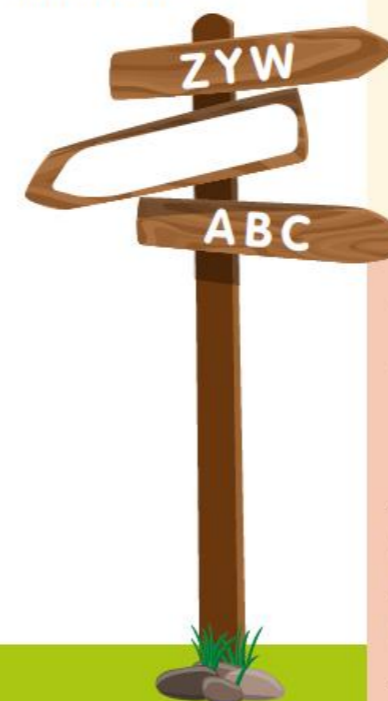
In the
GOSPEL TODAY

JESUS IS
THE WAY

Jesus has to leave his friends. He is going to get a place ready for them to be happy together forever. Jesus wants his friends to be happy. They will be happy when they find God the Father and Jesus is the way to God the Father. If we want to know God the Father we just need to know Jesus, God the Son!

Jesus' sign

Write the word Jesus in the sign post and draw a picture of yourself and a friend walking in the direction of Jesus.



Word Search

Jesus' way is found in all these words

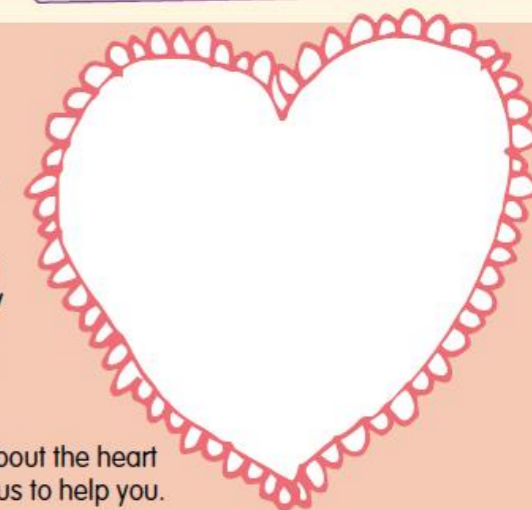
PRAYING LOVING
KIND HONEST
SHARING BRAVE
CARING HELPFUL

G	R	N	K	O	U	R	P	Y
C	S	O	I	B	N	Y	R	E
A	H	O	N	E	S	T	A	H
R	A	D	D	B	E	X	Y	E
I	R	Q	U	R	L	K	I	L
N	I	U	M	A	E	A	N	P
G	N	L	O	V	I	N	G	F
A	G	N	A	E	P	D	A	U
S	H	M	R	A	O	G	D	L

"Do not let your hearts be troubled"

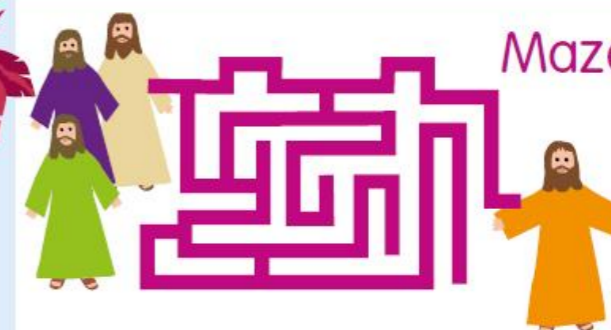
Jesus wants to take away our worries. Write or draw in the heart anything that you are worried about at home or at school.

Talk to a kind grown up about the heart you have filled in. Ask Jesus to help you.



A PRAYER TO SAY

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me. Help me to walk in your footsteps and follow your way. I know I will be happy when I trust you. Amen.



Maze Jesus promises his friends that he will come back and be with them always. Help Jesus find his way back to his friends.

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

Second Collection

This is for relief efforts in Malawi, following the recent disastrous cyclone. The money raised will be sent to the Archdiocese of Blantyre (Mgr Boniface Tamani's diocese, which was the worst hit area) to help rebuild houses, churches, and communities, and to provide much needed supplies of food, water, and medicines etc.

