



PILGRIMAGE TO HOLY LAND



GOING FORTH MASS



Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

9th July 2023



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

Zechariah 9: 9-10, Psalm 144, Romans 8: 9, 11-13, Matthew 11: 25-30

First Reading: the prophet depicts the coming of the humble king of peace, in words which Christians have always taken to refer to Jesus Christ.

Psalm: a royal psalm in praise of God, our king.

Second Reading: we have the Spirit in us, and so we should lead spiritual lives and be concerned with spiritual matters; this is the only way to have eternal life.

Gospel: this passage follows a section in which Israel fails to see that Jesus Christ is the Messiah (even John the Baptist was uncertain). If we compare the words used here with the book of *Exodus* it becomes clear that Jesus is the new Moses, but His new covenant does not produce the onerous burdens of the old law of Moses but a new teaching which, with God's help, we can follow.

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

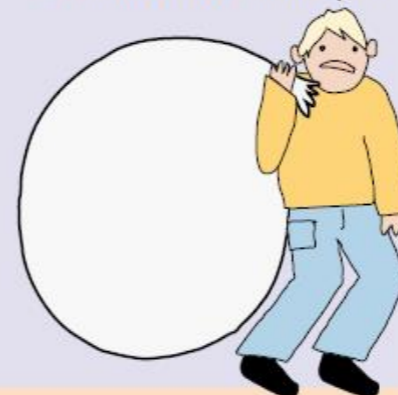
GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN MASS ACTIVITY FOR CHILDREN



JESUS WANTS TO HELP

A heavy load

Here is someone who is carrying a heavy load. When we are worried it can feel as though we are carrying something heavy. Inside this sack draw or write something which worries or troubles you.

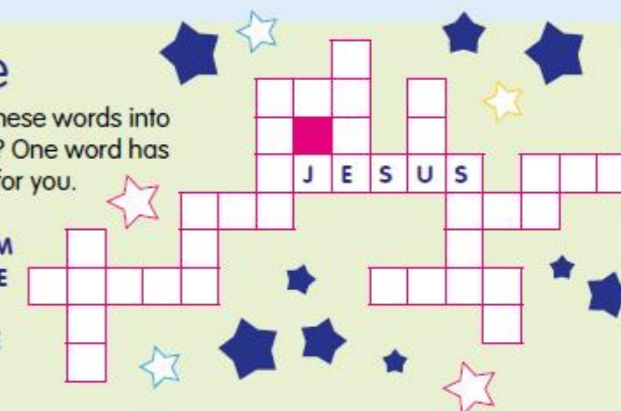


When Mary goes to the tomb where Jesus is buried she finds the stone is rolled away from the entrance and Jesus' body is not there! Mary rushes to tell the others. When they see the grave cloths they understand - Jesus has risen. He is alive!

Puzzle

Can you fit these words into the squares? One word has been put in for you.

JESUS
COME TO HIM
ALL WHO ARE
TIRED AND
HE WILL GIVE
YOU A REST.



Heavy or light burdens

In Jesus' day people used to carry heavy loads on yokes resting on their shoulders. The loads Jesus spoke about were troubles which weighed them down. Draw a line from each of these words to the bucket you think it goes in.



Give it to God!

God loves us. He doesn't want us to carry heavy loads. God says that we can give all our troubles to him. In your imagination hand over to God your big, heavy sack of troubles!

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Jesus, thank you for loving me and wanting to help me. Please help me to share your love with other people, so they know you love them and want to help them too. Amen.

Come to me

Jesus wants to help us. Help this person get to Jesus.



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: mmdbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH NOTICES

TODAY

Second Collection

The Archbishop has written "to encourage prayer and financial contributions to support the work of Stella Maris, the official maritime charity of the Catholic Church. This mandatory second collection is vital for the future of Stella Maris and its support of seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world". See page 8.

Memorial Service for Margaret Vinson

In St Joseph's at 2:30pm, a Service of prayers, readings, and hymns.

THIS WEEK

Tuesday

Year 2 from St Thomas' School will attend the 9:30am Mass in St Thomas's.

Mary Goldsmith RIP

Funeral Mass in St Bernadette's at 2:00pm, followed by Interment in the West Kingsdown Burial Ground.

The Pilgrims

Garden visit and afternoon tea on Tuesday at 2:00pm. All 'senior' parishioners and friends are welcome; meet in the Parish Room.

Thursday: Churches Together in Sevenoaks and District

Ecumenical Prayer in St Thomas's at 7:30pm; all welcome.

Next Sunday: Parish Garden Party

12:00 noon – 3:00pm, in the Presbytery garden. See the separate Notice.

PARISH NOTICES

2023/4 First Holy Communion Programme

For all parents with children registered for the next First Holy Communion programme. The initial parents' meeting will be on Monday 17th July at 7:30pm, in the Parish Centre. It is very important that at least one parent attends. There will be information about the new structure of the preparation, an opportunity to ask questions and key dates for the diary. The closing date for registration is Friday 14th July: you can register online at <http://www.sevrparish.org.uk/>.

Home Faith Cells Registration

Following a very successful first year of Faith Cells running in the Parish, we are very pleased to advise that registration/re-registration is now open for the coming year. Please find the link on the Parish web site or use the link provided here <https://forms.office.com/e/CRV4CyGNnU>. More information will be provided in due course.

Parish St Vincent de Paul Society

The St Vincent de Paul Society makes regular visits to those who are housebound, ill, or in need of a friend. We have a small but active group in St Thomas of Canterbury Parish in Sevenoaks. If you or someone you know would benefit from a regular visit or phone call, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us. We tailor our support to each individual. We are also able to offer some financial assistance on a case-by-case basis. You can contact our group's president Paul Boyle on 07796 564018 or alternatively email sevenoakssvp@gmail.com.

Newsletter page 8

Sophie McBrien's recent testimony – part of an occasional series written by parishioners on their particular apostolate or faith journey - was well received. If you would like to write a similar piece, sharing your Good News, and about 600 words, simply email it to Magda in the Parish Office. We will correct any typos and standardise things like dates, but otherwise will not edit it. Do not be shy: many people would love to hear about your journey and Good News.

Men's and Women's Retreats

The next Parish Men's Retreat is 29th September to 1st October 2023. The next Women's Retreat is 17th to 19th May 2024. The theme is *Hope: Living Differently*, based on some words in Pope Benedict XVI's *Spe Salvi*. Both Retreats will be facilitated by Sr Gemma Simmonds, CJ, who spoke in Lent in our parish. Each Retreat is at The Friars, Aylesford; the cost for full board, lodging and the Retreat facilitator is £240. You can download a form from the Parish website (click on the News and Masses tab) or obtain one from the Parish Office. Lift shares to Aylesford will be organised. Queries to Catherine Rodger (c.rodger@btinternet.com or 01732 458852).

The registration form and non refundable deposit of £20 (cheques payable to RCAS Sevenoaks) should be

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

returned to the Parish Office by Sunday 6th August for the men's Retreat.

Parish Centre refurbishment

Information is now available on the Parish website, under 'Parish' pulldown.

Finance

The Second Collection for the work of Fr Pratap Reddy in India came to £2,232.88. The total May offering was £12,101.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Financial Internal Review

Julie Donnelly, who previously worked in the Diocesan Finance Office, has undertaken an independent Financial Review of the 2022 Accounts. The objectives of the review were to provide an overview of the accounting procedures and records currently in place and give an opinion on the accuracy of the 2022 accounts. The period audited was the 2022 accounts in AIQ.

Her overall opinion is that "The financial records are maintained to a very high standard by Stephanie [our Parish Accountant] and she provides the Finance Committee with very detailed reports before each Finance Committee Meeting. All expenditure is for genuine parish expenditure and the expenditure I reviewed was all coded correctly in AIQ. Stephanie confirmed that approval is sought from the Finance Office for any expenditure over £10,000". She therefore states that "In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that the accounting records have not been maintained and prepared in accordance with the Diocesan requirements".

OTHER NOTICES

'Called to Bear Fruit' (C2BF)

The Archbishop recently held three *Called to Bear Fruit* days – one in each of the three pastoral areas of the Archdiocese – for the Clergy. These meetings represent the very preliminary beginnings of a process for renewal in the Archdiocese. The Archbishop writes "In due course, C2BF will be rolled-out across our parishes through an inclusive, grassroots process of consultation and discernment. Each of us needs to participate so that, together, we can shape our future as a missionary Archdiocese. As the process unfolds, there will be

full engagement with our laity so they can play their rightful place in our discernment. I commit myself to you again in words I said in 2020: 'I became your shepherd because I want the Church in our Archdiocese to flourish. I want all of us to be renewed in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can witness, in word and action, that the Lord Jesus reveals the Father's love for every person. Our first priority is, and always will be, to call people to life in Christ through His Church'. You can expect to hear more about C2BF in future months.

London Pioneer Reunion

Were you a member of one of the P.T.A.A Pioneer Centres that existed in London and outer London Catholic churches from the nineteen fifties? The Pioneer Centres offered so much fun and friendship to emigrants from all over Ireland for fifty decades or more. The Sunday socials were thronged as Irish teenagers found a home from home welcome, culminating in many marriages arising. But like many associations family life and life changes, some emigrants returning home meant gradually Centres folded. Hence, this reunion call to all those Pioneers for an opportunity to meet old friends. The date is Friday 28th July, the meeting place is Westminster Cathedral, Victoria at noon. For any further information please contact Tom Ryan on 020 7228 7146 or Denis Costelloe on 07960 308886 .

PARISH GARDEN PARTY

Next Sunday 12:00 noon – 3:00pm

in the Presbytery Garden

Free entry; free food and drink

BBQ, salads, cakes, bar

children's games and entertainment

St Thomas' School Choir

Wells family String Players

Bottle Stall

Toy Stall

Gift Stall

Plant Stall

Raffle, with some very good prizes
(tickets £2 each)



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

What do Priest do?

A child in a Catholic school once asked 'what do Priests do after Mass on Sunday? Go home and read the Bible all week?' Not quite: chance would be a fine thing! Our days can be very busy, with a variety of different duties. What, then, do we do all week?

First and foremost, the Priest prays with and for the People of God. In the last week alone I have received requests for prayers for the departed, those seriously ill, someone starting a new job, and for sundry other needs.

Most importantly the Priest celebrates the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Acting in the person of Christ he recites the words and performs the actions of Christ, representing Christ's saving self sacrifice, and thus feeds the People of God with the Body and Blood of Christ. Speaking personally, I never tire of offering Mass, which is just as well when I have to celebrate Mass twice in a day.

Priests preach the Gospel of Christ: I have been greatly heartened by the many parishioners who have thanked me for various homilies. The Priest is also a teacher of the faith; this we do in various contexts, including this Newsletter article, in catechetical classes, in our Catholic schools, and so on.

To preach and teach the Priest must also be a student of the faith. This entails studying the Scriptures and Church documents, and keeping up his spiritual reading. An annual Retreat is also a requirement.

Priests Baptise. This is always a joy, creating new members of Christ and his Church, and giving the newly Baptized the promise of eternal life. Priests also conduct Marriages, witnessing the couple's promises and blessing the new relationship, another joy.

Priests visit the sick, especially if they are hospital chaplains. My experience of hospital visiting is that at the first meeting a patient may worry that that the Chaplain has come to give them bad news, but once they have been reassured they are very grateful to have been visited, even if they are not practising their faith. Hospital staff also appreciate having Chaplains around. Priests offer counsel to many different people

with many different problems and concerns, and at the least often know where the person can get more expert help.

The Priest also conducts Funerals. Families are at their most raw and sorrowful on these occasions, and are very grateful to the Priest for leading the Funeral and offering comfort and hope in the Resurrection of the Faithful Departed.

Sometimes the Priest can find himself caught up in a war zone or some other dangerous place, but he stays with his people, he doesn't abandon them. Fortunately neither Sevenoaks or Wimbledon comes into this category (apart from the time I had to do an emergency stop when a kamikaze badger shot in front on my car when I was returning from Chevening House!).

Sometimes a Priest is called to be a foreign missionary. I have not been called to this apostolate, but Fr Gregory, Fr Paul and Fr Vipin find themselves in a country not their own.

The Priest is always on call, mostly to administer the Last Rites to someone who is dying. As this invariably happens when one is relaxing it is initially vexing, but one always returns buoyed up: it is as if the dying person and their family are ministering to me rather than the other way round.

There are also, of course, numerous administrative responsibilities: the Priest will find himself a governor of one or more Catholic schools, a co-ordinator of rotas (especially in this complicated parish), and generally an administrator. As Parish Priest I have to ensure all Mass Intentions are offered, invoices are paid, donations banked, our buildings are maintained, and parish employees are supplied with coffee and biscuits.

All in all the Priest's week is very varied, and seldom dull, and it is only with the grace of God given in one's Ordination that one can fulfil all these tasks and enjoy the best job satisfaction of any profession.

STELLA MARIS

Stella Maris is the largest international ship-visiting charity in the world. We are a unique and expanding global network of chaplains and volunteers.

