

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:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Weekday Mass times:

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

Headteacher:

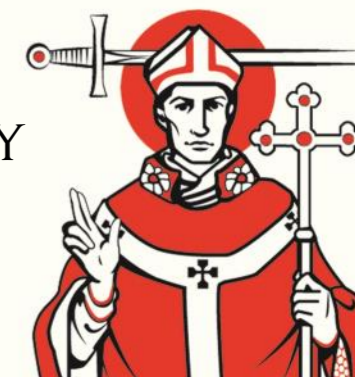
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

17th September 2023



Today's Mass: TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:9 In the first reading, we are reminded of the importance of forgiveness and mercy in our lives. Just as the Lord shows us His mercy, we are called to extend forgiveness to others, letting go of grudges and finding peace in reconciliation.

Psalm 102(103): 1-4,9-12 The psalm invites us to praise the Lord for His compassion and forgiveness. It reminds us of God's loving nature, which is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. As we seek forgiveness, let us also be channels of forgiveness in our interactions with others.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9 St. Paul emphasizes that we do not live for ourselves alone but for the Lord. Our actions and decisions should reflect our commitment to Christ. In our relationships and choices, let us strive to bring glory to God.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35 In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches about the boundless nature of forgiveness. Peter asks how many times he should forgive, and Jesus responds with the parable of the unforgiving servant, highlighting the importance of forgiving others as God forgives us.

This Sunday's readings call us to a profound reflection on forgiveness and mercy. We are reminded that forgiveness is not just a duty but a reflection of God's love and mercy in our lives. As we gather in worship, let us examine our hearts and be open to extending forgiveness to those who have wronged us, just as God forgives us. In doing so, we contribute to building a community of love, reconciliation, and peace within the Church.

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 Peter Kucharski piotrkuharski@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 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

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

Open after Mass on Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:15am

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

HOME FAITH CELLS

"Behold how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133

The purpose of this communication is:

- To invite all Parishioners to sign up to, or reregister with the Home Faith Cells (HFCs)
- To provide some feedback on the HFC experience

Our parish home faith cells (HFC) were introduced in 2022. Their first year has been encouraging – we have

- made new friends and/or deepened existing ones,
- learned new truths of Catholic teachings, and
- strengthened our faith and relationship with God.

A few comments from participants are included herewith.



Our understanding of the objective of the Faith Cells was primarily twofold:

- 1) To meet like-minded Catholics and form friendships
- 2) To grow in our spiritual education and awareness and challenge each other to grow and develop.

I would say that the above two objectives were most definitely met, so it has been a success.

Formed is a wonderful resource. The home cell group allowed us to take a breather during a busy week and enjoy fellowship and new friendships (not to mention fabulous meals)

...taught to question everything, I was interested in the Cell experience and it proved to be rewarding. I have a firm belief that if we are "saved", practicing one's faith should not be grim! So, I was pleased to find our group a lively, friendly bunch, expressing a variety of different angles on their faith and in particular the study material. And a joyous occasion too, very much helped by each study session being something of a social event with food and drink.

The Metanoia series with Fr Pivonka, TOR, was beautifully structured, a mixture of Holy Land documentary and intimate personal reflections by contributors within their own homes. The strength of faith was inspiring.

I appreciate the opportunity to really get to know others in the parish who before I might only nod to. It's such a pleasure now to be able to go into town and invariably bump into someone I can now call a friend. I'm most taken by how much I can learn from others and even a few times they can learn from me.

Not a Catholic, but a Christian whose faith happened to come via the Church of England. So my participation in the group was accidental, as the husband of a member, Valerie, and therefore occasional joint host. A stranger maybe, but warmly welcomed which I much appreciated.

I like the videos, the ones filmed in the Holy Land were quite educational, they gave me an idea of how dry and barren that part of the country looked! It was good that none of the interviewees went on too long. I thought that what was being said by the interviewees was short and to the point, were all very congenial and friendly. I do have a preference for small groups, because when the group gets too big, it is more difficult for the more retiring characters to come forward

The HFC's choose their own series to work through and agree their own pace for frequency of meeting – working to balance what works best for them. The following is just a short summary of material covered by different groups:

The Search – a lively series narrated by Chris Steffanik exploring the meaning of life and God's loving plan for us.

Metanoia – Fr Pivonka and contributors share about Christ – after watching this who could say no to the Lord?

The Wild Goose – Further material from Fr Pivonka where we learn so much about the Holy Spirit

Mary and the Bible – who knew that Mary appears so much in the Old Testament – we have a wonderful mother.

Guido's ladder – revealing the secrets of prayer that we can adopt and grow closer to God.

Discerning Spirits – Fr Timothy Gallagher guides us to walk with Christ at our side helping us with everyday activity.

Convinced - Sign up on the Parish website <http://www.sevrparish.org.uk/> - the link is on the right hand side.