Supply Priests

Fr Bryan and the Capuchins are kindly assisting today, in Fr Vipin's continued absence in India.

First Holy Communions

Congratulations to Sebastian Hare, receiving his first Holy Communion at the 9:15am Mass, and to Niamh Cassidy, Giacomo and Angelica Pozzo, Louie Prendergast-Rice, George Dalton and Sidney Devlin at the 11:15am Mass.

Holy Baptisms

Arthur Devlin is to be Baptized at the 11:15am Mass, and Isabella, Ignacio & Florencia Muñoz this afternoon in St Thomas's.

First Holy Communion Programme - cancelled

The Formation Session (for the children) and Tour of the Church (for the parents) at 3:00pm this afternoon - cancelled.

THIS WEEK

Monday: Coronation Bank Holiday

Holy Mass in St Thomas's at the Bank Holiday time of 9:30am. The Parish Office will be closed on Monday.

Tuesday: Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse

As well as praying for victims and survivors of sexual abuse, please pray also for our parish Safeguarding Team: Ken Baines, Sally Kelly, Margaret Briggs, Teresa Hood.

Next Sunday

We welcome Fr Pratap Reddy, who has visited us before. He will be helping by saying some of the Masses, and he will take a collection for his work in India.

NOTICES

9:15am Mass

Tea/coffee and biscuits are once again being served after this Mass, in the Parish Room. Do stay for a chat with other parishioners.

Advance Notice: Ascension Day

This Holyday of Obligation (a day when you should attend Holy Mass if possible) falls this year on Thursday 18th May. Holy Mass as follows:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 9:30am (School Mass), 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am.

St Joseph's, Borough Green: 6:00pm.

Advance Notice: Otford May Procession

This will be at 3:30pm on Sunday 21st May at Most Holy Trinity. This is for all parishioners, not just Otford ones, and is very suitable for all the family, including children. Come and honour Our Lady, Mother of Our Lord.

Advance Notice: annual Garden Party

This will take place on Sunday 16th July, from 12:00 noon onwards in the Presbytery Garden Party.

Authorised Person

Gilly Fenner has been approved by the General Register Office as the new Authorised Person for this Parish, in succession to Christine Landon. The Authorised Person is the person who arranges the civil registration of Marriages which take place in any of our four churches, and we thank Gilly for taking this on.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Diocesan award

Congratulations to Trish Pinington, to whom the Archbishop has awarded the Diocesan Fideliter Servienti award. She has served the parish for many years as a catechist, and is currently the Parish Lead for Catechesis, but the award is above all for her long years of service as a governor of St Thomas' School, in sometimes difficult circumstances. Fr David presented her with the award at Mass in Otford last Sunday, and remarkably everyone managed to keep it a secret, and therefore a surprise to her!

Receiving from the Chalice at St Thomas's

Once you have received the Precious Body, if you are receiving the Precious Blood please move away and form a second queue in front of the Minister, allowing space for those not receiving to go by and return to their places. Please don't receive the Precious Body and then linger in front of the priest, as this causes gridlock.

See my page 9 for an explanation of receiving from the Chalice.

OTHER NOTICES

Annual Hartley Pilgrimage

This has been transferred this year to avoid the Coronation. The annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Hartley will be on Saturday 20th May, starting at 3:30pm. Refreshments from 3:00pm for early arrivals, and ending shortly after 5:00pm. There is an evening Mass at 5:30pm. Contact the Shrine Pilgrimage Secretary, Phil Kerton, for more details: cpkerton@yahoo.com.

Accommodation needed for Ukrainian families. Can you help?

Mothers Prayers, a local organisation closely associated with our parish, has been generously providing accommodation for Ukrainian refugees in Star House, near Dunton Green, for over a year. We are grateful to Veronica Williams, the founder, and the Trustees for their generosity. These Ukrainian guests now need to leave Star House by the end of July and are seeking accommodation locally.

There are 5 - 6 Ukrainians, consisting of a mum and two children, a teenage girl and grandmother, and possibly another adult lady. They have jobs in the area; the families can be housed all together or separately. Hosts typically receive £500 per month from the Council for this. Other options are possible if sufficient charitable donations are received.