We provide welfare services, advice and friendship. We meet practical, pastoral and spiritual needs among seafarers of all nationalities and beliefs. Stella Maris also provides vital support when crisis hits. We support crews and their families through traumas such as kidnapping and piracy, abandonment, hospitalisation, death and suicide. We help them cope with separation, loneliness, assault, bullying and financial issues. Many seafarers say the support we provide is a lifeline, that our chaplains and volunteers are a friend in port wherever they go, and they couldn't imagine what life at sea would be like without us.

Stella Maris statistics:

- Up to 70,000 ship visits carried out each year
- 1,000+ chaplains and volunteers around the world
- Every 4 minutes a seafarer is visited by Stella Maris in the UK
- 113,982 seafarers and fishers helped in the UK in 2021
- In 353 ports
- In 57 countries

Stella Maris has launched the latest version of its *Life at Sea* report, which focuses on the exceptional work its port chaplains have done and continue to do to support seafarers and families impacted by the war in Ukraine.

The *Stella Maris Life at Sea report 2022: Kindness amid conflict* contains poignant yet inspiring stories of how Stella Maris' chaplains have made a vital difference to many seafarers and families facing hardship and desperation. Stella Maris offered safe housing for Ukrainian refugees, deliver humanitarian relief, and reunite families.

Stella Maris, working in partnership with the shipping industry, has so far provided £150,000 in grants to 300 Ukrainian seafarers and their families over the last year.

Stella Maris CEO Tim Hill MBE said, "From the day war broke out, Stella Maris has been on the ground supporting seafarers and their families facing an unprecedented crisis. Today, our team remain in the port city of Odesa, doing everything possible to stand with those who need help."

He added, "As the conflict in Ukraine continues, there's an urgent need to keep supporting seafarers. We are calling on the shipping industry to step up its support for Ukrainian seafarers and their families by partnering with Stella Maris in the coming year. By contributing to our Centenary Emergency Fund, supporting a seafarers' counselling service and donating to the work of our team in Odesa, industry partners can show their commitment to Ukrainian seafarers – and demonstrate kindness amid conflict."

Visit <https://www.stellamaris.org.uk/> for the Report and for more information.



STELLA MARIS

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 9th July	FOURTEENTH SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat)	Angela Brunning RIP and the comfort of her family
8:00am (Latin)	People of the Parish
9:15am	Halyna Leyka RIP
11:15am	Angela Brunning RIP
6:00pm	Rita Lewis RIP
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Chin Kimeee Ayoung-Chee RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Margaret & Jim Vinson RIP & their family
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Good estate of Jeanne Noble
Monday 10th	Feria
8:00am	Welfare of John Williams
Tuesday 11th	S BENEDICT, Ab, Patron of Europe
9:30am	Those who use the food bank
2:00pm <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Funeral Mass - Mary Goldsmith RIP
Wednesday 12th	S John Jones, Pr M
8:00am	Margaret Menday RIP
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Denise Barnes RIP
Thursday 13th	S Mildred, Ab
10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Maria Meehan
12:00noon	Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP
Friday 14th	Feria
8:00am	Paula Gibbons (100 th birthday)
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	James & Carmela Gibson RIP
Saturday 15th	S Bonaventure, BD
9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
SUNDAY 16th July	FIFTEENTH SUNDAY
6:00pm (Sat)	Mike Mills RIP (anniversary)
8:00am (Latin)	Thomas Mernock RIP (birthday)
9:15am	Dec'd members of Tony and Jill Cooper
11:15am	Phillis Claydon RIP (birthday)
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	Angela Brunning RIP
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	Martin & Vivienne Andrews RIP
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Tony Goldsmith RIP

HOLY MATRIMONY

*James Young
&
Sophie Akister*

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

The sick

Mavis Mitchell Lambert, Tony Barrett, Frank Easterbrook, 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

RECENTLY DEPARTED

*Mary Goldsmith
Robert Hafford
Margaret Menday*

Departed anniversaries

Christine Devitt, Agnes Byrne, Brian Morel, Harold Hinton, Vera Doherty, Baby Gregg, Margaret Baniff, Harry Eyre, Elizabeth Hardman, Eithne Riddle, Patrick Moore, Francis Morandi, Johanna Heijnen, Professor Tucker, Kathleen Catlin, Ellen Forrest, Peggy Lines-Roberts, Myra Piercy.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance

Suscepimus, Deus, misericordiam tuam in medio templi tui. Secundum nomen tuum, Deus, ita et laus tua in fines terræ; iustitia plena est dextera tua.

Communion

Gustate et videte, quoniam suavis est Dominus; beatus vir, qui sperat in eo.