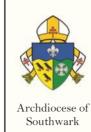
PARISH NOTICES



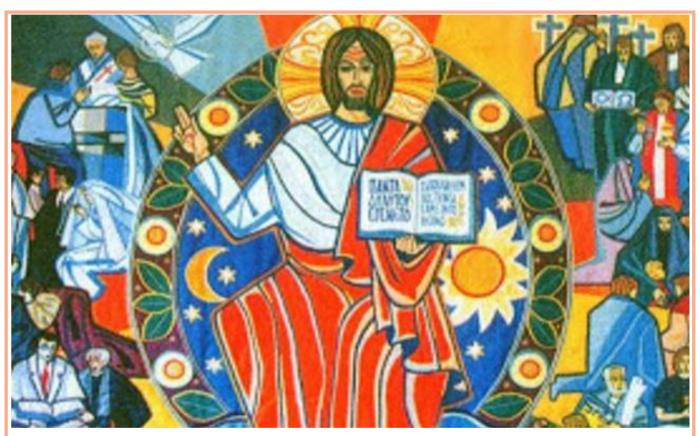
Please email: **seven**oaks@rcaos.org.uk for further details.



PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter



Today's Mass: SEVENTH SUNDAY of EASTER

Acts of the Apostles 1: 12-15, Psalm 26, 1 Peter 4: 13-16, John 17: 1-11

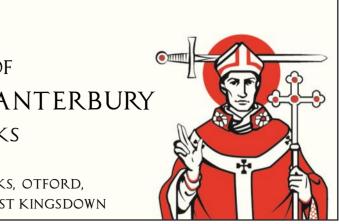
First Reading: the apostles - now 11 after Judas' defection - along with several women - including Mary, Christ's mother - and Jesus' brothers prayed together continuously. This is the first recorded Novena of prayer: their nine days of prayer between the Ascension and Pentecost is the basis of all later Novenas.

Psalm: a prayer of confident and urgent trust in God.

Second Reading: the context makes it clear that the sufferings mentioned here are those resulting from persecution of Christians, either by the Jewish authorities or the pagan, Roman authorities. If Christians suffer because of their faith in Christ, they are blessed.

Gospel: Jesus *"raised His eyes to heaven"*, a common posture of prayer in both the Jewish and Graeco-Roman worlds, and prays that He may be glorified and that His followers may enjoy eternal life. These are interconnected, just as are God the Father and the Son, and Christ and His disciples.

Fr Davíd



21st May 2023

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times: Saturday 6:00pm

Adoration:

Monday

Tuesday

Sunday 8:00am (Latin) **9:15am** (Children's Liturgy of Word) 11:15am 6:00pm

8:30am - 9:30am

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times: 8:00am Monday Tuesday 9:30am 8:00am Wednesday Thursday 12:00noon Friday 8:00am Saturday 9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

10:00am - 10:30am,

5:15pm - 5:45pm

Saturday



Granville Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek Monday - Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon Tel: 01732 454177 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk www.sevrcparish.org.uk

Church contact:

Barry Authers

Tel: 01959 524362

sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH



Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Liturgy of the Word) Wednesday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation **10:00am** Adoration: Thursday 7:30pm - 8:30pm Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

ST JOSEPH'S BOROUGH GREEN

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am (with Children's Liturgy of the Word) Thursday 10:00am Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

Church contact: Antoni Offert Tel: 07513 041075 sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Western Rd, Borough Green

TN15 8AG

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

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

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN





ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

2

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

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

10

PARISH NOTICES

Contents this Week

Pages 3-4	Parish and other Notices		
Page 5	Mass Intentions		
Page 6	Today's Mass Readings		
Page 7	Sunday Message		
Page 8	Letter for World Communications Day		
Page 9	From the desk of the Parish Priest		
Page 10	Contacts & Organisations		
Page 11	Mass Activity for Children		

TODAY

World Communications Day

The theme for this year's Day comes from *Ephesians* 4:15: Speaking with the heart: 'The Truth in love'. Good communications are vital to proclaiming the Church's message. The Second Collection is for the Catholic Communications Network, the media office of the Bishops' Conference. See p8 for a letter from the Bishop of Salford. The Pope's full message can be read or downloaded at cbcew.org.uk/wcd23-papalmessage/.

Supply Priests

The Capuchin friars are assisting today, at St Thomas's and at West Kingsdown.

First Holy Communion

Congratulations to Oliwer Metelica, who receives Holy Communion for the first time today at the 11:15am Mass.

THIS WEEK

Monday: Parish Office

As Magda will be away on Monday the Parish Office is not open. It reopens on Tuesday, at the normal times.

Sarah McCracken RIP

Sarah's Funeral Service is at the Medway Crematorium on Monday.

Monday

The Clergy and the Parish Leads for evangelization, catechesis and formation have a meeting on Monday, at which plans will be made for parish initiatives in these areas.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

In St Thomas's, on Mondays after the 8:00am Mass until 9:30am, and on Tuesdays between 6:00pm and 7:00pm.

Wednesday: 2023 Confirmation programme Meeting

On Wednesday at 7:30pm in St Thomas's Church. This meeting is compulsory for both parents and candidates who have registered for the 2023 Confirmation programme.

The Confirmation itself will be on Saturday 18th November at St George's Cathedral. Bishop Philip Moger will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Jean Grosvenor RIP

Jean's Funeral Service is at the Bluebell Cemetery, Halstead. on Friday.

Saturday: Feast of S Augustine

On Saturday we remember S Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop and the Apostle of England. He is a secondary Patron of the Archdiocese.

Next Sunday: Pentecost

The day when we recall the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles is the third most important day in the Church's Calendar.

Please note that the Saturday evening Mass will be the Vigil Mass of Pentecost. While nowhere near as lengthy or complicated as the Easter Vigil, it does include extra readings and prayers. The readings are not those of the Mass of the Day.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

PARISH NOTICES

The Pilgrims: Tuesday 30th Mav

Join us for Coffee and Cake at 10:15am 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.

Sunday 9:15am Mass

Coffee/tea and biscuits are again served in the Parish Room after this Mass. To go on the rota to organise it just speak to whoever is doing it at the time.

We still need volunteers to help with the Children's Liturgy of the Word. Speak to Mark O'Prey or email Magda in the Office if YOU can help.

We also need musical help. Can YOU help from time to time, even if it just playing the piano for some hymns or playing a guitar; or can YOU lead the singing? Speak to Fr David or email the Office.

St Thomas' School Summer Fair: raffle tickets

The School Summer Fair is on Saturday 17th June. Beforehand, raffle tickets will be on sale after Sunday Masses at St Thomas's and at Otford.

Recent Baptisms or first Holy Communions

To have pictures on the back page of this Newsletter, parents should simply email Magda in the Office (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk) with the picture and the child's name.

Finance

The recent second collections were as follows:

Poor Parishes	£788.55
Easter flowers (St T's)	£296.14
SVP	£1,074.47
Holy Places	£678.08
Fr Peter	£2,029.89
St George's	£683.97
Priests Training	£1,069.68
Malawi	£7,414.62

Thank you for your generosity.

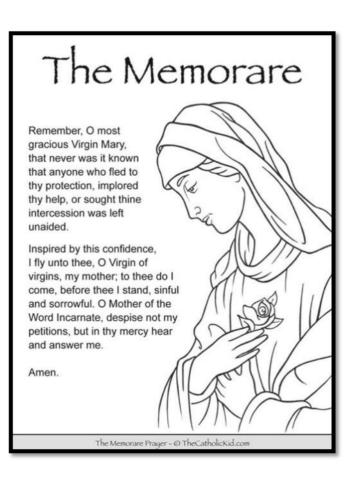
OTHER NOTICES

Catholic Association Lourdes Pilgrimage

This pilgrimage, which is from 18th to 25th August and includes the Southwark Diocesan Pilgrimage, is in need of volunteer helpers. The minimum age is 17 and there is no maximum age. If you are aged 17 -25 you can be part of the Young Helpers' Group (a supervised group who stay in a separate hotel). These support and care for the sick and disabled pilgrims. Financial assistance may be available. For more information email chiefs@catholicassociation.co.uk, phone 01732 886666, or visit www.catholicassociation.co.uk.

