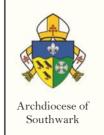
TRISH PININGTON FIDELITER SERVIENTI AWARD



CHILDREN'S LITURGY IN OTFORD



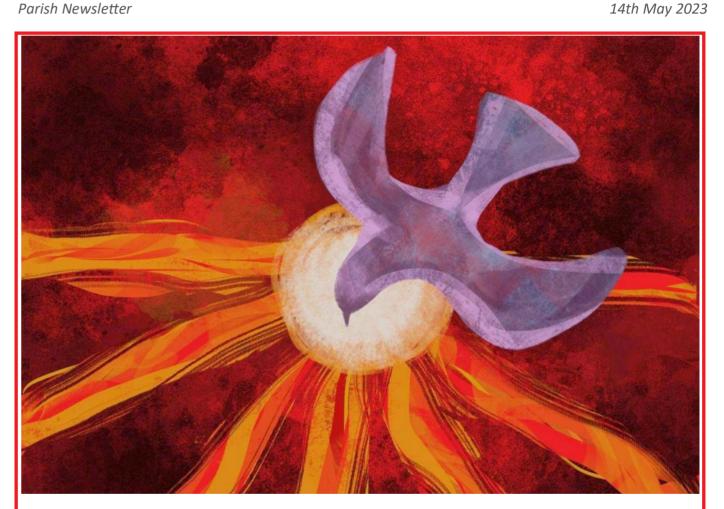




PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

14th May 2023



Today's Mass: SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts of the Apostles 8: 5-8, 14-17, Psalm 65, 1 Peter 3: 15-18, John 14: 15-21

First Reading: Philip makes many converts among the Samaritans. Here we see the beginnings of the mission of the Church - under the guidance of the Holy Spirit - beyond the Jews themselves (for the Jews regarded the Samaritans as racially impure Jews).

Psalm: this psalm of praise recalls the exodus, through the waters of the Red Sea.

Second Reading: St Peter urges us to know our faith well enough to be able to give others reasons for our hope. If we have to suffer in this, our model – and our help – is Christ.

Gospel: Jesus underlines that to keep His commandments is to remain in His love. He also says that (after His Ascension) He will send the 'Paraclete', which can mean an advocate (as in a court of law) or a consoler. The Holy Spirit, which will replace Jesus, is probably both.

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm Sunday

9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word)

11:15am 6:00pm

8:00am (Latin)

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am

Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Weekday Mass times:** 8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am

8:00am Wednesday 12:00noon Thursday Friday 8:00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

9:30am

Saturday

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



Keep your room tidy Put your hand up to ask a question

> Always say "please" and "thank you"

carefully before

Dot-to-dot This girl has a special helper with her

Look both ways you cross the road



inside this heart

doing something

today to help

someone else.

No sweets before

your dinner

Put litter

in the bin

I love you Jesus. I want to show how much I love you by following your rules. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to help me. Amen.

redemporist

Word search

Can you find N these 0 words from today's Gospel?

FRIEND HOLY LOVE KNOW **JESUS** KEEP US

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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.sevrcparish.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 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 (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

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

Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday: 8:00 am, 11:15am Sophie McBrien: sophiemcbrien@yahoo.co.uk

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew La Trobe: andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

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

Saturday 6:00pm Mass

Congratulations to Matthew Komarowski, receiving his first Holy Communion at this Mass.

9:15am Mass

Congratulations to Elena DeSisto, Beatrice Baker, and Oliwia & Kacper Kopacz, receiving their first Holy Communion at this Mass.

Tea/coffee are served after this Mass, in the Parish Room.

11:15am Mass

Congratulations to Cian Wishart, Arthur Gough, Edward Gregory, Hugo Griffiths, Leevi Roberts, Connor Vincent, and Tom Wood, receiving their first Holy Communion at this Mass.

The Traditional Choir leads the music today.

Fr K Pratap Reddy

Fr Pratap, who has visited us before, will be celebrating the Otford and 6:00pm Masses. Although this is not an official Parish Second Collection, he will be grateful to receive donations for his work in India, especially in providing schooling for children.

Other supply priests

We are grateful to Fr Bryan Wells and the Capuchin Friars for their help this Sunday.

THIS WEEK

Herbert Inglin RIP

Funeral on Monday at the Kent and East Sussex Crematorium.