Contact Ben Andradi (ben.andradi@gmail.com) if you can help or visit <https://www.sevenoakswelcomesrefugees.org/> for further information.

Cultures Together in Harmony: Concert

This concert raises funds for the local refugee support charity & network of volunteers, 'Sevenoaks Welcomes Refugees'. SWR works together with Sevenoaks District Council & others to support refugee families, Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian, under government resettlement schemes. So there are currently 62 families from war-torn zones received into in the Sevenoaks District, and the concert is composed of performers from all these nationalities. SWR needs volunteers for family support teams, fund raising, language teaching (no qualifications needed), drivers & more. Also for people to be landlords.

Contacts & info: sevenoakswelcomesrefugees.org ; volunteers@sevenoakswelcomesrefugees.org ;

See the concert poster in this week's newsletter *Andrew Wilkinson*

Retrouvaille: a programme for couples struggling in their Marriage

Are you frustrated or angry with one another? Do you argue ... or have you stopped talking to each other? Does talking only make things worse? Retrouvaille can help; tens of thousands of couples have saved their marriages by attending their programme.

For confidential information or to register for the next Virtual Weekend on 6th - 9th July or a Face to face Weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13th - 15th October email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Holy Communion under both kinds

During the COVID pandemic, the use of the Chalice to administer the Precious Blood was suspended. The Bishops of England & Wales decided that the reception of Holy Communion under both kinds could resume from Maundy Thursday, at the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

We believe that the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Church's life (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1324), and when we gather in church on a Sunday or weekday, our participation in the sacrificial meal binds us once more to Christ and each other. Indeed, it is when we gather on a Sunday in church that the celebration of the Mass makes us into the People of God in that place.

At each Mass we trust in the word Jesus spoke to the crowd after the multiplication of the loaves: *"whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. For my flesh is real food, and my blood is real drink"* (John 6: 54-55).

Why receive from the Chalice?

The Church teaches that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ is present in both the Sacred Host and the Precious Blood, and so there is no obligation to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice; in receiving either or both we always receive the 'whole' Jesus.

Nevertheless, where practicable the Church offers us Holy Communion under both kinds to help awaken in us a deeper understanding of what we are doing. By eating *and* drinking we come closer to the Apostles at the Last Supper and to Mary and the beloved disciple on Calvary witnessing Christ's broken body and outpoured blood on the Cross.

This explains the teaching contained in the *Roman Missal*, which talks of Communion having *"a fuller sign when it takes place under both kinds, for in this form the sign of the Eucharistic banquet is more clearly evident and clearer expression is given to the divine will by which the new and eternal Covenant is ratified in the Blood of the Lord"*. Both at the Last Supper and at Mass, we hear the words of Jesus: *"Take and eat ... take and drink"*.

How to receive?

Always with reverence and faith. We should participate fully in the prayers of the Mass, and at the same time develop a personal hunger and thirst for Jesus in our hearts. We imagine ourselves gathered

with the Apostles at the Last Supper, and have a profound sense of God's love and grace being lavished upon us.

We process forward in the Communion Procession; when the minister says 'The Body of Christ' say 'Amen' clearly, as this is your assent to the Real Presence of Christ at that most solemn moment. We receive either on the tongue or - as is permitted in England & Wales - in the hand; consume the Host immediately.

If receiving the Precious Blood, again say 'Amen', take the chalice, consume a drop, and return it to the minister. It is for parents to decide how their children should receive the Host, and if they receive the Precious Blood.

After receiving, return to your place for silent prayer, above all a prayer of thanksgiving. Note that our utmost respect for Holy Communion means we should refer to it correctly: we receive the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ; we never speak of 'eating the bread' or 'drinking the wine'.

Health Issues

Medical advice is that the danger of infection is minimal when the Chalice is made of precious metal, wine with a high alcohol content is used, and proper purification of the vessels takes place. However, anyone suffering from COVID or a similar illness such as flu or a cold may wish to refrain from receiving from the Chalice. Equally, if you are worried about receiving from the Chalice, then you can choose not to.



