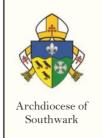
### FR DAVID'S FAREWELL PARTY







Parish Newsletter

# PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

10th September 2023



### Today's Mass: TEWNETY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

### First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel reminds us of our duty to watch over and guide one another in faith. We are called to be spiritual guardians, helping our fellow believers stay on the path of righteousness.

### Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9

The psalm invites us to worship the Lord joyfully, recognizing Him as our Creator and Shepherd. We approach Him with gratitude for His care and guidance.

### Second Reading: Romans 13:8-10

St. Paul highlights love as the cornerstone of our faith, emphasizing its role in fulfilling God's commandments and fostering unity in our Christian community.

### Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Jesus provides guidance on resolving conflicts within the Church, emphasizing reconciliation and the power of communal prayer. He assures us of His presence when we gather in His name, guiding us in unity and peace.

This Sunday's readings remind us of our responsibility to watch over one another, practice love, and seek reconciliation within our faith community. As we gather in worship, let us live out these teachings in our daily lives, fostering a loving and harmonious Church community.

### 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

Adoration:

8:30am - 9:30am Monday Tuesday

6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times:

Monday 8:00am Tuesday 9:30am Wednesday 8:00am Thursday 12:00noon

8:00am Friday Saturday 9:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday

10:00am - 10:30am, 5:15pm - 5:45pm

Fathers' day off:

Fr Vipin: Monday Fr Piotr: Tuesday



### Granville Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri.

> 8:30am - 12:00noon Tuesday closed

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



**Cultural Inclusion in our Schools** & Communities

### **Amigo Hall St Georges Cathedral SE1 7HY** 28 October 2023 ~ 9.30am - 4pm

This seminar will feature a range of speakers that include

### **Archbishop John Wilson**

~ The Welcome Message ~ **Canon Victor Darlington** 

~ The Commission's Progress ~

Fr Richard Nesbitt ~ Sharing A Parish's effort to tackle Racism Susan Elderfield ~ Inclusion & Journeying with Young People Nana Churcher ~ From little seeds grow mighty trees - A Motivation Andrea Fernandes ~ Forming a Parish Racial and Cultural Inclusion Group



Scan the QR Code or click this link to register: https://forms.microsoft.com/e/1G3DvS124W **Registration is FREE** 

You can also send us an email. racialjusticecommission@rcaos.org.uk



Sponsor: Racial & Cultural **Inclusion Commission** 

### **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 Peter Kucharski piotrkucharski@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, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am - 12:30pm, Tuesday - closed

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

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

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

#### Second Collection

The Second Collection will be for the Catholic Education Service (CES). This acts on behalf of the Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education, and they have a strong and positive working relationship with the British and Welsh governments. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools, with over 2,000 Catholic schools and colleges in England & Wales, educating over 800,000 students. The Catholic Church and the Church of England together provide one-third of all the schools in the country.

### **Confirmation Away Day**

The Confirmation candidates have their Away Day at The Friars, Aylesford next Sunday, including the family Mass there at 4:30pm.

### THIS WEEK

### Parish Office

Please note the change in office hours on these four open days. You can meet with Magda during the following hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30am to 12:30pm. On Tuesday the office is closed. Thank you for your attention to this update, and we look forward to serving you during our revised office hours.

### Cecile O'Connell Patey RIP and her daughter Helen Mary Patey RIP

Funeral Mass on Monday at 1:00pm in St Thomas's, followed by burial at the St George Church Weald.

### **Holy Matrimony**

The Wedding of James Fullbrook & Christina Witter is on Saturday at 12:30 noon in St Thomas's.



### St Edith Devotions in Kemsing

On Sunday 17th September 3:30pm Devotions at St Edith's Well, 4:00pm Vespers in St Mary's Church, followed by refreshments in The Bell. This annual devotion is very suitable for families, including children. If you have never attended, do come along.

