

## 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](http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk)**



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



*Parish Newsletter*

*5th November 2023*



*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*



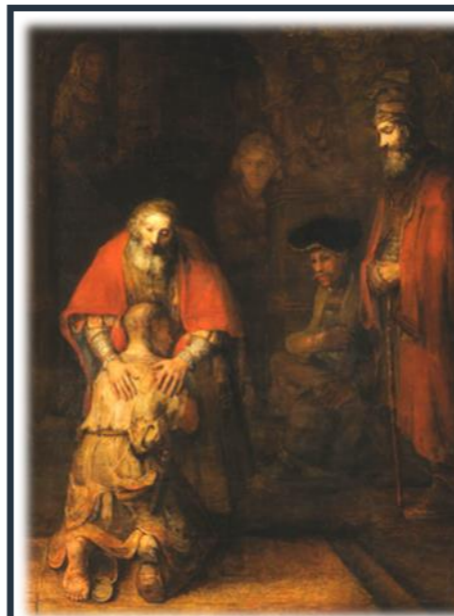
## ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

**South Park,  
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH**  
**[www.saintthomas.co.uk](http://www.saintthomas.co.uk)**

### Headteacher:

*Ms Geraldine Leahy*

*Tel: 01732 453921*



The sacred responsibility of spiritual leadership carries with it a risk—the risk of losing sight of its true purpose. The roles of Moses, the Pharisees, and Christ offer contrasting perspectives on what spiritual fatherhood should entail.

Moses, a revered figure in Israel's history, exhibited what it means to be a good spiritual father. He not only preached the law but lived by it, serving as a mediator between God and His people. He humbly interceded for the Israelites, asking God for mercy and forgiveness for their transgressions (Exodus 32:9–14; Psalm 90). His leadership was not about elevating himself but about guiding his flock closer to God. He understood that all fatherhood, be it natural or spiritual, is an extension of the Fatherhood of God (Ephesians 3:15).

In sharp contrast, the Pharisees and the scribes turned their mastery of the law into a means of social elevation. They lorded it over the people, rather than using it to guide them towards righteousness (Matthew 20:25). They failed in their spiritual fatherhood by becoming

stumbling blocks between God and His people.

Jesus Christ brings us back to the essence of true spiritual fatherhood. He instructs His followers to call no one on earth "father," not to abolish the term, but to emphasise that all forms of fatherhood should reflect the divine Fatherhood of God (Matthew 23:9). The Apostles, understanding this, described themselves as spiritual fathers (1 Corinthians 4:14–16). They knew that their role was not just to preach but to nurture the faithful through the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist, feeding them with the spiritual milk of the Gospel (1 Peter 2:2–3). This concept of fatherhood is not restricted to a gendered understanding, as we see St Paul compares himself to a nursing mother, showing that nurturing and caregiving are inherent traits of spiritual leadership (1 Thessalonians 2:7).

For us priests, who bear the title of "Father," the modern world presents a formidable challenge. Society today, so engrossed in consumerism and individualism, often distorts the sacred notion of fatherhood and leadership that we are called to embody. The temptation is real — to become more managerial than pastoral, to focus on the law at the expense of grace, to be more a figurehead than a shepherd. As number of lapse Catholics rightly note, many Church's ministers have faltered, losing sight of the example set by Christ Himself. We must bear in mind that our priesthood is a vocation to become living icons of the Father and the Good Shepherd. It's not just about administration, but a call to nourish, guide, and intercede for our flock.

So my friends, we must continually turn to prayer, beseeching the Heavenly Father for the wise and strong priestly hearts to imitate His boundless love and mercy. It's crucial for us, priests as well as the faithful, to pray unceasingly for our bishops and priests. We need divine assistance to remain steadfast and Christ-like in our approach and guidance. For only in aligning ourselves with Christ, we become true fathers to our spiritual children.

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

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

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

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

*Oxford, 9:30am Mass:*

Catherine Bennett: [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: [sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **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)

## ARE WE MORE THAN JUST OUR MEMORIES ?

I was always a big fan of futuristic science and modern technology, so naturally I always enjoyed a good science-fiction book or a movie. But the world of fiction is an ever-changing beast. Trends come and trends go, both reflecting and changing the culture of the day. While changes in these cultures have historically been measured in centuries, modern culture changes with whatever new wind happens to blow its way. I can't but notice that something rather disturbing cropping up across a wide variety of media: the narrative dismissal of the soul.

When perusing and consuming popular culture, Catholics must always be aware of what we are putting into our minds. While one can easily disregard fantastical ideas like the Force in Star Wars, which offers a distorted lens on spirituality, other more subliminal messages can be deceptive.

Take, for example, the TV series 'The 100'. In its sixth season, it introduced a storyline involving a cult that worships seemingly immortal beings. The twist is that these 'gods' are scientists using technology to transfer memories into new hosts, thereby gaining eternal life. This arc represents a concerning tendency to redefine the essence of human identity as mere data, as something transferable and, therefore, dispensable.

Not surprisingly, what was once only conceivable in the realms of science fiction, like memory transfer and the melding of human and machine, are at present topics of serious scientific inquiry. The trials of memory implant prototypes conducted by Berger and his team on human subjects, and the vision of seamless communication through brain-computer interfaces like those proposed by Elon Musk's Neuralink, echo the speculative narratives of yesteryears.