EXTRACTS FROM *LUMEN GENTIUM*

9. At all times and in every race God has given welcome to whosoever fears Him and does what is right. God, however, does not make men holy and save them merely as individuals, without bond or link between one another. Rather has it pleased Him to bring men together as one people, a people which acknowledges Him in truth and serves Him in holiness. He therefore chose the race of Israel as a people unto Himself. With it He set up a covenant. Step by step He taught and prepared this people, making known in its history both Himself and the decree of His will and making it holy unto Himself. All these things, however, were done by way of preparation and as a figure of that new and perfect covenant, which was to be ratified in Christ, and of that fuller revelation which was to be given through the Word of God Himself made flesh. "Behold the days shall come saith the Lord, and I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel, and with the house of Judah . . . I will give my law in their bowels, and I will write it in their heart, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people . . . For all of them shall know Me, from the least of them even to the greatest, saith the Lord. Christ instituted this new covenant, the new testament, that is to say, in His Blood, calling together a people made up of Jew and gentile, making them one, not according to the flesh but in the Spirit. This was to be the new People of God. For those who believe in Christ, who are reborn not from a perishable but from an imperishable seed through the word of the living God, not from the flesh but from water and the Holy Spirit, are finally established as "a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people . . . who in times past were not a people, but are now the people of God".

10. Christ the Lord, High Priest taken from among men, made the new people "a kingdom and priests to God the Father". The baptized, by regeneration and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, are consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood, in order that through all those works which are those of the Christian man they may offer spiritual sacrifices and proclaim the power of Him who has called them out of darkness into His marvellous light. Therefore all the disciples of Christ, persevering in prayer and praising God, should present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Everywhere on earth they must bear witness to Christ and give an answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal life which is in them.

Though they differ from one another in essence and not only in degree, the common priesthood of the faithful and the ministerial or hierarchical priesthood are nonetheless interrelated: each of them in its own special way is a participation in the one priesthood of Christ. The ministerial priest, by the sacred power he enjoys, teaches and rules the priestly people; acting in the person of Christ, he makes present the Eucharistic sacrifice, and offers it to God in the name of all the people. But the faithful, in virtue of their royal priesthood, join in the offering of the Eucharist. They likewise exercise that priesthood in receiving the sacraments, in prayer and thanksgiving, in the witness of a holy life, and by self-denial and active charity.

12. The holy people of God shares also in Christ's prophetic office; it spreads abroad a living witness to Him, especially by means of a life of faith and charity and by offering to God a sacrifice of praise, the tribute of lips which give praise to His name.

13. All men are called to belong to the new people of God. Wherefore this people, while remaining one and only one, is to be spread throughout the whole world and must exist in all ages, so that the decree of God's will may be fulfilled.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 7th May	FIFTH SUNDAY of EASTER
6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	John Berry RIP
9:15am	Wellbeing of Bridget Keohane
11:15am	Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Marie Authers RIP (5 th anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Special Intention
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Ruth & Bertha Lett RIP
Monday 8th May	Feria
9:30am	Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
Tuesday 9th	Feria
9:30am	Parish Priests
Wednesday 10th	Feria
8:00am	Parish Priests
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Paul Edwards RIP (anniversary)
Thursday 11th	Feria
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	James and Carmela Gibson RIP
12:00noon	James José Martin Walker RIP
Friday 12th	Feria
8:00am	John Rodrigues RIP (birthday)
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
Saturday 13th	Our Lady of Fatima
9:30am	Lionel David Edwards - good health
SUNDAY 14th May	SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER
6:00pm (Sat)	Holy Souls
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Elizabeth Strickland RIP
11:15am	Holy Souls
6:00pm	Holy Souls
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Nigel Authers RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Stephen Reynolds RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls

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

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 the.
O Lord and let perpetual light
shine upon them.
May they rest in peace*

Baptism

Welcome to
Amelia Galmarini
Who was Baptized at
St Thomas's, Sevenoaks
&
**Isabelle, Abigail
& Amelia O'Sullivan**
who were Baptized at
Most Holy Trinity, Oxford

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Cantate Domino canticum novum, quia mirabilia fecit Dominus; ante conspectum gentium revelavit iustitiam suam, alleluia.

Communion

Ego sum vitis vera et vos palmites, dicit Dominus; qui manet in me et ego in eo, hic fert fructum multum, alleluia.