You are invited to walk the pilgrimage to Kemsing with others, from Sevenoaks or Otford. Depart St Thomas's at 11:00am; eat your packed Lunch at Most Holy Trinity; depart Otford 1:30pm. Contact Ingrid La Trobe for more information on the ingridlatrobe@rcaos.org.uk

### NOTICE

### Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank

Since my appeal last June, people in St Thomas' have been continuously generous toward the foodbank and it is extremely appreciated. Sevenoaks (Loaves & Fishes) Foodbank is a lifeline for around 40+ families who visit us every week. Please be specially generous next weekend as it will also be an opportunity for the confirmation's candidates to do some charity work. I am also trying to find a second hand laptop for the Foodbank to help with the administrative tasks of the charity. Thank you for any response to my appeals. Isabelle Mercer

### PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

### Knowing & living Christian faith in Full Communion with the Catholic Church

Who is God? Who is Jesus? Who is the Church? Discover how to answer these questions through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), a process of prayerful study, fellowship, introductory rites, and reception of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist. The full programme lasts from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October to April 2024. Contact Andrew Wilkinson: 07487 652846, andrewwilkos@gmail.com.

### The Truth Seeks

Weekly program will commence shortly in the St Thomas Parish Centre. And the details will follow. If there are any queries, please contact Giuseppe De Simone on giuseppe@desimone.co.za

#### Fr David's Induction Mass

You are all invited to Fr David's Induction Mass at Sacred Heart, Wimbledon at 6:30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September. Auxiliary Bishop Rt Rev'd Philip Moger, KC\*HS will induct Fr David as Parish Priest. The address is Edge Hill, SW19 4LU. It will be followed by refreshments in the Upper Hall.

### St Joseph's Quiz Night

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September. Tickets £10 per person to include a ploughman's supper, tea & coffee; bring your own drinks and nibbles. Obtain tickets from Jenny (07591 301186) or Margaret (01732 885295). The quiz master is our very own Ken Baines, and part of the proceeds will go towards a Baptismal Font for St Joseph's. Start forming your team now!

#### Mass Intentions available

Please join us in ordering Mass intentions. Remember your loved ones and enrich our community with your prayers. Contact the office or drop an email or Mass Intention envelope at the Presbytery. Thank you.

### Men's Retreat - change of the date

Now the men's retreat will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November. Please contact Catherine Rodger for more details: c.rodger@btinternet.com

#### **Parish Registration**

If you are new to the Parish (welcome!) – or have never registered – please register as a parishioner. Either go to the Parish website (http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk/) and click on PARISH REGISTRATION, or complete a blue registration form.

### **Marriage and Family Life**

On behalf of the MFL Team please may the following items be included in the next few weeks' bulletins:

1. "Grief in Loss, Hope in Christ Weekend" If you are mourning after the death of a loved one - this weekend may be for you. Aylesford Priory 6th - 8th October 2023. Cost £230 single, £210 shared. Please tel: 01622 717272 or email: reception@ thefriars.org.uk

#### 2 Beginning Experience Weekend

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your spouse, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. This is easily reached by road or by the new Elizabeth Line. If you would like more details of the weekend, please ring Maura 07795-498445 or Mary 020-8647 4760 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

3. Growing in Faith Together consists of four one hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for engaged couples who have completed their marriage preparation course and want to continue exploring their faith together and married couples to enrich their friendship and love. The course dates are 4 Tuesday evenings 8pm – Oct 24<sup>th</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>, Nov 7 and 14<sup>th</sup> To register go on the link below from October 1st: www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/ together

### From the Desk of the Parish Priest

### A journey of a thousand miles begins with...



### Dear Parishioners and Friends of St Thomas',

Lao Tzu, a wise philosopher, once quipped, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." In that spirit, I take this first step of introducing myself to you, the welcoming community of St. Thomas' in Sevenoaks, Otford, Borough Green and West Kingsdown, as your new parish priest. My journey to serve you started quite a few miles and many steps ago, in Zagórz, a small town in the southeast of Poland.

