

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 16th July, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm



BBQ and Drinks for All

There will be a variety of food, including BBQ, salads, cakes, and desserts, a bar, as well as children's games, entertainment and live music, including St Thomas' School Choir.



Bottle Stall

As always the most popular! Bring bottles to the Presbytery (champagne, not shampoo, sangria, not sanitiser, Pimm's not Pepsi!).



Toys Stall

Children love getting new toys. Why not to make them happy that day? Please donate unwanted toys, teddies etc – in safe condition



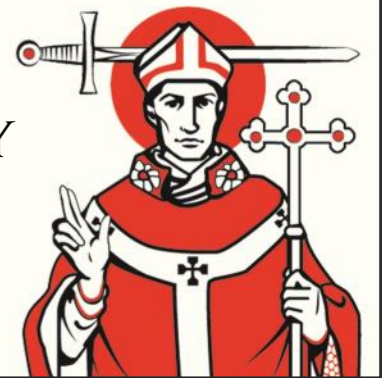
Good as New stall

Please search out unwanted gifts and other good things, including some books in very good condition



Archdiocese of Southwark

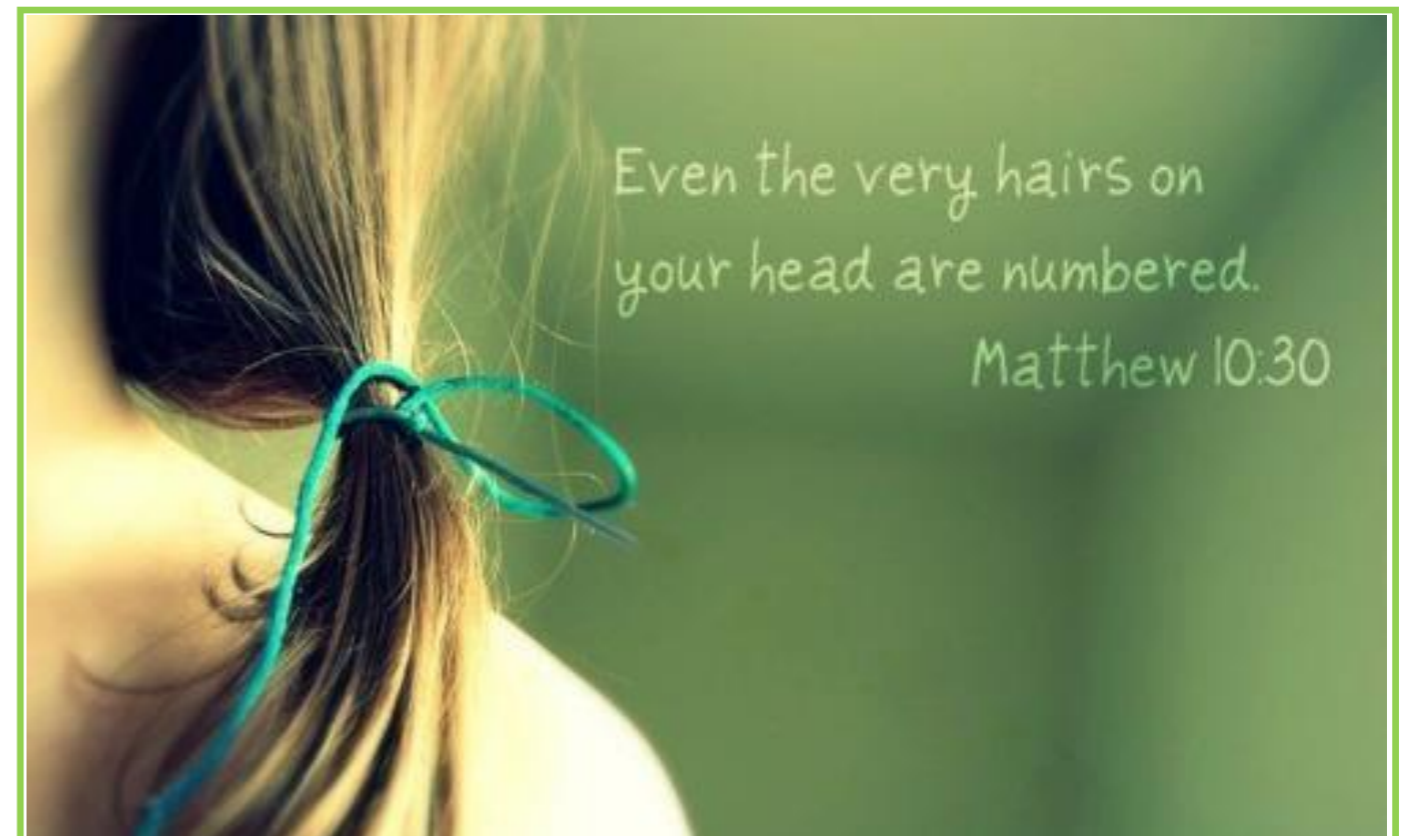
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS



CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

25th June 2023



Today's Mass: TWELFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Jeremiah 20: 10-13, Psalm 68, Romans 5: 12-15, Matthew 10: 26-33

First Reading: despite the harassment and maltreatment he suffers Jeremiah is confident that God is 'at his side' and will confound his enemies, thus proving that he is a true prophet and that God's word will prevail.

Psalm: this psalm is notoriously the most difficult psalm to make sense of, but in today's extract we can see that the psalmist confidently appeals to God for help amidst his troubles.

Second Reading: Paul contrasts Adam – through whom sin and therefore death entered the world – with Jesus Christ, whose saving acts bring divine grace, 'an abundant free gift'.

Gospel: after the preceding warnings about coming persecution, Jesus encourages His disciples not to be afraid. For one thing it is not persecutors who should be feared but God, for God is able to condemn to eternal death. Also, God the Father – who cares even for sparrows – will care even for every hair on a disciple's head. God will not protect us from suffering persecution if we proclaim the Gospel, since even Jesus had to suffer, but the Father will bring his children through the suffering to eternal life.

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



DO NOT
BE AFRAID!

Jesus tells us that God loves us so much we do not need to be afraid. God loves the sparrows, but we are even more important than hundreds of sparrows. God loves us so much he knows everything about us - even the number of hairs on our head!

How many hairs?

Can you count how many hairs this boy has on his head?



Guess how many hairs are on your head. Do you love anyone enough to try to count the hairs on their head? Give it a go!



Draw yourself and your hairstyle here.

Puzzle



EVEN THE HAIRS ON YOUR HEAD ARE COUNTED

Can you fit these words into the grid?

How many sparrows?

How many sparrows can you find hidden on this page?

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, sometimes I am afraid and do not know what to do. Please help me to remember you love me and are always supporting me. Help me to find people to help and find a way round my worries. Amen.

My supporter

The Gospel today tells us that Jesus is on our side.



Write your name on Jesus' banner, to show he supports you.

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

Jakub Siudyka & Catherine Tan

sevenoaksfhc@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

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

Contents this Week

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TODAY

Supply Priests

We are grateful to Fr Bryan Wells assisting today, along with Fr Paschal Omono, our Summer supply, while Fr David is in the Holy Land with the Parish Pilgrimage.

9:15am Mass

Coffee and biscuits after Mass, in the Parish Room.

11:15am Mass

The Music Group leads the music today.

THIS WEEK

Thursday: SS Peter & Paul

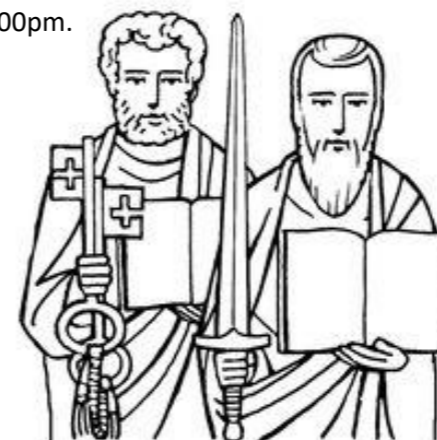
This is a Holyday of Obligation in England & Wales. Holy Mass as follows:

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

Most Holy Trinity: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's: 11:00am.

St Joseph's: 6:00pm.



