

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 - 12:15pm
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:

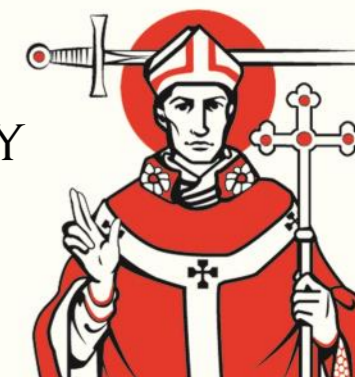
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

22nd October 2023

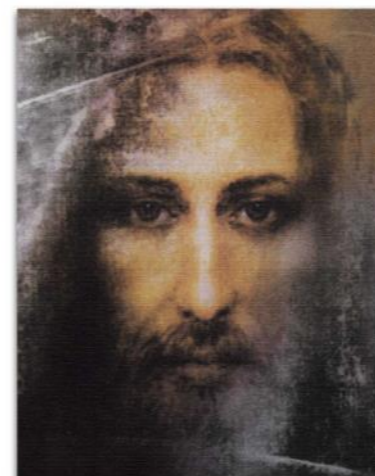
On this Mission Sunday, the Gospel presents a remarkable scene where the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. But in His characteristic wisdom, Jesus responds by pointing to a coin. This coin, with Caesar's image and inscription, signifies his authority over the people. Jesus, with simplicity and clarity, advises them to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.



Just as Caesar's image was stamped on the coin, we, too, bear the image of God. In the book of Genesis, we are reminded that humanity was created in the image and likeness of God. In essence, we belong to God, our Creator and Redeemer. He formed us and redeemed us through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Our lives and everything we possess are, in reality, His, not our own.

In light of this, we are called to recognise that our lives and all our possessions rightfully belong to God, not to ourselves. The Apostle Paul beautifully urges us to present ourselves as living sacrifices to God. It's a call to acknowledge that we owe God not extravagant gestures, but the entirety of our love, ourselves, and all that we have.

The words of St Anselm in his prayer resonate with this idea: "Lord, because you have made me, I owe you the whole of my love; because you have redeemed me, I owe you the whole of myself." These words remind us that the debt we owe to our Creator, a debt of love, can never be fully repaid. However, our sincere devotion and gratitude are what matter most.



The message from today's readings invites us to shed the earthly image, symbolised by the coin, and to embrace the heavenly image, the image of God. Our mission as Catholics goes beyond fulfilling obligations; it is a call to give our whole selves to God. It's about living in a way that reflects the love and grace of God in our daily lives.

In the words of Origen of Alexandria, we are reminded that just as a coin bears the image of the earthly ruler, those who carry out the works of darkness bear the image of the one they follow. Our mission, therefore, is to return to the image in which we were created and to give to God what belongs to God – our love, devotion, and our entire beings.

This Mission Sunday, let's take a moment to reflect on the image we bear and the love we owe to our Creator. May we

wholeheartedly embrace our mission to give to God what is rightfully His, and by doing so, reveal His image not only in our lives but also in the world around us.

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 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 - 12:15pm, **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

Oxford, 9:30am Mass:

Catherine Gilliard: 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

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: mmdbbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

MISSION SUNDAY

missio
Today. Tomorrow. Together.

In the heart of the Catholic calendar, there exists a day of profound significance, an annual celebration that transcends borders and touches souls around the world. This day is known as Mission Sunday, or "Missio Sunday" in British English. It is a time when the entire Catholic community comes together to embrace its calling to mission and to support the Church's missionary endeavors. This special day is a vibrant testament to the universal nature of the Catholic Church and its commitment to spreading the message of Christ far and wide.

Mission Sunday typically finds its place on the penultimate Sunday in October in the United Kingdom and various other English-speaking nations. It serves as a poignant reminder of our collective responsibility to reach out, connect, and share the Gospel, and to offer both spiritual and material support to those who dedicate their lives to missionary work.

Why is Mission Sunday so important? It is a day that reminds us of our interconnectedness, bringing Catholics from diverse backgrounds, cultures, and nations together under the same global mission. It is a day when we acknowledge the call to be one Church that stretches beyond our local parishes, and even beyond our national borders, to touch the hearts of people across the globe.

On this day, Catholics gather to reflect on the significance of missions. We take a moment to remember the dedication of missionaries who leave their homes to bring the light of faith to places where Christianity is still taking root. We offer our prayers, blessings, and financial support to sustain their vital work.

The funds collected on Mission Sunday are not just numbers; they are life-changing resources. They enable the Church to build and maintain places of worship and education in mission territories, to support the faith journeys of those who are just beginning to learn about

Christ, and to provide essential aid to people in need. These funds are an embodiment of our commitment to solidarity, a testament to the very essence of charity.

But Mission Sunday isn't just about financial contributions; it's about the transformation of hearts and minds. It's about recognizing that we are part of a larger narrative, one that extends beyond our immediate surroundings and into the far reaches of the world. It's an opportunity to reflect on our role in this mission and how we can be more engaged and proactive in fulfilling it.

When we observe Mission Sunday, we are called to action, to embrace the universal mission of the Church. We recognize that we have a vital role to play in the continuation of the work that Jesus began. It is a day to unite our hearts and hands, to stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ, wherever they may be.

In a world marked by divisions, Mission Sunday is a beautiful reminder that we are part of something greater, something that transcends the boundaries of geography and culture. It's a day to celebrate our global Catholic family and to embrace our shared mission to spread the message of love and hope.

Mission Sunday is not merely a date on the calendar; it's a celebration of faith, a call to action, and a reminder of our global interconnectedness. It is an opportunity for all of us to make a tangible difference in the world and to be a part of something that truly matters.

As we prepare to mark this special day, let us remember that on Mission Sunday, we have the chance to unite our hearts and hands in a global purpose. Let us embrace our mission as Catholics, remembering the words of Christ to "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation" (Mark 16:15). On Mission Sunday, we join together to do just that, fulfilling our sacred duty with joy and purpose.

In doing so, we become part of a beautiful tapestry of faith, woven together by the threads of love, hope, and the universal call to share the message of Christ. Together, we can make the world a better place, one act of mission at a time.

So, as Mission Sunday approaches, let us be ready to unite our hearts and hands, and to celebrate this wonderful day that reminds us of the beauty and universality of the Catholic Church's mission.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

THIS SUNDAY

This Sunday

Is World Mission Sunday - 2nd collection for Missio.

NOTICES

Faith at Work Groups

To resume after the Summer holidays, 7:30 pm, last Thursday of every month, starting 28th September in the presbytery meeting room. Discover what it means to live out our Catholic lives in the every-day and how to maximise our Faith through our work. For more information contact Edwin: edwin@edbrenn.com

Men's Retreat

The men's retreat will take place from 10th to 12th November. Please contact Catherine Rodger for more details: c.rodger@btinternet.com

Holy Trinity Social

On 11th November we would like to invite all parishioners to join a social event taking place in Otford Village Memorial Hall (Club Room) with free parking. The event will start at 7.30pm with a talk on the '*Darent Delights*' given by Blue Badge Guide Jonathan Fenner who says '*Follow the river Darent from its source, passing through delightful villages, Samuel Palmer's enchanting "Valley of Vision" and discover the history of Kentish people and our industrial past.*' Following the talk, a superb selection of cheeses and wines will be served and offer a chance to chat and mingle. Tickets are £15 each and will be on sale after Masses or by contacting Mary Scott on 3maryscott@gmail.com or 01959 928944. There will also be a raffle with many high quality prizes, please do support this event.

Truth Seekers

Is a program for teenagers who have completed their confirmation and are looking to continue the development of their Catholic faith. We will commence with the 2nd block of the TRUTH SEEKERS program starting Saturday 4th November between 7:00pm – 8:15pm. The program will run on Saturday evenings through to mid-December 2023. We encourage all teenagers to get involved. For any queries, please email Giuseppe De Simone on giuseppe@desimone.co.za

St Thomas Catholic School

Parents of children who were born between 1st September 2019 and 31st August 2020 can now apply for primary school places for their children. Applications should be made through the Local Authority and can be made online at www.kent.gov.uk/ola. Please note that the closing date for applications is 15th January 2024.

Families wishing to apply to St Thomas' Catholic Primary School will also need to complete and return a Supplementary Information Form to the school, which can be downloaded from the school website at <http://www.saintthomas.co.uk/parents/admissions/>. If parents would like Father Peter to sign the Supplementary Information Form, they should contact Father Peter by email: piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk to make an appointment with him. The school is holding open mornings, which prospective parents are welcome to attend. Please contact Melanie Bosworth to book onto a visit melanie.bosworth@st-thomas-sevenoaks.kcsp.org.uk.

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://sevrparish.org.uk/quotes.htm>.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 22nd October

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green* Nellie Gaughran RIP (anniversary)

11:00am *West Kingsdown* John Coakley RIP

Monday 23rd

Feria

8:00am

Fr Harry Doyle

Tuesday 24th

Feria

9:30am

Mgr O'Brien RIP

Wednesday 25th

Feria

8:00am

Mary Cullen RIP

10:00am *Otford*

Rev. Fr Colin Murphy RIP

Thursday 26th

Feria

10:00am *Borough Green*

Private Intention

12:00noon

Recovery & good health of Clarence D'Souza

Friday 27th

Feria

8:00am

David Bunton RIP

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Good estate of Linda Harding

Saturday 28th

Ss Simon and Jude, Aps

9:30am

All dec'd members of the donor's family

SUNDAY 29th October

THIRTIETH SUNDAY

6:00pm (Sat)

Michael Joseph McSharry RIP

8:00am (Latin)

Cyril Waite RIP (birthday)

9:15am

Fr Francis Kemsley RIP

11:15am

Falicidad Agnas RIP (5th anniversary)

6:00pm

People of the Parish

9:30am *Otford*

Denise & Robert Hafford RIP

9:30am *Borough Green*

Edward Etheridge RIP

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Brother Colman McCormack RIP

RECENTLY DEPARTED

John Lobo RIP and Ken Holmes 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, Mary & Chris Scott, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

ANNIVERSARIES IN OCTOBER

Lucy Parker, Dudley Glenister, Joseph Maverley, Kathleen Baxter, Gillian Turner, Peter Brett, Christopher Hogben, Barbara Man, Valerie Staples, Theresa Palmer, Eric Griffiths, Bernard Price, Margaret Clarke, Susan Vaziani, Giorgio Siuiglia, Jean Still, Eleonor Hammerson, Maria Galuszka, Mary Kay, Priscilla Cramer, Joan Microns, Denise Fabian, Angela Simmonds, Henry Halpin, Jack Jaquez, Baby Lacour, Mary Grabham, Jean Campbell, Mary Hibling, Desmond Hickey, Margaret Thackaberry.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Ego clámavi, quóniam exaudísti me, Deus; inclína aurem tuam, et exáudi verba mea.

Custódi me, Dómine, ut pupíllam óculi; sub umbra alárum tuárum prótege me.

Communion:

Ecce óculi Dómini super tíméntes eum, et in eis qui sperant super misericórdia eius; ut éruat a morte ánimas eórum, et alat eos in fame.