Or if still not sure and would like a taster email Adrian at sevenoakspif@rcaos.org.uk, call him on 0793 144 7979 to let him know, or call the Parish Office secretary to let her know you are interested in a Home Faith Cells taster session.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

TODAY

St Edith Devotions in Kemsing

At 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 walk: ingridlatrobe@rcaos.org.uk

THIS WEEK

Monday: Listening to You

Do come along if you would like a quiet, confidential space to talk and be listened to. There is no need to let us know you are coming. You will be very welcome and we always have coffee and biscuits ready. As the parish room is closed for building work, please note that we will meet at the **Presbytery** until further notice.

Ronnie Campbell and Kate Travers

NOTICE

Ride & Stride - Holy Trinity

A very big thank you to all the people who kindly sponsored my ride & stride on Saturday 9th September. I visited 16 churches around Sevenoaks and the surrounding villages covering about 18 miles on an exceptionally hot day! . My old bike managed to serve me well on the journey. I met some lovely welcomers at each church offering water and refreshments and there was a chance to look at some of the wonderful interiors. We have an abundance of very fine churches in Kent and they all seem to have thriving communities. Thank you too to all who welcomed people to our church; it makes a huge difference when the churches are open. When all the money is collected, I will have raised **£950** which is very generous of you. I shall be at Mass the next few Sundays to collect the remaining sponsorship. Again, many thanks.

Anne Knight

Job Vacancy - Trinity School

Cover Supervisor – (Full Time/Part Time or Job Share Considered). FTE Salary £23,378 - £27,379 per annum (actual salary £17,348.72 - £20,317.85 per annum). It is 32.5 hours per week, 39 weeks per annum (term time plus insets). It might suit someone who is retired or semi-retired.

St Joseph's Quiz Night

Saturday 30th 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 10th to 12th 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.

Parish Office

Please note the change in office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday: 8:30am to 12:15pm. **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.

Message from Fr Boniface

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you for your incredible generosity and kindness during my time here in Sevenoaks. It has been an extraordinary journey, and I cannot thank you enough for the warmth and love you have shown me.

The moments we have shared, the prayers we have offered together, and the sense of community that I have experienced here have been truly special. Your unwavering support and dedication to my work in Malawi have made a profound impact on me, and I feel truly blessed to have been a part of this wonderful community.

May God continue to bless you abundantly, and may our paths cross again in the future.

Thank you for everything. *Fr. Boniface*

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 17th September TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat)	Terry Flaherty (80 th 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 Souls
9:30am Borough Green	Holy Souls
11:00am West Kingsdown	Marie -Laurdes Radegonde RIP

Monday 18th FERIA

8:00am	Josephine & Joseph Brown RIP
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Tuesday 19th SAINT THEODORE OF CANTERBURY, BISHOP

9:30am	Good health for Vincent Potter
12:00noon	Funeral Mass - Elaine Cuthbertson RIP

Wednesday 20th SAINT ANDREW KIM TAE-GON, PRIEST AND PAUL CHONG HA-SANG AND COMPANIONS

8:00am	In thanksgiving
10:00am Otford	Well-being of John Slattery

Thursday 21st SAINT MATTHEW APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST

10:00am Borough Green	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Nora & Peter Manze RIP and dec'd members of the family

Friday 22nd FERIA

8:00am	In thanksgiving
10:00am West Kingsdown	Jane Schoelhopf RIP

Saturday 23rd SAINT PIUS OF PIETRELCINA (PADRE PIO) PRIEST

9:30am	Rosemary Meakins RIP In thanksgiving (JE)
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SUNDAY 24th September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Edward & Marguerite Maxwell (wedding anniversary)
9:15am	In thanksgiving
11:15am	Well-being of John Slattery
6:00pm	Diane McConell CBE
9:30am Otford	Holy Souls
9:30am Borough Green	Holy Souls
11:00am West Kingsdown	Michael Toole RIP

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

RECENTLY BAPTIZED

Welcome to

**Maximilian Stampfer
Rowan Harding**

who were Baptised
last Sunday, at St Thomas',
Sevenoaks.

ANNIVERSARIES

Daisy Norfolk, Flora Hopkins, Marguerite Matthews, Catherine Wood, Bernard Brigham, Mary O'Leary, Douglas Bass, Adelaide Whitecroft, Marion Dibley, George Flanagan, Margaret Quinn, Jeanmarie Laing, Patsy Wilson, Stanislaw Aniserewicz, Winifred Maylea, John Rawlins, Josephine Cudlipp, Andrew Gallighan, Martin Duffey, Joe Wooding, Agnes Emerson, Sidney Hearn, Irene Sterling, Thomas Burke .

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:

Da pacem, Dómine, sustinéntibus te, ut prophétæ tui fidéles inveniántur;

exáudi preces servi tui, et plebis tuæ Israel.

Communion:

Quam pretiósá est misericórdia tua, Deus! Fílii hóminum sub umbra alárum tuárum confúgient.