

## 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

### 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 - 12:15pm**  
**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:

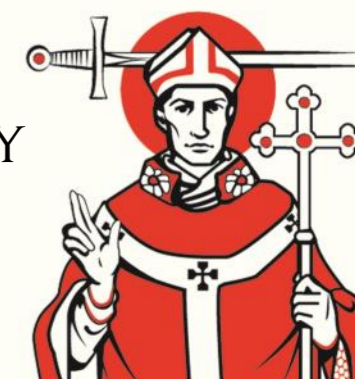
*Ms Geraldine Leahy*  
*Tel: 01732 453921*



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



*Parish Newsletter*

*8th October 2023*



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

Ah, who doesn't enjoy a good glass of wine with a hearty meal? Much like a well-chosen vintage can elevate dinner, the Word of this Sunday adds depth and nuance to our spiritual lives. This Sunday we're looking at a vineyard as an age-old metaphor—present in both the Old and New Testaments—to understand the intricate relationship between God, Israel, and the Church.

Imagine God as the owner of a prized vineyard, which in this case represents the house of Israel. This isn't just any vineyard; it's one that God Himself prepared and tended to, safeguarded by the walls of Jerusalem and overseen by the mighty Temple. The aim? To produce good grapes, or in spiritual terms, a harvest of righteous and holy lives. But here's the twist—the vineyard disappoints. It fails to produce the 'good grapes' that God was so eager to see.

Jesus concludes the story from where the prophet Isaiah left off. The current tenants—the religious leaders of Israel—haven't been great stewards. Far from nurturing the vineyard, they've been quite destructive, killing off the prophets sent by God to help gather a faithful harvest. Jesus warns that the tenants will commit the ultimate act of betrayal: killing the owner's son outside the vineyard. And the fallout? The vineyard—also known as the Kingdom of God—will be handed over to new caretakers, the Church's leaders, who will finally produce the fruit God always intended.

So where do we fit in? Well, each of us is like a vine in this grand vineyard, attached to Christ, the true vine. We're called to produce fruits of righteousness and to be the 'first fruits' of a new creation. But let's not get lost in the weeds—or in this case, the thorns and thistles of worldly distractions. To borrow from Thomas Merton, "Happiness is not a matter of intensity but of balance, order, rhythm and harmony." It's about finding that balance and harmony in our lives, aligning our earthly actions with heavenly aspirations, and always rejoicing that God's presence provides ultimate comfort and joy.

## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### ***Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks***

**Presbytery and Parish Office:** 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

**Website:** [www.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk) **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr Peter Kucharski [piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Vipin James, SDV [vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am - 12:15pm, **Tuesday - closed**

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines [sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

#### **Adoration**

Barry Authers: [sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Altar Servers (St Thomas's)**

Catherine Ingram: [ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:ingramfamily15@yahoo.com)

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony: [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass**

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

Mark O'Prey: [sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakslow@rcaos.org.uk)

*Otford, 9:30am Mass:*

Magdalena Wiacek: [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

Fiona Newton: [fionanewton321@btinternet.com](mailto:fionanewton321@btinternet.com)

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

Lonnie Christophers [lonniechr@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniechr@hotmail.com)

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454729

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl [chris.hurl@outlook.com](mailto:chris.hurl@outlook.com)

#### **Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)**

James McSharry: [jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com)

#### **Church Flowers (St Thomas's)**

Kate Travers: [katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis: [sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott - [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com)

#### **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme**

Catherine Tan: [sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Gift Aid:**

Sean Corrigan: [sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

Secretary: Barry Authers - [sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: [h.imercer@btopenworld.com](mailto: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](http://www.racet.org)

#### **Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)**

Andrew Pembroke: [st.thomas.rota@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomas.rota@gmail.com)

#### **Repository**

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

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic

Andrew Wilkinson: [andrewwilkos@gmail.com](mailto:andrewwilkos@gmail.com)

#### **Retreats**

Catherine Roger: [c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com)

#### **St Bernadette's Committee**

Secretary: Jill Gobel - [jill.gobel@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.gobel@btinternet.com)

#### **St Joseph's Committee**

Secretary: John Foley - [johnandmariefoley@gmail.com](mailto:johnandmariefoley@gmail.com)

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke 01732 450197

#### **Scripture Fellowship**

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson: [andrewwilkos@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:sevenoakssvp@gmail.com)

#### **Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)**

Monica Biggs: [mmdbiggs@outlook.com](mailto:mmdbiggs@outlook.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers: [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## PRISONERS' SUNDAY

*'I was in prison and you visited me', Matt, 25:36.*

The Catholic Bishops invite all parishes across England and Wales to pray for people in prison, as well as their children and families. A combination of COVID and a high level of staff absences across the Prison Service combined with prison overcrowding means that prisoners spend an ever increasing proportion of their days in prison with 23 hours in their cell being common and visits plus jobs or educational courses suspended.

The Prison Advice and Care Trust (PACT) is the national catholic charity which provides caring services to men and women, to people with convictions on release, to their children and families. The importance of this task is illustrated by the following: re-offending by prisoners with family relationships is 39% lower than the average.

PACT provides visitor centres outside prisons & a 24/7 helpline for families - 36,000 calls last year, almost all answered remotely from their home by volunteers. Last year, PACT consulted prisoners in participating prisons on which gift from a list their child might like for Christmas. Gifts were purchased by PACT, wrapped by prisoners in a special session in the visitors' hall and given out at visiting time.