I grew up in a Catholic family, the youngest of three siblings, absorbing the values of faith, love, and community service from an early age. The road from there to here was paved with numerous lessons in faith and humanity, starting at the age of 19 when I entered the seminary. In May 2009, I was ordained for the Archdiocese of Przemyśl, Poland, which was my first step into service to the Almighty and His people.

In 2012, I was blessed to begin my ministry in England as an Assistant Priest at St Francis Church, Maidstone. There, I had the pleasure of working alongside Canon John Clark and later Canon Luke Smith, both of whom shaped my perspective on ministry. Furthering my dedication to young people's spiritual growth, I undertook part-time studies in youth ministry during this time, which further fuelled my drive to serve.

By May 2017, I joined the Southwark priests and was appointed the Parish Priest of St Teresa's, Ashford. Serving the community of Ashford, I learned that being a priest is much more than serving at the altar; it is about being there for each person, without putting anyone above others.

Today, I am incredibly thrilled to serve you here at St. Thomas'. I bring with me not only my love for God and the Church but also my fondness for many other aspects of life. I am a lover of knowledge, with interests spanning from liturgy and theology to handywork and gardening. I enjoy all sorts of handywork, having spent my teenage years working on various building sites and learning a host of practical skills. So, if you notice a priest fixing a loose tile on the garage roof, that's likely me

Music is another one of my passions. I can play a couple of instruments, so do not be surprised if you occasionally hear a hymn or two echoing from the presbytery. As Victor Hugo put it, "Music expresses that which cannot be put into words and that which cannot remain silent."

I am looking forward to serving you all, and I hope that we will form a community of faith, love, and mutual respect. Each of you is equally important in my circle of care. As we embark on this new journey together, let us remember another saying of Mark Twain, "Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." In our mutual journey of faith, let kindness, understanding, and love be our quiding light.

Looking forward to meeting each of you personally,

Fr Peter

## REFURBISHMENT AND UPGRADE OF THE ST THOMAS'S PARISH CENTRE – ENHANCING OUR CAPACITY TO WELCOME, SERVE, TEACH, AND EVANGELISE.

As you know we set up a working party over a year ago (under Amanda Buttinger & Christina Rose) to work with the various Parish groups to understand how we should refurbish the Parish rooms in St Thomas' Church. The rooms downstairs and upstairs, the toilets and kitchen facilities are in a dilapidated state and need renovation. The working party spent many months and came up with detailed set of requirements of what was needed which was presented to the Parish Finance Committee (PFC).

Based on these recommendations the PFC, in consultation with the Archdiocese, appointed Adam Graham, a Quantity Surveyor (QS) at Squarepoint who prepared a schedule of works document which formed the basis of a tender document that could be sent out to several contractors. We had formal tender responses from several building contractors; in addition, we had responses from heating engineers and WiFi/technology installers. Based on these responses with Adam's support the PFC chose Lusso contractors (who do extensive building and refurbishment work with the Archdiocese), Woodside heating engineers and Endeavour for Wifi/technology.

The total costs of what is required for the Parish rooms refurbishment project is estimated at £225k (with £10k contingency). The PFC has decided to contribute £150k from Parish reserves towards this project and the shortfall of £75k will need to be fundraised from the Parish.

The total costs are approximately as follows:

We are now ready to commence the above refurbishment works. Adam Graham, the QS, who has the requisite

Majorie Hennesey Room	10800
Toilets	14400
Kitchen	31200
Hallway and stairs	12000
Parish Centre- ground floor	30000
First floor front room	14400
First floor-old library	19200
New heating system	18000
Wifi and technology	6900
New windows	19200
Pathways, external repairs	13800
QS Project management fees	23100
Contingency	12000

Professional indemnities, will project manage this for us. We will use a standard building legal contract, approved by the Archdiocese and all stage payments to the builder will be first approved by Adam.

