

PARISH NOTICES



MEMBERS OF ST BERNADETTE'S UCM ATTENDED THE DIOCESE ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD, ON SATURDAY, 20TH JULY



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.*

**How do I advertise my business or
get my ads in the Newsletter?**

Please email: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
for further details.



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

28th May 2023



Today's Mass: PENTECOST

Fifty days after the Resurrection, we celebrate the promised descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of the Jewish Feast of Pentecost. This day is often called Whitsun ('White Sunday') in England, because it was the last day the adults Baptized at Easter wore their white Baptismal garments.

At the **Vigil Mass** on Saturday evening we wait in vigil for the descent of the Holy Spirit, which will happen liturgically on Sunday. There are up to four **Old Testament readings**. The first, from *Genesis*, is significant: it tells of the confusing variety of languages resulting from the attempt to build the tower of Babel. Pentecost undoes this. The coming of the Spirit is promised in the **Gospel**.

At **Mass during the day**, the **First Reading** is the famous account in *Acts* of the tongues of fire coming upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost. This marks the beginning of the Church's proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The **Psalm** is a poem of creation, recalling the role of the Spirit at creation and calling on the Spirit to 'renew the face of the earth'.

Second Reading: the Spirit is given to every Baptized person, but different people have different gifts.

The obligatory **Sequence** is a beautiful poem composed by Stephen Langton, Archbishop of Canterbury, who died in 1228. It should be sung (see the hymn book for tunes).

Gospel: Christ Himself confers the Holy Spirit on the disciples. The greeting of the risen Jesus – "Peace be with you" – is that used by a Bishop at the beginning of Mass.

In summary, the Holy Spirit is present in the universe (*Psalm*), in the Bishops, successors of the apostles (*First Reading* and *Gospel*), in every Baptized member of the Church (*Second Reading* and *Sequence*), and is active in the preaching of the Church (*First Reading* and *Gospel*).

Fr David

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Sunday Mass times:

Saturday
6:00pm

Sunday
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am (Children's Liturgy of the 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

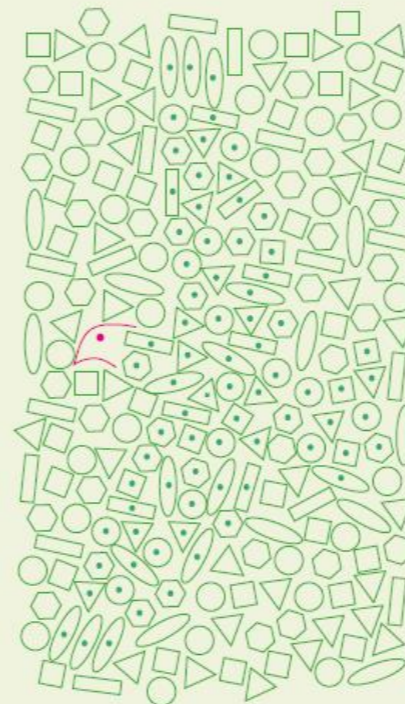
MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



SHARE
GOD'S
PEACE

Hidden picture

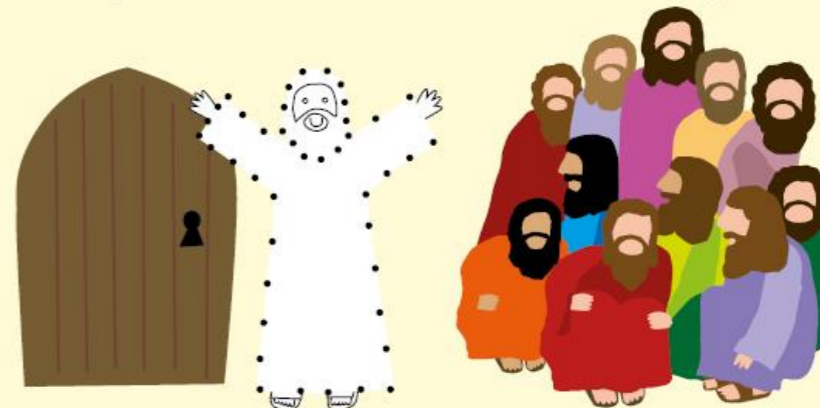
Colour in the shapes with a dot to see our present from Jesus.