Saturday: Going Forth Mass

11:00am in St Thomas's. All those who have received their First Holy Communion in the last year are invited to this annual Mass, along with their family members. It will be followed by refreshments. This is the only time all this year's first communicants come together, and they are welcome to wear their first Communion outfits.

Next Sunday: Second Collection

The Second Collection next Sunday is for Peter's Pence. This is the money sent by Bishops and their people to the Apostolic See of Rome to enable the Holy Father, the Bishop of Rome, to exercise his works of mercy and charity and service of the Universal Church.

Next Sunday: Knights of St Columba

We shall welcome at the 11:15am Mass local Knights of St Columba, for their Initiation ceremony. Visit <https://kscsouthwark.org/> for further information about the Knights, and do speak to one of them after the Mass if you are interested in joining.

PARISH NOTICES

St Thomas' Nursery September 2023 intake

has places available for this September. The eligible age range is 1st September 2019 to 31st August 2020. Please contact the Nursery for further information on 01732 453921 or nursery@st-thomas-sevenoaks.kcsp.org.uk.

The Pilgrims: Tuesday 11th July at 2:00pm

A visit to a very pretty and interesting garden close to St. Thomas's Church with tea in our own church garden (or the Parish Room if the weather is bad). Please sign the notice in the porch as we need to know numbers. We welcome parishioners from the other churches and if you would like to come, please phone Magda and leave your name and phone number. We will contact you with more details later.

3 Jackie Pembroke

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

OTHER NOTICES

Verdi Requiem Concert

Will be performed by Sevenoaks Philharmonic Choir with Sevenoaks Symphony Orchestra at the Stag on Saturday 1st July 7:30pm. (Tickets available from the stag box office £18,£17 and £6 – see posters in porch)

Diocesan Choir for 4th July

Singers are invited to join the Diocesan Choir for the 175th Anniversary Mass in St George's Cathedral on 4th July at 6:00pm. The Diocesan Choir will sing alongside the combined Cathedral choirs and a children's choir. There may be a rehearsal on Saturday 1st July at 10:00am, and there will be a rehearsal on the day itself from 4:30pm. Singers should contact Jonathan Schranz – Cathedral Director of Music – at singing@rcaos.org.uk or (even better) fill in the following form: <https://forms.gle/Su4vCG9NW2LttE4k8>.

Vocations day with the Norbertines in Peckham Saturday 15th July

The Norbertine community in Peckham is holding a Vocations Day for young men to visit their priory and discover more about the life of a Norbertine canon. The "Come and See Day" will take place on Saturday 15th July from 10:00am – 4:00pm. If you are thinking about a vocation and are curious about the Norbertine Order and religious life please contact them to book a place: community@norbertines.org.uk

Thank you

A enormous thank you to all of you who generously responded to my appeal for Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank. It was a heart-warming response! Our forthcoming appeals for donations will be on 16th July, 20th August and 17th September - the confirmation candidates will be helping to sort the donations on those dates. Thank you again.

Isabelle Mercer



You're Invited!

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Sunday 16th July, 12:00 noon – 3:00pm

An inclusive event for everyone in the parish: young and old, families, teenagers, retired and parishioners from all four churches. No charge for entry, food or drink. Raffle tickets (£2 each) are now on sale, with some super prizes. There will be a variety of food, including BBQ, salads, cakes, and desserts, a bar, as well as children's games, entertainment and live music, including St Thomas' School Choir. All funds raised are for the parish. Contact ben.andradi@gmail.com for queries or offers of help.

Bottle stall

This is always popular. Please look through your cupboards and bring bottles to the Presbytery (champagne not shampoo, sangria not sanitiser, Pimm's not Pepsi!).

Toy stall

Likewise donate unwanted toys, teddies etc – in safe condition – and bring them to the Presbytery.

Unwanted gifts and Good as New stall

Please search out unwanted gifts and other good things, including some books in very good condition; there is no space for clothes, but a beautiful scarf is welcome; cuttings of herbs and plants; also a 'Name the Dolly', which would make a lovely gift for a youngster. Contact Pat Harman (01732 453902 or bobandpat.harman@gmail.com) about donations and other stall enquiries.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

From the Holy Land

This week's page would be better called *From the hotel bedroom of the Parish Priest*, as I am, of course, on the Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land. After quite a long flight with El Al we arrived at our hotel in Tiberias, by the Sea of Galilee.