There are 80,000 prisoners in England & Wales of whom c. 15-16,000 are Catholic. We have 11 prisons in Southwark Diocese - including Maidstone Prison which specialises in foreign nationals so language skills can be useful too. PACT needs volunteers to assist with family services, to accompany Catholic chaplains to mass, to visit or speak on the phone to prisoners and to mentor ex-prisoners. One specific programme run by a sister charity is the Welcome Directory in which faith communities become accredited to welcome ex-prisoners and provide mentoring services (jobs, debts, food etc) - but there are currently very few accredited Catholic parishes.

Is there something among these tasks you might be able to help with? Would you perhaps like to receive PACT's magazine, Fresh Start or to participate in a Justpeople workshop to discern what you might like to participate in with no strings attached? Should we be thinking about a prison-Parish partnership for our parish?

PACT's website is: <https://www.prisonadvice.org.uk>

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## THIS WEEK

### Prisons Week

Today is a Day of Prayer for Prisoners and their Families, and 8<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> October is National Prisons Week. Pact is the national Catholic charity that supports prisoners and their children and families. For more information, including how to get involved, go to page 7.

### Parish Finance Committee

The Parish Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm in the presbytery.

### The Pilgrim Group

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am @ St Thomas': Tea or Coffee in the Porch offered for all straight after the 9.30am Mass. The Pilgrim Group is invited to join at 10.00am and later we will pray the Rosary with the special intention for the protection and formation of young people everywhere.

## NOTICE

### St Joseph's - thank you

Thank you to all who supported the Quiz Night last weekend. After expenses, the profit was £400.78 which, together with the raffle proceeds of £265, gave a total of £665.78. This will go towards the purchase of a Baptismal font.

### The Pastoral Committee - Most Holy Trinity

Will be held at 10.30am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October in the church room. All are welcome to attend.

### Autumn Quiet Day

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October at The Poulton House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10.00am to 4:00pm Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity for quiet contemplation of Gospel stories concerning those in the autumn of their lives, specifically Anna and Simeon.

The day will be led by Sevenoaks parishioner Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for 20 years. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes as part of the day will be outside. Suggested contribution £5.

All are welcome though numbers are limited to 20. If you wish to attend please email Gilly at gf58b@iCloud.com

### Holy Trinity Social

On the 11<sup>th</sup> November, following a very successful event last year, we will be holding another social evening in Otford with a talk, followed by a cheese and wine buffet. The talk will be 'Darent Delights' given by Blue Badge Guide Jonathan Fenner. Proceeds from this event will be contributing to the Parish Centre Refurbishment.

### 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

### Catholic Youth Ministry Internships

Castlerigg Manor (The Lancaster Diocese Retreat Centre) is looking for young Catholics aged 18-25 to join their Internship Programme. The scheme lasts for one or two years and gives participants wide ranging experience, skills, training, and qualifications as well as the opportunity to work with a fantastic team based in the Lake District. For more information contact [director@castleriggmanor.co.uk](mailto:director@castleriggmanor.co.uk)

### School Governor Required

Laleham Lea Catholic Independent School is looking to appoint a Governor to join their dedicated Governing body. Please contact [secretary@lalehamlea.co.uk](mailto:secretary@lalehamlea.co.uk) for further details Or 0208 660 3351 . We look forward to hearing from you.

### Refurbishment Update

The Wi-Fi upgrades to our Parish Centre and Church, as part of our restoration project have been completed. We have:

- Improved Wi-Fi and streaming by hard wiring our link to the Presbytery.
- Added 5 wireless access points to the parish centre room; the upstairs main room and library, the church and the entrance porch.
- Removed the nest of wires in the Parish Centre room and installed a data cabinet upstairs.

The addition of Wi-Fi access points will improve our learning and training capability. In addition we will be able to livestream Mass to a screen in the Parish Centre and/or entrance porch for parents who need to step out for a moment with young children and during busier times like Christmas.

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> October

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)  
9:15am  
11:15am  
6:00pm  
9:30am *Otford*  
9:30am *Borough Green*  
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

## TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY

Terry & Maureen Flaherty (57<sup>th</sup> anniversary)  
*Mass available*  
David & Coleen and their children  
Peter Daniels RIP  
*Mass available*  
People of the Parish  
Private Intention  
Mary Malangoine RIP

## Monday 9<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

## S John Henry Newman, Priest

*Mass available*

## Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## Feria

*Mass available*

## Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

## Feria

*Mass available*

10:00am *Otford*

*Mass available*

## Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>

10:00am *Borough Green*

## S John XXIII, Pope

*Mass available*

12:00noon

Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

## Friday 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

## S Edward the Confessor, king

Bridget Alexander RIP

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Catherine Wood RIP

## Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## Feria

*Mass available*

## SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> October

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)  
9:15am  
11:15am  
6:00pm  
9:30am *Otford*  
9:30am *Borough Green*  
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

## TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY

Private Intention  
People of the Parish  
*Mass available*  
Valerie Hooper RIP  
*Mass available*  
Wellbeing and good health for Anne Knight  
Good estate of the Quantrill - Foley's  
Harry Clarke RIP

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

### 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.

### ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

Sylvia Webb, Margaret Keefe, James McVicar, Lilian O'Grady, Patricia Johnson, Ron Jones, Helene Dawson, Kitty Collins, Mary Walshe, Mark Bullock, William Schnorr, Tony Ivil, Kay Johnston, Marian Crofton, Desmond Tanner, Winifred Pepper, John Taylor, John Arundel, Jean Brown, John Mansfield, Edward Thompson, Maureen Mode, Lorenza Conning-Roland, Mary Woodhams.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

In voluntate tua, Domine, universa sunt posita, et non est qui possit resistere voluntati tuae.

Tu enim fecisti omnia, caelum et terram, et universa quae caeli ambitu continentur;

Dominus universorum tu es.

### Communion:

Unus panis et unum corpus multi sumus, omnes qui de uno pane et de uno calice participamus.