

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:

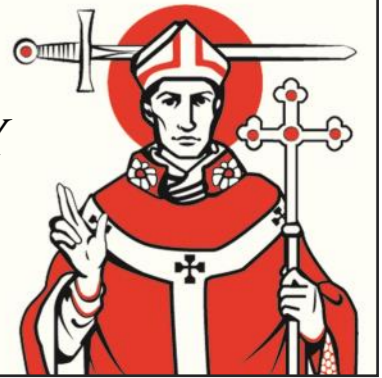
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

29th October 2023



Our Gospel reading this weekend reminds us of the greatest commandment: to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." Jesus emphasises its importance by adding another: "You must love your neighbour as yourself."

In our fast-paced, modern world, it's easy to be swept up in the currents of self-centredness, conformism, and consumerism, losing sight of life's deeper spiritual significance. In a society that is increasingly obsessed with health and youthfulness, setting aside time for meditating on mortality, loss, and the challenging journey towards salvation becomes paramount.

The Solemnities of All Saints and All Souls beckon us to reflect that loving our neighbour as ourselves doesn't just pertain to those walking beside us. It embraces those who have walked before us – our departed loved ones, the souls in purgatory, and even those we've never met. As we light candles, visit graves, and offer prayers on All Souls' Day, we live out the Gospel's commandment, demonstrating love for our neighbours even beyond life's boundaries.

The First Reading from Exodus echoes these sentiments, urging compassion and understanding, especially towards the vulnerable. Within the framework of All Souls' Day, are not the departed souls among the most vulnerable? Those in need of our prayers and intercessions? The passage challenges us to remember our roots, our journey, and the responsibilities that come with them – not to oppress or forget, but to love, support, and pray.

As we partake in the festivities and traditions of this season, let us anchor them in the Gospel's teachings. We must educate our children that while Halloween emphasises fun and joy, it also serves as an introduction to a deeper, more poignant remembrance: a remembrance of those who've transitioned, and the significance of upholding them in our prayers. In a world where death is frequently sidelined or mocked, we must remain steadfast in our faith, recognizing the essential nature of prayer, remembrance, and love. When we light candles and voice our prayers, let's be mindful of Jesus' teachings, showering love upon our departed neighbours and ensuring their path towards God's embrace is illuminated by our love and prayers. *Fr Piotr*

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 piotrku@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:

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 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: sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk

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

NOVEMBER'S SACRED CALL

The month of November ushers in a profound spiritual undertaking within the Catholic faith, inviting the faithful to earnestly pray for the Holy Souls, especially those dear to us who have departed. This tradition, deeply rooted in the scriptural, doctrinal, and social teachings of the Catholic Church, embodies a beautiful expression of our faith and a tangible manifestation of our love extending beyond the veil of death.

Scripture highlights the significance and the merit in praying for the deceased. In the Second Book of Maccabees (12:45), it's affirmed as a "holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead, that they may be loosed from sins." This scriptural foundation, along with the teachings of the Church, encourages us to engage in this prayerful ministry, fostering a spiritual communion with those in purgatory.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1032) further elucidates the importance of this age-old tradition, reminding us that our prayers can assist the souls in purgatory in their journey towards the full communion with God. This act of mercy is also echoed in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, which emphasises the inherent dignity of every person and our communal responsibility towards each other, transcending earthly life.

As we step into November, the Church presents a special grace through the opportunity to gain a plenary indulgence for the Holy Souls from November 1 to 8. A plenary indulgence, a full remission of the temporal punishment due to sin, can be obtained under certain conditions including a devout visit to a cemetery, sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion, prayer for the Pope's intentions, and detachment from sin (CCC 1471).

As we tread the spiritual landscape of November, our hearts and minds are directed towards the Catholic tradition of offering Masses for the deceased. Each Mass, with its infinite value, bestows unending graces upon the soul for whom it is offered, aiding their journey towards the beatific vision of God.

Within this rich tradition lies a remarkable practice known as Gregorian Masses (do not confuse with the Mass in Latin). Named after Pope St Gregory the Great (590-604) Gregorian Masses consist of a series of 30 Holy Masses offered on consecutive days for the repose of a particular soul. The historical account tells of St Gregory the Great, who had 30 Masses celebrated for a deceased monk named Justus, which resulted in a vision confirming the monk's release from purgatory. The practice underscores the infinite intercessory power of Christ's sacrifice made present in Holy Mass, aiding the soul in its journey towards union with the Holy Trinity. In practice, Gregorian Masses are celebrated on 30 consecutive days for one specific deceased individual. While it's not mandatory for the same priest to offer the Masses or for them to be celebrated at the same altar, the continuity of days is crucial. This practice, was widely recognised by the Church in 1884, as a way of interceding for the souls in purgatory.

The doctrine of the prayer for the dead, offering Holy Masses, along with the practice of gaining plenary indulgences, reinforces our faith in the Communion of Saints, where the Church Militant (us on earth), the Church Suffering (souls in purgatory), and the Church Triumphant (saints in heaven) are united in a mystical communion of love, prayers, and intercession.

May this November, with its serene call to remember and pray for the Holy Souls, inspire us to embrace the noble tradition of prayer and offering Masses for the souls departed. Let us also remember that one day we too will need someone to pray for us.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

NOTICES

ALL SAINTS' DAY on Wednesday, 1st November

All Saints is a Holyday of Obligation. Holy Mass as follows:

St Thomas's: 8:00am (Latin), 9:30am (School Mass), 12:00 noon, 8:00pm.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am.

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am.

St Joseph's: 6:00pm.

ALL SOULS' DAY on Thursday, 2nd November

Requiem Mass for the Faithful Departed:

St Thomas's: 12.00 noon followed by refreshments in church porch.

St Joseph's, Borough Green: 10:00am.

Those who have been bereaved, whether recently or years ago, are especially invited to the 12.00 noon Mass with refreshments, chat and friendly atmosphere.

THE BLESSING OF GRAVES at Greatness Cemetery will take place on Sunday 19th November at 3:00pm. We can bless other cemeteries and graves in the parish by appointment.

PLENARY INDULGENCE

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, may be gained once a day in any church or cemetery between 1st and 8th November on the usual conditions (recitation of the Our Father and Creed, sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's Intention).

HOLY SOULS AND THE BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE

Traditionally the month of November is dedicated to prayer for those who died, and now are in the merciful hands of our loving Father. Please notify us asap of any names to be added to the November Books of Remembrance preferably by email (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk) using the form available in the back of each church. There will be also special envelopes for donations for the Masses to be offered in November and throughout the year for the Holy Souls, including all those in our Books of Remembrance.

JOHN LOBO RIP CREMETION

On 9th November at 1:45pm at Bluebell Cemetery

REMINDER - HOLY TRINITY SOCIAL

On 11th November please join a social event at 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. 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.

Archbishop's Appeal Second Collection Sat 11th / Sun 12th November

The Archbishop's Appeal is a Diocesan second collection that funds key areas of ministry: Youth and Evangelisation, Our Faith in Action (Caritas) and Clergy Care and Formation. Your support will enable the Archdiocese of Southwark to support innovative projects taking place within Catholic parishes and Schools throughout South London and Kent that seek to invest Faith, Hope and Love into the communities they serve. Please be generous to the Archbishop's Appeal 2023. Every gift is welcome.

Find out more, or donate online: www.rcaos.org.uk/archbishops-appeal or:

- Scan QR Code using telephone camera (right)
- Telephone weekdays 9 am – 5 pm: 020 7960 2504
- Cash / Cheque – please use the Archbishop's Appeal envelopes at the back of church.



Thank you for your generosity of heart.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 29th 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 30th

8:00am

Tuesday 31st

9:30am

WEDNESDAY 1st November

8:00am

9:30am

12:00noon

8:00pm

10:00am *Otford*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

6:00pm *Borough Green*

Thursday 2nd

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

Friday 3rd

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

12:00noon

Saturday 4th

9:30am

SUNDAY 5th November

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

THIRTIETH SUNDAY

Michael Joseph McSharry RIP

Cyril Waite RIP (birthday)

Fr Francis Kemsley RIP

Falicidad Agnas RIP (5th anniversary)

People of the Parish

Denise & Robert Hafford RIP

Edward Etheridge RIP

Good estate of John & Mary Butler

Feria

Keith D'Souza RIP (birthday)

Feria

Fr Vipin

ALL SAINTS

All dec'd relatives

of the Andradi-Brown family

Holy Souls (led by St Thomas' School)

People of the Parish

Brother Colman McCormack RIP

All dec'd members of Wiacek & Golda family

John Arundel RIP

John Lobo RIP

All Souls' Day

Peggy Spiers RIP

Dec'd members of

Rodrigues & D'Souza family

Feria

Thomas Healy RIP (5th anniversary)

Tony White RIP

Funeral Service - Kenneth Holmes RIP

S Charles Borromeo, Bhp

Malcolm Lott RIP

THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY

Isla Fishwick RIP

People of the Parish

Dec'd members of the Hicks family

Dec'd members of the Haggarty, Smith & Fell families

Stefania & Jan Ociepa RIP
Stanislaw Czaja RIP

Doris Rackley RIP

Mary Henry RIP

Good estate of Kathy Buck

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Baptism

Welcome to

Lilly & Jack Bradley

who were Baptised on Saturday, at St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown.

THE SICK

Valerie Dias, Gwen Farrell, 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

ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

Annie Chapman, Jim Yeomans, Mary Yeomans, Sidney Claydon, Brian Connolly, Larisa Taylor, May Chapman, Col. Gerald Castelli, Bernard Disyer, Sally Jackson, Dennis Beckwith, Michael Coffey, Maria Guidobaldi, Nellie Castelloe, Doris White, Peter les, Annie Quinne, Eugen & Elizabeth, Leslie Black, Edward Kiernan.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Lætétur cor quæréntium Dóminum.
Quæríte Dóminum, et confirmámini,
quæríte fáciem eius semper.

Communion:

Lætábimur in salutári tuo, et in nómine Dei nostril magnificábimur.