On the first day, Friday, we visited the Mount of the Beatitudes, where Jesus preached the Sermon on the Mount. The beautiful and tranquil Church of the Beatitudes is octagonal in shape, recalling the eight Beatitudes. In March 2000 Pope Paul VI celebrated Mass here for young people. In his homily he said "*In the end Jesus does not merely speak the Beatitudes, He lives the Beatitudes. He is the Beatitudes. Looking at him you will see what it means to be poor in spirit, gentle and merciful, to mourn, to care for what is right, to be pure in heart, to make peace, to be persecuted. That is why Jesus has the right to say 'Come, follow me!' He does not say simply 'Do what I say'. He says, 'Come, follow me!'"*"

On to Mount Tabor, traditionally the site of Our Lord's Transfiguration, where we celebrated Mass. The mountain, about 550 metres high, dominates the plain around it.

After Lunch which included St Peter's fish, our itinerary encompassed Tabgha, where in close proximity are the Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes and the Church of St Peter's Primacy (where Jesus said to St Peter 'feed my sheep') - also known as Mensa Christi - and Capernaum, the home of St Peter and the place of an ancient synagogue. Jesus stayed with St Peter and his family here, and much of His ministry took place in and around Capernaum.

A highlight for many people was a boat trip on the harp shaped Sea of Galilee (confusingly also known as Lake Tiberias or Lake Kinnereth, which is Hebrew for 'harp'), during which the boat's engines were cut for a few minutes, to experience the 'still, small voice of calm'.

Saturday's itinerary began with a visit to Nazareth, with Mass at the Basilica of the Annunciation. This church, the largest in the Middle East and with a lily shaped dome (the lily is the symbol of the archangel)

commemorates the announcement to Mary by the archangel Gabriel that she would be the Mother of God. Over the entrance is inscribed - in Latin - those words so central to our Christian faith from *John 1:14: 'The Word became flesh, He lived among us'.*

On then to Cana in Galilee, the place of Our Lord's first miracle. The miracle demonstrated Christ's divinity, it asserted the significance of Marriage, and also displayed the role of Mary in our prayers. It is traditional in the Church of the Wedding Feast there for the renewal of Marriage vows and for the Blessing of families to take place. Local wine is sold in the shops in Cana, but it is awful; far better to drink the local pomegranate juice! We then transferred to the hotel in Bethlehem.

Today (Sunday) we begin with Mass in St Catherine's, in the Basilica of the Nativity. This is the church in Bethlehem from which the Midnight Mass of the Nativity is broadcast every year. The focal point is a small, silver star in the floor of the Grotto of the Nativity, in a cave underneath the High Altar. It is here that pilgrims kneel, pray, and touch or kiss the star. Our tour of Bethlehem includes the cave where St Jerome translated the Scriptures into Latin (known as the Vulgate Bible) and the Shepherd's Fields. The latter marks the place of the angelic announcement to the shepherds and the world of the birth of the Son of God.

There is also an opportunity to shop for olive wood items, such as statues, cribs, Last Supper scenes, and crucifixes. I shall avoid the sexist comment that this shopping particularly appeals to the ladies on the Pilgrimage!

Walking in the places where Jesus walked is truly an incredible, spirit filled experience, and we echo the words of Peter at the Transfiguration: "*Rabbi, it is wonderful for us to be here!*" (Mark 9:5).

ST THOMAS'S FUNERAL SUPPORT GROUP

Reflecting on our own funeral is challenging, and arranging or attending the service for family or friends can be very difficult and emotionally draining. Every funeral, just like the families involved, is different. The way we grieve and the style of the service prepared to reflect the life of the deceased, will vary.