Monday: Listening to You

If you feel you would like a quiet confidential place to talk and be listened to, then we would be happy to greet you on Monday 15th May in the Parish Room at 10:30 am - midday. There is always a warm welcome and a cup of coffee and biscuits. Do come along.

Fr Vipin

Fr Vipin returns to the Parish on Wednesday, God and the airline flights willing!

Ascension Day - Holyday of Obligation

This is a day when you should attend Holy Mass if at all possible:

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

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

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

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

We thank Fr Bryan for his assistance this day.

Christian reunion

The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the reunion of Christendom begins on Friday. See page 8 for more information.

Holy Baptism

Olivia Farrow is to be Baptized on Saturday afternoon.

Next Sunday: May Procession

The Parish May Procession will be at 3:30pm at Most Holy Trinity, Otford next Sunday. This is for all parishioners, not just Otford ones, and it is very suitable for all the family, including children. Come and honour Mary in the month of Mary!

Next Sunday: Second Collection

Next Sunday is World Communications Sunday, and the Second Collection will be for the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference. The CCN supports the Bishop of England & Wales and the wider Church, promoting the Gospel in and answering enquiries from the media, developing the public profile of the Church, providing up-to-date news releases, features and podcasts, and training spokesmen/women.

PARISH NOTICES

Confirmation 2023 Programme

All those in Year 7 or above who have been Baptized and received their first Holy Communion should go on the Confirmation programme. Confirmation - when the Bishop confirms the person's Baptism and confers the gift of the Holy Spirit - is the third and final step in becoming a full member of the Church. Confirmation is a requirement for godparents, those getting Married in the Church, and so on.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Parents who have not yet done so should go the Parish website - http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/Sac-Conf.htm - as soon as possible and register their child. The initial meeting (compulsory for candidates and parents) is on Wednesday 24th May.

Safeguarding

Our Parish Safeguarding Leads are Ken Baines, Sally Kelly, Margaret Briggs, and Teresa Hood. Ken's email address is on page 10. The St Thomas' School Designated Safeguarding Leads are William Liddle, Debra Whitehead, and Claire Williams, who can be contacted at the School.

In an emergency dial 999 and ask for the Safeguarding Officer. The Diocesan Safeguarding Office can be contacted on 020 7261 1606. Please note that safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is everyone's responsibility, not just the designated leads.

The Pilgrims: Tuesday 30th May in the Parish Room at 10:15am

Join us for Coffee and Cake and at 10:45am we will welcome Maggie Spiers with her Guide Dog puppy. Maggie will give a talk on the training of guide dogs and how they develop the skills to become the trusted companions and assistants of the blind and partially sighted.

Advance Notice: annual Garden Party

This will take place on Sunday 16th July, from 12:00 noon onwards in the Presbytery garden. Book the date now!

OTHER NOTICES

New National Shrine

The Archbishop is delighted to announce that the Diocesan Shrine of St Oscar Romero at St George's Cathedral, Southwark, has been elevated to the status of a National Shrine for England & Wales, following a recent unanimous decision by the Bishops' Conference. Commenting on this elevation, the Archbishop said: "We are very grateful to the Bishops of England and Wales for their support in enabling our Diocesan Shrine to now become a National Shrine for the benefit of people across our Dioceses. St Oscar Romero calls us to faithful discipleship of the Lord Jesus and to the full

proclamation of the Gospel. We are a people of the Beatitudes who must announce and live the Beatitudes. When Christ taught us to love and to serve he really did mean us to put this into practice, especially towards those in most need. Love of Christ and love of neighbour mean that defending human life and dignity, and working for justice and peace, are integral to our witness. In this, we look to St Oscar's inspiring example and ask his heavenly intercession."

St Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador in El Salvador from 1977 until his assassination and martyrdom on 24th March 1980. He was an outspoken advocate of the Gospel and the teaching of the Catholic Church, in defence of peace and justice, human rights, and the protection of the poor. He was canonised by Pope Francis in 2018. The centrepiece of the Shrine in the Cathedral is a three dimensional Romero Cross, designed by the renowned Salvadoran artist, Fernando llort, and it contains a reliquary which contains a fragment of the blood-stained alb Romero was wearing as he celebrated Mass when he was killed.

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 (<u>ben.andradi@gmail.com</u>) if you can help or visit <u>https://www.sevenoaks</u> welcomesrefugees.org/ for further information.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

The last Catholic Coronation

The latest in a series of answers to parishioners' questions. This time: 'when was the last Catholic Coronation in England?'

The Catholic elements in the Coronation

The Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla on 6th May in Westminster Abbey, although an Anglican Liturgy, contained many Catholic elements, surviving from the pre-Reformation days when England was a Catholic country. These elements include the King's silent prayer and expression of allegiance first to Almighty God, the priestly robes placed on the King, his anointing with oil (a gesture very familiar to Catholics), and the fact that the ceremony was in the context of a Eucharist (with the new King and Queen receiving Holy Communion).

For the first time in over 400 years Catholic prelates were present, including the Papal Nuncio, the Archbishops of Cardiff and of Armagh, and the Bishop of Aberdeen. Vincent Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, was not only present but offered a Blessing alongside other Christian leaders.

Seventy years ago it was not permitted for a Catholic to enter a Protestant Church, let alone participate in an Anglican Coronation service, so there were no Catholic representatives at Elizabeth II's Coronation in 1953.

On the other side of the coin, the King was required by the Coronation Oath Act of 1688 to declare during the ceremony that he is a faithful Protestant and that he will maintain 'the Protestant Reformed Religion established by law'. This goes back to the accession of William and Mary, who displaced James II.

The last Catholic monarchs

The last Catholic Monarch was James Stuart, James II of England and of Ireland and James VII of Scotland, who reigned from 1685 to 1688. He was a convert to Catholicism, but his (prompt) Coronation in Westminster Abbey would have been an Anglican one. His father, Charles II, converted to Catholicism, but only on his death bed, so his Coronation would also have been an Anglican one.

The last monarch to be crowned in a Catholic ceremony was Elizabeth I, in 1559. Her predecessor, Mary, had returned England to the Catholic faith, and so the Coronation was a Catholic one. It was, however, fraught with religious tensions. Elizabeth herself favoured the Protestant cause, and subsequently returned England to Protestantism in what is known as the Elizabethan Settlement.

The main problem was the officiating bishop. The (Catholic) Archbishop of Canterbury - Cardinal Pole (pronounced Pool) — died 12 hours after Queen Mary, and there was as yet no successor. The Archbishop of York declined to do it, and the Bishop of London was unacceptable to Elizabeth because he had persecuted Protestants. The Bishop of Winchester was under house arrest for an anti-Protestant sermon, and the Bishop of Chichester had also just died. Finally the very low ranking Bishop of Carlisle was coerced into performing the crowning.

The Order of Service was the *Liber Regalis*, first used in the Coronation of Edward II in 1308, and was the last Coronation to include Catholic Mass. It is unclear if Elizabeth received Communion, but the various elements of the ceremony were as in previous Coronations, and were the last in Latin.

Somewhat ironically, the last King to be crowned as a Catholic was Henry VIII. His Coronation on 23rd June 1509 in Westminster Abbey was a very grand affair and was followed by a very grand banquet in Westminster Hall. Catherine of Aragon was crowned Queen as well. This was (again somewhat ironically) the last full joint Coronation until that of James II and Mary of Modena in 1685, nearly two centuries later.

Other Catholic monarchs

There are Catholic monarchs, including the Kings of Spain and of Belgium, the Princes of Monaco and of Liechtenstein, the Grand Duke of Luxembourg, and (at least in theory) the Pope in Vatican City, but none of them has a Coronation as in the United Kingdom. We are the only European country which still crowns Kings and Queens in this elaborate ceremonial, which is over a millennium old.

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NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR THE REUNION OF CHRISTENDOM

What is a Novena?

A Novena is a nine day period of private or public prayer to obtain some special grace or make particular petitions. Novena comes from the Latin *novem*, meaning nine. It differs from an Octave, which is a week of celebration which follows an important feast like Easter.

The origin of the Novena does not come from the Old Testament but from the New. We are told in *Acts* 1: 12-14 that the apostles and the women, including Mary the Mother of Christ, prayed during the nine days between the Ascension and Pentecost, as they awaited the coming of the Holy Spirit.

The ancient Romans also had the practice of having nine days of prayers for various reasons, and the early Church may have taken over this practice.