Jesus comes to his frightened disciples. He gives them the gifts of peace and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will help all Jesus' friends as they share his message of love and peace with everyone they meet.

Who is here?

Join the dots to see Jesus in the locked room with the disciples. Imagine how they must have felt. Draw in their faces to show how they felt.



Word search

Can you find these words hidden on the door?

DISCIPLE PEACE
HOLY WITH
SPIRIT YOU
JOY DOOR
JESUS FRIGHT

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

A PRAYER TO SAY

Help me, Jesus, to spread your peace today. Thank you for sending your Holy Spirit to help as I try to speak kindly to everyone I meet. Amen.

Bringing peace

I can bring peace when I...

S _ _ p (ot) a b _ l _ y (lu)
Sp _ _ k (ae) k _ _ ly (din)
L _ t n(es) w _ _ l (le)
M _ k _ (ae) fr _ _ n _ s (eid) again

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: sevenoakslow@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

Office: sevenoaks@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, Sally Haggarty 10

07979 550952

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

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TODAY

Pentecost

Pentecost is the third most important date in the Church's year. It ends the season of Easter, and afterwards the Paschal Candle is relocated from the Ambo to the Baptistry. The Sequence is sung or said after the Second Reading; please stand for it. The double Alleluia is sung or said after the Dismissal. The liturgical colour is red, symbolising the joy and fire of the Holy Spirit.

Today is a Day of Prayer for the Church. Today is also, as it happens, the date of the elevation of the diocese of Southwark to a Metropolitan Archdiocese and the erection of the diocese of Arundel & Brighton, in 1965.

Pentecost Vigil

Please note that the Saturday evening Mass is the Pentecost Vigil, which is different from the Mass of the Day. There are extra readings, and the readings are not those of the Mass of the Day, and so not those in the middle of this Newsletter. The Mass does, however, fulfil your obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Supply priests

Thanks to our regular supply priests Fr Bryan Wells and the Capuchin friars.

First Holy Communions

Congratulations to Daisy, Jasmine and Amber Webster and to Mark Conway, receiving their first Holy Communion at the 11:15am Mass.

New Catholic

Congratulations to Grace Annandale, to be Baptized, Confirmed and receive first Holy Communion today at the 11:15am Mass. Grace is answering the same call that led 3,000 people to be Baptized on the first Pentecost day.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group lead the music today.

THIS WEEK

Ordinary Time

Ordinary Time resumes on Monday. The Mass readings are taken from Week 8, Year 1. In the Divine Office the psalms etc are from the Psalter Week 4. Green vestments are worn unless it is a Feast Day.

Monday: Bank Holiday

Holy Mass at the Bank Holiday time of 9:30am. There is no Adoration this day. The Parish Office is closed on Monday.

Tuesday: The Pilgrims

Coffee and cake at 10:15am in the Parish Room, followed by a talk by Maggie Spiers, accompanied by her guide dog puppy, on the training of guide dogs. All 'senior' parishioners are warmly invited.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

Edward Etheridge RIP

Reception of Eddie's body into St Joseph's on Thursday at 7:30pm, followed by a Requiem Mass. Funeral Mass at 10:00am on Friday, followed by Committal at Eltham Crematorium.

Friday: First Holy Communion catechists

Meeting at 7:30pm on Friday, in the Presbytery.

Next Sunday: Trinity Sunday

The Feast of Title of Most Holy Trinity, Otford. The 9:30am Mass will be followed by refreshments, to celebrate the Feast.

Next Sunday is the last day for fulfilling the precept of Easter Holy Communion.



You're Invited!