Food banks

Items for the Sevenoaks Food Bank can be put in the designated collection bins in the entrances of St Thomas's and Most Holy Trinity. Items for the Borough Green Food Bank can be put in the box in the entrance at St Joseph's. Items for the West Kingsdown Food Bank can likewise be left in St Bernadette's.





From the Desk of the Parish Priest

 \mathbf{N} he month of May is traditionally a time dedicated to veneration of our Mother, Mary. Mary is sometimes called the 'Queen of May'. Mary, Mother of the Church, cares for us day in, day out, interceding for us constantly. For that, she deserves an entire month in her honour!

Here are some suggestions for you to honour and show our love for the Blessed Mother. Even though we are well into May it is not too late to start honouring Mary!

Make a Marian Shrine

Set up a special place in your home to honour Mary. All you need is a statue or image of the Blessed Virgin. You can decorate it with some flowers, especially lilies, roses or irises (which are traditional symbols of Mary). It makes a perfect focal point for the whole family to gather round and recite the Rosary or just the Hail Mary. Make a set time each day; it only takes a few minutes.

Children can compose their own prayers to Mary, and draw pictures or make models to place at a Marian Shrine.

Pray the Rosary

The Holy Rosary is recited in St Thomas's after the Saturday morning Mass, and this is an ideal opportunity to learn how to pray the Rosary. It can easily of course be prayed at home, either individually or as a family group.

Learn about the Marian apparitions

Just google Lourdes, Fátima, Guadalupe, Knock or Walsingham and learn about Our Lady's appearances and about her instructions in them.

Each of the various Marian Shrines has a different message and a different charism. At Fátima, for example, Mary instructed that the Rosary should be prayed daily, whereas at Lourdes she commanded the faithful to go on pilgrimages and to do penance. Walsingham focuses on the Holy Family.

4

May the month of Mary

A little known apparition of Our Lady was in Cambridge in 1251, when she commended the Scapular (meaning 'do work in her honour'). Walsingham is the national Shrine of Our Lady in England.

Read Bible passages about the Virgin Mary

Passages such as the Annunciation, Jesus' birth, the presentation of Jesus in the Temple, Mary at the foot of the Cross, and Mary praying the Novena before Pentecost (in today's First Reading) are well worth reading and prayerfully meditating upon.

You can also study the Church's teachings about Mary. Why, for example, do we believe that Mary was immaculately conceived without original sin? The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a good source of such information.

Participate in the Parish May Procession

The whole family and the whole parish can join in this, which is today (Sunday) at 3:30pm at Most Holy Trinity, Otford. This includes the ancient tradition of crowning the statue of Our Lady. This represents Mary's status as Queen of Heaven, and the flowers represent her beauty and virtue. It is also a reminder to the faithful to strive to imitate Our Blessed Mother's virtue in our own lives.

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb Jesus.

> Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death Amen.

LETTER FOR WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY

CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES



WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY Speaking with the heart. "The truth in love" (Eph 4,15)

Sunday, 21 May 2023

Dear Father,

We celebrate World Communications Day on Sunday, 21 May, and as the Lead Bishop for Communications, I have been reflecting recently on the big news stories of the past 12 months - both inside the Church, and beyond. It has very much been a tale of monarchs and popes. Firstly, we mourned the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who served our countries steadfastly and faithfully for just over 70 years and welcomed the announcement of a new King - His Majesty King Charles III.

We have also prayed fervently for the successors of St Peter. Recently, of course, we prayed for Pope Francis as he recovered from a respiratory infection in hospital but, as 2022 drew to a close, it became apparent that Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI was in poor health and close to returning to the Lord. We prayed, as a Catholic community, for the repose of his soul and we were able to celebrate his life and considerable contribution to the Church. In a special way, we gave thanks for his memorable Papal Visit to the UK in 2010.

The motto for that historic visit came from St John Henry Newman - Heart speaks unto Heart. How fitting that speaking from the heart is the central theme of Pope Francis' message for this year's 57th World Communications Day. In recent years, the Holy Father has reflected on the building blocks of good communication. The heart, he says, is the common factor motivating us "to go and see" and "to listen". It enables us, having listened, to "speak the truth in love". You can read or download the full message here: cbcew.org.uk/ wcd23-papal-message/

Please encourage your communities to assist this crucial work by generously supporting the second collection which is taken up on the day. Please visit, and encourage others to visit, the Bishops' Conference website: cbcew.org.uk. Here you will find the latest news, features, events, podcasts and more. You can also sign-up for the communications team's weekly newsletter.

With every blessing,

+ John Ste Xun Bl.

Bishop John Arnold *Lead Bishop for Communications* Bishop of Salford

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

SUNDAY 21 st May	SEVEI	NTH SUNDAY of EASTER
6:00pm (Sat))	Eileen Moynihan - good healt
8:00am (Latin)		Fr Patrick Aikens RIP
9:15am		Martin Gardener RIP
11:15am		Jan & Stafania Ociepa RIP and Stanislaw Czaja RIP
6:00pm		In thanksgiving for good heal
9:30am Otford		Fr Mike Drennan SJ
9:30am Bord	ough Green	People of the Parish
11:00am Wes	st Kingsdown	Holy Souls
Monday 22 nd	Feria	
8:00am		Angela Griffiths RIP (1 st anniv
Tuesday 23 rd	Feria	
9:30am		James & Carmela Gibson RIP
Wednesday 24 th	Feria	
8:00am		All dec'd members of the fam
10:00am <i>Otfo</i>	ord	Holy Souls
Thursday 25 th	S Bede the V	/enerable, Pr D
10:00am Boro	ough Green	Jon Le Sbirel RIP and
		wellbeing of Anne Lamento
12:00noon		In thanksgiving - Sally Haggar
Friday 26 th	S Philip Neri	i, Pr
8:00am		Trevor Pijper-Fora - good hea
10:00am Wes	st Kingsdown	Holy Souls
Saturday 27 th	S AUGUSTIN	IE of CANTERBURY, B Apostle
9:30am		Lancy Rodrigues RIP (birthday
SUNDAY 28 th May	PENT	ECOST SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat))	Eileen Bridget McSharry RIP
8:00am (Lati	n)	People of the Parish
9:15am		Fr Vipin
11:15am		Good health for Pope Francis
6:00pm		All deceased in our Parish
9:30am Otford		Mick & Sally Kelly (wedding a
9:30am Borough Green		Eddie Etheridge RIP
11:00am W/e	st Kinasdown	Holy Souls

11:00am West Kingsdown Holy Souls

FOR YOUR PRAYERS
Departed anniversaries
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, Angela Griffiths,
Bernard Moose, Eleanor Lynes,
Joseph McDermott, Roland Chown, Keith Viner.
RECENTLY DEPARTED
Edward Etheridge
Jean Grosvenor
David Lewis
Eternal rest grant unto them
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
Exaudi, Domine, vocem meam,
qua clamavi ad te. Tibi dixit cor
meum, quæsivi vultum tuum, vultum tuum requiram; ne
avertas faciem tuam a me,
alleluia.
1

Rogo, Pater, ut sint unum, sicut et nos unum sumus, alleluia.