Now, at St Thomas's we have a group of volunteers to offer practical help on the day of the funeral. We respond to a request from those involved. We come along to the Church in good time and help as required. So, for example, mourners may arrive very early and be glad to have a parishioner to welcome them. Another visitor, in cold weather, may ask for the warmest place to sit. We may need to hand out service books if they arrive late. Requests are as varied as there are people really. From the priest's point of view it can be useful to have a few parishioners around if they are needed. Just before lockdown we had fifteen volunteers; we divided into teams of four under the patronage of St Joseph, (traditionally the patron of a happy death) St Francis, St Benedict and St Anthony. At this point I need to say that post lockdown three groups are a man or woman short, one of whom is our beloved parishioner, Angela Brunning, sadly now deceased. She and I made all the initial plans. If any one would like to join (your turn would only come up infrequently) I would be glad to hear from you.

Years ago every funeral meant a large congregation whether or not one knew the deceased, but times have changed. Smaller funerals, possibly because people outlive family and friends, they move into care homes and lose contact with the wider parish community. Then the funeral support group can be really valuable. At a big funeral the family is able to do everything, sometimes including carrying in the coffin.

All this leads me on to reflect on the privilege of helping and, if possible, attending the funeral. All the great religions of the world emphasise the importance of honouring their dead. For us, our bodies have housed our immortal souls loved by God from all eternity. Respect and prayer are the Judeo-Christian response to death and the prayers, signs and symbols at our funeral services beautifully reflect this belief. We are fortunate to be alongside at that important moment on the deceased's journey into God's loving embrace. Not for us bleak despair but joy filled faith and hope that our love now will be completed in the Kingdom of God with our loved ones there before us.

Please note: an updated version of our leaflet "At a time of Loss, can we help" is being prepared. It includes information re "Listening to you" (Bereavement support) and the Pilgrims Group for older and retired parishioners.

Contact: Pat Harman – 01732 453902 or bobandpat.harman@gmail.com or our Parish Clergy.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 25th June	TWELFTH SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat)	Dec'd members of the Rodrigues family
8:00am (Latin)	Tony Menrock RIP (birthday)
9:15am	Anne D'Souza RIP (anniversary)
11:15am	Angela Brunning RIP
6:00pm	Mary Fowdrey (90 th birthday)
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Angela Brunning RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Land Pilgrims
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Dr B Henderson RIP
Monday 26th	Feria
8:00am	Dec'd members of the D'Souza family
Tuesday 27th	Feria
9:30am	Wilfred Alexander RIP
Wednesday 28th	S Irenaeus, B M D
8:00am	Those who use the food bank
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Judith Frith RIP
THURSDAY 29th	SS PETER & PAUL, App
8:00am (Latin)	Holy Souls
9:30am	All children from St Thomas School
8:00pm	Holy Souls
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Good estate of Jeanne Noble
6:00pm <i>Borough Green</i>	Pope Francis
Friday 30th	Feria
8:00am	In Thanksgiving
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Sister Stephen Joseph McCormack RIP
Saturday 1st	of Our Lady
9:30am	Those who use the food bank

SUNDAY 2nd July	THIRTEENTH SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat)	Angela Brunning RIP
8:00am (Latin)	Tony Menrock RIP (birthday)
9:15am	Angela Brunning RIP
11:15am	People of the Parish
6:00pm	<i>Mass not booked yet</i>
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Mary Scott RIP (anniversary)
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Ursula Ponsonby
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Fr Leonard Taylor RIP

HOLY MATRIMONY

James Young

&

Sophie Akister

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Departed anniversaries

John Mullen, Patrick Russell, Dan Walshe, David Powell, Catherine Robinson, Joyce Thompsett, John McEvoy, Jeanne Barker, Elizabeth Hall, Henry Forrest, Noelle Palmer, Ursula Chappell, Patrick McHugh, John Finn, Sister Joseph Stephen, Ethel Boddy, Mary Mills, Kenneth Wallace, Andrew Mallon, Peter Galligan, Michael Taggart, Richard Henderson, Monique Langhorn, Joseph Connor, Daniel Barton

THE SICK

Tony Barrett, Frank Eastbrook, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham, Ann Steven, Lilian Spragg, Ken Holmes, Mary & Chris Scott, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Dominus fortitudo plebis suæ, et protector salutarium Christi sui est. Salvum fac populum tuum, Domine, et benedic hereditati tuæ, et rege eos usque in sæculum.

Communion

Ego sum pastor bonus, et animam meam pono pro ovibus meis, dicit Dominus.