PARISH NOTICES

The Why? Course

A three part introduction to the Catholic faith – the 'Why? Course – is being hosted online by the Parish over three consecutive Monday evenings, starting on Monday 19th June. For more details and to register your interest, contact Andrew La Trobe (sevenoaksple@rcaos.org.uk or 0775 738485). Do YOU know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic? If so, invite them to join this course.

Finance

The Offertory (ie for the Parish) in March was £13,757.00. In April it was £10,470.00. (The difference is explained by the different number of weeks in each month.) Your Easter Offering to Fr David and Fr Peter was £18,701.69, for which they sincerely thank you.

St Bernadette's update

Thanks to money from legacies we have installed a new fence on the field side of the churchyard, which should stop animals getting in and stop them eating the plants, and fixed a new gate at the pedestrian entrance. We have also applied to the diocesan Finance Office for approval to resurface the car park. Speak to a local Committee member for further information.

OTHER NOTICES

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

On Saturday 10th June, led by Auxiliary Bishop Philip Moger and Fr Michael Branch, Cathedral Dean, leaving from St George's Cathedral. Cost: £28 per adult, £20 per child. For more information visit the Events page of the diocesan website. To book go to tinyurl.com/walsinghamjune.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Moving Parish

As I said in my Saturday email to registered parishioners, if you were surprised to learn that I will be moving parish in September, imagine how surprised I was when I was asked to move. I had imagined that I would be Parish Priest of Sevenoaks until I retired, like my two predecessors, or until I died in office, like their two predecessors. But the Holy Spirit, or perhaps I should say, the Archbishop, obviously had other ideas.

Promise of Obedience

When a priest is Ordained, he makes a Promise of Obedience. He kneels before the ordaining Bishop – in my case Archbishop Michael Bowen in St George's Cathedral on 11th May 1996 – and places his joined hands between the Bishop's hands. The Bishop (if he is the Ordinary, that is the diocesan Bishop) asks 'Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors?' He replies 'I do'.

This has certain implications, one of which is that essentially a priest goes where his superior, in my case the Archbishop of Southwark, sends him. There are some limitations on this. The Bishop can only move a priest within his own diocese, he can't tell him to go elsewhere. Under Canon Law a Parish Priest can only be moved if the Bishop has a suitable post to which to move him. If I had a good reason for not making the move (for example if I were about to have major surgery) I could dissuade the Bishop from making the appointment, but it would have to be a genuine reason not to move.

On the other side of the coin, the Promise of Obedience places an obligation on the Bishop to find suitable posts for each priest, and to ensure that they have somewhere to live and a reasonable income etc. It also means that when a priest retires or is sick, the diocese has to find appropriate accommodation, in an old people's home if necessary.

Sacred Heart, Wimbledon

Sacred Heart, Wimbledon is numerically a very large parish, with three priests, two deacons, two religious sisters, a full time lay Administrator, a Faith Minister, and a site manager, not to mention various other people doing various jobs. There are three choirs, and there are 6 Sunday Masses (including Saturday evening).

The Parish was founded and run for decades by the Jesuits, who left about 10 years ago. There is a parish 2 form entry Primary School, as well as Wimbledon College (for boys, run by the Jesuits) and the Ursuline High School (for girls, run by the Ursulines), each with a prep school.

Some of you may be jumping for joy that I am leaving Sevenoaks, but I have been touched by the many emails and comments after Mass expressing your sadness that I am going. I shall be sad to leave Sevenoaks but at the same time I am looking ahead to fresh challenges.

I shall be replaced by Fr Piotr (Peter) Kucharski, until now Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Ashford, and I am sure that he will build on my legacy (unless the Holy Spirit again has other ideas!). I am sure too that you will give him, and Fr Vipin, the same support you have given me.

St Francis of Assisi Exhibition

Changing the subject, I recently visited the St Francis of Assisi exhibition at the National Gallery, and I recommend it. Book online in advance: the tickets are free, but they enable you to bypass the queues to enter the building. The artworks, extending from soon after St Francis' time to very modern works, are well worth seeing, and the exhibition enables one to discover details about St Francis that one had had either forgotten or never knew, and to learn afresh about his significance and influence.