The Parish rooms, toilets and kitchen facilities will be closed from about Sept 15, 2023, till January 31, 2024. The disabled toilet will be available for use during this period near St Joseph's side chapel. The plan is to refurbish the Marjorie Hennessey room first so that the 'Mums and toddlers' group and other parish activities will be able to make e use of it asap. The detailed documents from all these contractors and the basis of the above decisions are on the Parish website to ensure transparency. See at <a href="https://sevrcparish.org.uk/quotes.htm">https://sevrcparish.org.uk/quotes.htm</a>.

Now we start a campaign of Parish fundraising to raise the £75k shortfall. Andrew La Trobe has kindly agreed to run this, and Parishioners are now invited to offer their financial support for this important project by

- ✓ making a bank transfer to Nat West, RCAS Sevenoaks, 60-19-02, 25782002
- ✓ Donating on our justgiving page: <a href="https://justgiving.com/fundraising/sevenoaksparish">https://justgiving.com/fundraising/sevenoaksparish</a>
- ✓ writing a cheque, payable to RCAS Sevenoaks.

Please clearly indicate that your donation is for the Parish Centre Refurbishment.

I am pleased to announce, a parishioner has already committed to sponsor £10k towards refurbishing the Marjorie Hennessy room- a great start. Please be generous to ensure we have good facilities in our Parish for our mission.

If you have any questions on Parish finances and the various contractors, please contact Ben Andradi at ben.andradi@gmail.com

Any questions on the specification of the works please contact Christina Rose at <a href="mailto:christinarose528@gmail.com">christinarose528@gmail.com</a>
If you can help and support Andrew La Trobe on fundraising he can be contacted at <a href="mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com">andrew.latrobe@gmail.com</a>

### MASS INTENTIONS

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

### SUNDAY 10<sup>th</sup> September TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat) Tom Hagger RIP and for the comfort

of Denise and family

8:00am (Latin) People of the Parish

9:15am Cleta & Timothy Andradi RIP

11:15am Stanisław Kowalczyk RIP (birthday)

6:00pm Holy Souls

9:30am Otford Sally & Mick Kelly (40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary)

9:30am Borough Green Holy Souls

11:00am West Kingsdown Maureen Hillier RIP

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am Holy Souls

1:00pm Funeral Mass - Cecile O'Connell Patey RIP

& Helen Mary Patey RIP

Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am Holy Souls

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> S John Chrysostom, B D

8:00am Elaine Cuthbertson RIP

10:00am Otford Holy Souls

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> The EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS

10:00am Borough Green Holy Souls12:00noon Holy Souls

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> Our Lady of Sorrows

8:00am G. D'Souza RIP (anniversary) &

Z. Rodrigues RIP (anniversary)

10:00am West Kingsdown Sr Concordia RIP

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> ST THOMAS'S CONSECRATION ANNIVERSARY

9:30am The people of Kemsing

### SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> September TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat) Terry Flaherty (80<sup>th</sup> birthday)

8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls

9:15am Barry Griffiths RIP 11:15am Margaret Cullen RIP

6:00pm People of the Parish

9:30am *Otford* Holy Souls9:30am *Borough Green* Holy Souls

11:00am West Kingsdown Marie -Laurdes Radegonde RIP

### FOR YOUR PRAYERS

### RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Welcome to

### Jannaia Ouidilig

who was Baptised last Saturday, at St Thomas', Sevenoaks.

### RECENTLY DEPARTED

### Rosemary Meakins

Elizabeth Gordon

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

### THE SICK

Philip Hardaker, Paulina Andrea
Zamora Hernandez, 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 nursing homes in the Parish.

### LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance

Iustus es, Dómine, et rectum iudícium tuum; fac cum servo tuo secúndum misericórdiam tuam.

### Communion

Quemádmodum desíderat cervus ad fontes aquárum, ita desíderat ánima mea ad te, Deus: sitívit ánima mea ad Deum fortem vivum.

5