There have over the history of the Church been Novenas for all sorts of things: these have included a Novena of Masses for the repose of a soul when someone died, Novenas (especially in Spain and France) in the nine days before Christmas – signifying the nine months Our Lord spent in the womb of his mother – and the Novena of the Sacred Heart, still widely celebrated in places dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

But the original Novena – that is the first of all Novenas - is the one between the Ascension and Pentecost, and is kept by the Church each year as prayers for the reunion of Christendom.

The Novena to the Holy Spirit for the Reunion of Christendom

The chief object of this Novena is to pray that Christians may be reunited from their present disunity. Whether your view is that the purpose is to recall those who have fallen away from the true Church by their heresy or schism, or at the other end of the spectrum that its purpose is to recognise that Christians are already almost united in practice, or whether your view is somewhere in between, no one can deny that this prayer for unity is vital and important.

Pope Leo XIII emphasised the need for the Holy Spirit to intervene in this area of the life of the Church in his Apostolic Letter *Provida Matris Caritate* in 1895 and decreed the observance of the Novena in his Encyclical *Divinum Illud Munus* in 1897.

Pope St John Paul II also keenly stressed the need for this Novena for Christian unity. Before the Angelus one Sunday he said: "In promising His peace, Christ assured the disciples of His support in trials. And is not the lasting division between Christians a very painful trial? This is why they feel the great need to turn to their One and Only Lord, asking that He help them overcome the temptation of discouragement along the difficult path which leads to full communion. In a world thirsting for peace, it is in fact urgent for Christian communities to announce the Gospel in a unified way. It is indispensable that they witness to the divine Love that unites them, that they be bearers of joy, hope and peace, becoming leaven for all of mankind."

For a copy of Novena prayers you can use, in a group or on your own, on each of the nine days, go to https://www.walsingham.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/holy-spirit-novena.pdf. You can also find the prayers prayed aloud on YouTube.

The Enchiridion of Indulgences (§34) notes that "a partial indulgence is granted to the faithful, who devoutly take part in the pious exercise of a public novena before the feast of Christmas or Pentecost or the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary". In this way the Church emphasises that the Novena is a pious spiritual exercise, and is to be commended, always remembering that God the Father answers all our prayers according to his divine will.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 14th May SIXTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm (Sat) Alf Hunt RIP

8:00am (Latin) People of the Parish

9:15am Elizabeth Strickland RIP

11:15am Holy Souls 6:00pm Holy Souls

9:30am *Otford* Nigel Authers RIP

9:30am Borough Green Stephen Reynolds RIP

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

Monday 15th S John Stone, Pr M

8:00am James and Carmela Gibson RIP

Tuesday 16th S Simon Stock, Pr

9:30am Private Intention

Wednesday 17th Feria

8:00am Fr Joe Andradi

10:00am Otford Julianne Beckwith

THURSDAY 18th The ASCENSION of the LORD

8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls
9:30am Kay Walsh
10:00am Otford Holy Souls
11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls
6:00pm Borough Green Holy Souls

8:00pm People of the Parish

Friday 19th S Dunstan, B

8:00am Holy Souls 10:00am *West Kingsdown* Holy Souls

Saturday 20th Feria

9:30am John O'Connor RIP (10th anniversary)

SUNDAY 21st May SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

6:00pm (Sat) Eileen Moynihan - good health

8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls

9:15am Martin Gardener RIP

11:15am Jan & Stanislaw Ociepa RIP

and Stanislaw Czaja RIP

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6:00pm In thanksgiving for good health

9:30am *Otford* Fr Mike Drennan SJ9:30am *Borough Green* People of the Parish

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Baptism

Welcome to

Isabella, Ignacio

and Florencia Muñoz

&

Arthur Devlin

Who were Baptized at St Thomas's, Sevenoaks

RECENTLY DEPARTED

Sarah McCracken

Edward Etheridge

Jean Grosvenor

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.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Vocem iucunditatis annuntiate, et audiatur, annuntiate usque ad extremum terrae: liberavit Dominus populum suum, alleluia.

Communion

Si diligitis me, mandata mea servate, dicit Dominus. Et ego rogabo Patrem, et alium Paraclitum dabit vobis, ut maneat vobiscum in æternum, alleluia.