VENI CREATOR SPIRITUS BY JOHN DRYDEN

Creator Spirit, by whose aid
The world's foundations first were laid,
Come, visit ev'ry pious mind;
Come, pour thy joys on human kind;
From sin, and sorrow set us free;
And make thy temples worthy Thee.

O, Source of uncreated Light,
The Father's promis'd Paraclete!
Thrice Holy Fount, thrice Holy Fire,
Our hearts with heav'nly love inspire;
Come, and thy Sacred Unction bring
To sanctify us, while we sing!

Plenteous of grace, descend from high,
Rich in thy sev'n-fold energy!
Thou strength of his Almighty Hand,
Whose pow'r does heav'n and earth command:
Proceeding Spirit, our Defence,
Who do'st the gift of tongues dispense,
And crown'st thy gift with eloquence!

Refine and purge our earthly parts;
But, oh, inflame and fire our hearts!
Our frailties help, our vice control;
Submit the senses to the soul;
And when rebellious they are grown,
Then, lay thy hand, and hold 'em down.

Chase from our minds th' Infernal Foe;
And peace, the fruit of love, bestow;
And, lest our feet should step astray,
Protect, and guide us in the way.

Make us Eternal Truths receive,
And practise, all that we believe:
Give us thy self, that we may see
The Father and the Son, by thee.

Immortal honour, endless fame,
Attend th' Almighty Father's name:
The Saviour Son be glorified,
Who for lost Man's redemption died:
And equal adoration be,
Eternal Paraclete, to thee.

John Dryden (1631 – 1700) was a poet, dramatist, critic, and translator. He was England's first Poet Laureate, and was the dominant writer of Restoration England. He converted to Catholicism in 1686, and wrote the poem 'The Hind and the Panther' in 1687 to celebrate his conversion. He wrote this translation of the traditional Latin hymn for Pentecost in 1693.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 28th May	PENTECOST SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat)	Eileen Bridget McSharry RIP
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Fr Vipin
11:15am	Good health for Pope Francis
6:00pm	All deceased in our Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Mick & Sally Kelly (wedding anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Eddie Etheridge RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Holy Souls
Monday 29th	Mary, Mother of the Church
9:30am	Wellbeing of John Smoker
Tuesday 30th	Feria
9:30am	Good intentions of the donor's family
Wednesday 31st	The VISITATION of the BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
8:00am	James and Carmela Gibson RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Constance Mary Edwards RIP (birthday)
Thursday 1st	OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Sofia & Zibi RIP (Isabella's parents)
12:00noon	Fr Adolphus Ezeakor RIP
7:30pm <i>Borough Green</i>	Requiem Mass - Edward Etheridge RIP
Friday 2nd	Feria
8:00am	Martin Boorman RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	All Parishioners
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Funeral Mass - Edward Etheridge RIP
Saturday 3rd	SS Charles Lwanga & Companions, MM
9:30am	Fr Gerald & Sr Josephine

SUNDAY 4th June	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY
6:00pm (Sat)	All Parishioners
8:00am (Latin)	Peace in Ukraine
9:15am	Fr David
11:15am	Deacon Neil Philipson
6:00pm	Maureen and Mike Dinsmore RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Parishioners at Most Holy Trinity
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	People of the Parish
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Fr Gerald & Sr Josephine

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Baptism

Welcome to
Olivia Farrow
&
Louis Whitehead
who were Baptized at
St Thomas's, Sevenoaks
last weekend.

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.

Departed anniversaries

Bernard Pahe, Margaret Erdie,
Thomas Costelloe, Henry
Fischer, Brian Hunt, Jude Dias,
Bernard Griffin, Hanzel Pilorz,
Ann Bruke, Thomas Bruke,
Robert Madi, Evelyn Brian,
Annie Griffin, Kathleen Hickey.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Spiritus Domini replevit orbem
terrarum, et hoc quod continet
omnia scientiam habet vocis,
alleluia.

Communion

Repleti sunt omnes Spiritu
Sancto, loquentes magnalia Dei,
alleluia.