This raises a troubling question: is this where our cultural compass is pointing, to a future where memories alone define the essence of being? The Catholic Church, as you may know, defines the soul as an individual and immortal spiritual entity, created by God. It's not just a bundle of memories

or experiences; it is what makes us fundamentally human and gives us the ability to transcend our biological limitations. The soul is the subject of human consciousness and freedom; soul and body together form one unique human nature. Each human soul is individual and immortal, immediately created by God. The soul does not die with the body, from which it is separated by death, and with which it will be reunited in the final resurrection.

Yet, as religious perspectives are increasingly sidelined, a convenient but superficial explanation emerges: that we are nothing but the sum of our memories. This idea isn't limited to just one TV series. It shows up in movies like 'Frozen II', where a character is resurrected but only as a reassembled collection of previous experiences.



So why does this matter? Because this narrative, this ideological shift, impacts real-world attitudes and policies. It's not just a trivial TV plot but a signpost of a broader societal attitude. I see this reflected in social debates, especially around the sensitive topic of abortion. Some argue that a foetus lacks memory and therefore lacks a soul, thereby making abortion morally justifiable. The idea that you are your

memories can also make euthanasia seem less ethically fraught.

This is not just a cultural or religious issue; it's a matter of life and death. And while simply changing what we watch won't resolve these complex issues, we can't underestimate the power of stories to shape society.

So, what's the solution? Not to withdraw, but to engage — carefully, critically, and conscientiously. Let us remain steadfast in defending the immeasurable value of the soul and in teaching our children the right attitude toward prayer and remembrance. As St. Elizabeth of the Trinity said, "It seems to me that I have found my heaven on earth, for heaven is God, and God is in my soul." May her words challenge us to ponder the richness and mystery of our own souls, and the souls of those who have gone before us, in the hope of eternal life.

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## HOLY SOULS AND BOOKS OF REMEMBRANCE

Traditionally the month of November is dedicated to prayer for those who died, and who are now 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](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)) using the form available in the back of each church. There will also be 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.

## LAST CALL - HOLY TRINITY SOCIAL

Join us for a social event at Offord Village Memorial Hall (Club Room) on 11th November. 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](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com) or 01959 928944. There will also be a raffle with many high quality prizes, please do support this event. Free parking.

## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> November

Remembrance Day Parade and Service on Sunday 12th November at 10.50am at Vine War Memorial, Sevenoaks. We will be represented by James McBrien. At St Thomas' we will keep 3-minute silence at 11.00am, and the Mass will be kept in the atmosphere of Remembrance.

Parishioners at Offord, after the 9.30am Mass, are invited to attend the Offord War Memorial 11.00am Remembrance ceremony, where Adrian Pingleton will lay our wreath.

At Mass in Borough Green we will begin with 3-minute silence, and the Mass will be offered as a Requiem Mass for the Heroes and Victims of the two World Wars.

Parishioners at West Kingsdown are invited to attend the 11.00am Remembrance at the Church of England Church, and Mass will therefore start at 11.30am.

## THE BLESSING OF GRAVES

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.

## FIRST COMMUNION PROGRAMME

The First Holy Communion retreat day is this Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> November 10am-3pm at Aylesford priory.

Parent and child FHC sessions begin on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November (3:45pm-4:30pm) OR Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November (10:15am-11:00am) at St Thomas' Church.

The official First Holy Communion opening Mass is on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November at 9:15am at St Thomas'.

We look forward to seeing you then!

## ALTAR SERVER'S MEETING

We would like to invite all our Altar Servers to a meeting on Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in St Thomas' church. Please would all our young Altar Servers make the effort and attend along with their parents. If for any reason you are unable to make it, please contact Fr Vipin ([vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk)). Your presence and participation are greatly appreciated.

## NEW ALTAR SERVERS RECRUITMENT

Ministry at the altar is not only a privilege but also a great way to deepen our Catholic faith. If you are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please reach out to Fr Vipin and attend the upcoming Altar Servers meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm.

## CHILDRENS LITURGY

The Children's Liturgy helps our young parishioners to understand and embrace the Word of God in an engaging way. We are eager to bring back this enriching experience for our children at the 9.15am Mass on Sundays at St Thomas', Sevenoaks. To make this possible, we seek volunteers to help lead the liturgy. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Fr Peter at [piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk) or [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk).

## NEXT SECOND COLLECTION

### - ARCHBISHOP'S APPEAL

The Second Collection next Weekend will be for the Archbishop's Appeal. This collection will fund three key areas of diocesan responsibility: Youth & Evangelization, Our Faith in Action, and Clergy Care and Formation. For more details see the leaflets available.

## UPCOMING FUNERALS

\* Funeral Service for Kenneth Holmes RIP at St Thomas' church, Sevenoaks on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 12.00noon. Mass for the repose of his soul will be offered at St Thomas', Sevenoaks on 16<sup>th</sup> November at 12.00noon.

\*\* Cremation Service for John Lobo RIP on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 1.45pm at Bluebell Cemetery & Crematorium, Old London Rd, Halstead, Sevenoaks TN14 7AE. Mass for the repose of his soul will be offered at St Joseph's, Borough Green on 19<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am.

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> November

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

## Monday 6<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

10:00am *Otford*

## