

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

Adoration:

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

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:

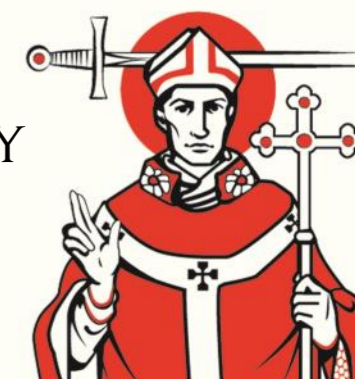
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

15th October 2023



Serving at the Altar: A Journey of Faith, Virtue, and Divine Presence

On this Sunday, we are reminded of the glorious feast that awaits us in God's kingdom. Isaiah speaks of a bountiful table, and Jesus in Matthew tells the parable of the wedding banquet. What better occasion than this to ponder the significance of serving at the altar — a front-row seat to the eternal banquet to which we are all invited.

Isaiah speaks of a banquet, a glorious feast prepared by the Lord for all people. How similar this is to the Eucharistic feast where all are invited! The role of an altar server is much like that of a servant at a grand banquet. Just as servants prepare the table for guests, altar servers assist in preparing the altar for the congregation. They contribute to setting the stage for a divine feast where God is present.

St Paul writes to the Philippians, talking about knowing how to be content in any situation. This virtue is one that altar servers learn early on. Regardless of what is happening around them — whether the congregation is large or small, whether things go as planned or not — they learn to serve with joy and dedication, content in their special role.

The Gospel from Matthew describes the heavenly celebration where many are called but few are chosen. The act of being an altar server can be seen as one's initial response to that call. By assisting the priest, they are not only learning about their faith but also actively participating in it, laying the groundwork for a deeper relationship with God as they grow older.

The benefits of being an altar server extend beyond the spiritual realm. They learn virtues such as responsibility, punctuality, and care — virtues that are essential in life. The role teaches them to perform every action beautifully, much like how every detail at God's heavenly banquet is perfect. Altar servers often form close bonds with one another, echoing St Paul's sentiments of sharing in both troubles and joys (Philippians 4:12-14). Older servers guide the younger ones, creating a continuous cycle of learning and companionship. As Pope Benedict XVI said, serving at the altar enables one to be particularly close to the Lord. This is an invitation to guard that friendship, much like St Tarcisus, who gave his life to protect the Eucharist.

To any altar servers reading this, thank you for your commitment. Know that serving at God's altar is a privilege and a joy. You are part of something much larger than yourself; you are participating in the divine. (For more see p. 7.)

Fr Peter

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 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 - 12:15pm, **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: sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.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

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 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 Wilkinson: andrewwilkos@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

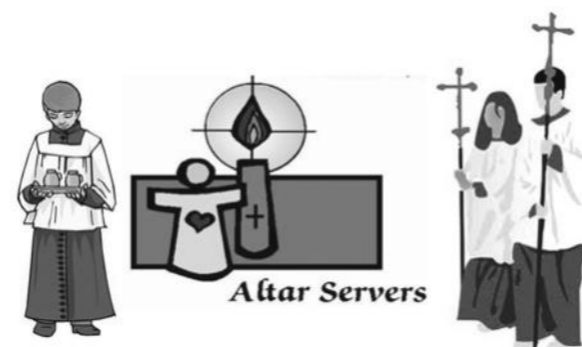
Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)

Monica Biggs: mmdbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

A VOCATION TO BE AN ALTER SERVER



"It is an important task that enables you to be particularly close to the Lord and to grow in true and profound friendship with him. Guard this friendship in your hearts jealously, like St Tarcisus, ready to commit yourselves, to fight and to give your lives so that Jesus may reach all peoples." (*Benedict XVI, August 4, 2010*).

For us parents, the task of educating our children is often arduous and requires great patience and perseverance. Perhaps few parents have ever really stopped to reflect on the virtues that their children can acquire through being an altar server. We might be surprised if we analyze the benefits it brings to their personal, spiritual and cultural formation. Have you considered what they are?

It is the tradition of altar serving, a sacred duty carried out by devoted young children who answer the call to assist in the liturgical celebrations of the Church.

The history of altar serving traces back to the earliest days of Christianity. In the early Church, as the Mass evolved, there emerged a need for individuals to assist the priest during the sacred liturgy. Young children were often chosen for this purpose due to their innocence and dedication. They played a vital role in ensuring the smooth flow of the Mass and the sanctity of the Eucharistic celebration.

As centuries passed, the role of altar servers evolved, incorporating various rituals and liturgical duties. Altar serving became a

cherished tradition, passed down through generations, fostering a sense of responsibility, discipline, and reverence for the divine.

The call to altar serving finds its roots in the Holy Scriptures. In the Old Testament, we find examples of young individuals serving in the Temple, such as the prophet Samuel, who ministered before the Lord as a boy (1 Samuel 2:18). This demonstrates that from a young age, individuals were set apart to serve in the sacred space.

In the New Testament, we witness the essence of service embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ Himself. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, demonstrating the humility and servitude that lie at the heart of Christian ministry (John 13:1-17). This act of service is an inspiration for all altar servers, reminding them that their role is one of humble service to God and the faith community.

St. John Chrysostom, one of the great early Church Fathers, emphasized the importance of humility in serving at the altar. He wrote, "The sanctuary is a school of virtues, and every good deed is begun there."

St. Augustine, another influential Church Father, noted that altar servers are not just assistants but witnesses to the divine mysteries. He encouraged them to approach their service with reverence and prayerfulness.

The call to altar serving is a noble and sacred tradition within the Catholic Church, dating back to its earliest days. It is a calling to humility, reverence, and faithful service to God and the faith community. As young children step forward to answer this call, they become part of a rich history and tradition that links them to the Holy Scriptures and the wisdom of Church Fathers. May altar servers continue to embrace their role with dedication, knowing that they play an essential part in the beautiful tapestry of the liturgy, helping to lead the faithful toward a deeper encounter with the divine.

Fr Vipin

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

THIS WEEK

Listening to You

Monday, 16th October 10.30 am to Midday. 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 that you are coming. You will be very welcome and we always have coffee and biscuits ready. At the moment, we are meeting in the Presbytery owing to the parish renovations.

The Pilgrim Group

Tuesday 17th 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.

The Pastoral Committee - Most Holy Trinity, Otford

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

Autumn Quiet Day

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 21st October at The Poul House barn, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 9QU 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 clothing 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

Next Sunday

Is World Mission Sunday - 2nd collection for Missio.

NOTICES

Fr David's appreciation

The 'Farewell and Thank you' Collection for Fr David raised £3,654. He sends his thanks for your gift to him. He says that after a month he has just about settled in and got used to his new parish. He also thanks the parishioners who attended his Induction Mass, which was "a splendid and grace filled occasion".

Holy Trinity Social

On the 11th November there will be 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 10th to 12th November. Please contact Catherine Rodger for more details: c.rodger@btinternet.com

Musicians needed

Our Parish Confirmation Day at St George's Cathedral on 18th November is fast approaching. Unfortunately, we need to change the music arrangements for the celebration. We invite all our parish musicians to contribute to this special event. Your support is crucial. We also encourage those already committed to the choir to come on the day and lend your voices

Please let Fr Peter know if you can participate and join us for a meeting and rehearsal on 21st October at St Thomas' Church. The gathering will take place from 10:30am to around midday. We'll be sticking to the "old favourites," so no need to worry about technical skills.

Please pray for the Synod that is happening in Rome.

You maybe aware of the Synod on Synodality happening in Rome- our own Archbishop John Wilson is there, only one of two Bishops from England attending. Please pray for it. Pope Francis has described this Synod as part of the implementation of Vatican II. The first part of the Synod were a series 6 retreat mediations led in English by Fr Timothy Radcliffe. These wonderful meditation are available on 'YouTube' and on Vatican website. You can find them if you search 'Fraterna Domus-Sacrofano. XVI General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops'.

Refurbishment Update

We are most grateful for the financial commitments which have been made so far by parishioners, providing a great start to reaching the required £75,000 fundraising target; and we are now widening our appeal, with a **request for every parish household which has not yet donated, to consider giving £50 towards the Parish Centre refurbishment.** Some households might be able to give more, and some less but if we are able to raise £50 on average per registered parish household (in addition to the commitments already made) we are very likely to reach the £75,000 target and the whole parish can be part of delivering the Parish Centre refurbishment.

Contributions can be made by (using **Parish Centre** as the payment reference):

- ✓ making a bank transfer to Nat West, RCAS Sevenoaks, 60-19-02, 25782002
- ✓ the Parish justgiving page <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/sevenoaksparish>
- ✓ writing a cheque, payable to RCAS Sevenoaks
- ✓ making a card payment using the machine in the porch of St Thomas's church
- ✓ making a cash donation into a Mass collection in the printed envelopes available in the four parish churches.

Full Details on the Parish Centre refurbishment project are available on the Parish website at <https://sevrccparish.org.uk/quotes.htm>.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 15th October

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 16th

8:00am

Tuesday 17th

9:30am

Wednesday 18th

8:00am

10:00am *Otford*

Thursday 19th

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

Friday 20th

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Saturday 21st

9:30am

SUNDAY 22nd 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

Anthony Beryl Crawford RIP

Valerie Hooper RIP

Francie Magarahan RIP

Wellbeing and good health for Anne Knight

Good estate of the Quantrill - Foley's

Harry Clarke RIP

Feria

Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP

Feria

Recovery and good health of Marie Mascarenhas

Saint Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr

Recovery and good health of Jovita Rodrigues

Wellbeing of Canon Luke Smith

Saint Luke, Evangelist

Fr Barry Hallett

Private Intention

Feria

Patricia & Raymond Pluck RIP

May Given RIP

Feria

Fr Vipin

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY

Mary Edith Hibling (1st anniversary)

Wellbeing of Elizabeth Sherratt

People of the Parish

Victoria Lepore RIP (1st anniversary)

Patrick Rae RIP & Shirley Rae RIP

Private Intention

Nellie Gaughran RIP (anniversary)

John Coakley RIP

RECENTLY DEPARTED

John Lobo RIP and Ken Hohnes RIP

Eternal rest grant unto them....

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK

Elizabeth Sherratt, 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

Deirdre Dodd, Michael Kohnt, Thomas Anthony White, Margery Gordon, Margaret Gates, Joan Wallis, Margaret Bryer, Yeminsi Ogunkola, Gerry Howard, Mary Henry, Mary Maguire, Sean Mullan, Genowefa Best, Olive Archard, Patrick O'Driscoll, Susan Oliver, Walter Crosland, Rosemary Spurling, May Chown, John Delaney, Anne Hickey, Mary Biggs, Ronald Mooney, Pier de Havilland, George Foucher, Kerry Holleran, Ann Wells, Edwina Playfair, Leontine Eagleton, Harry Smith.

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.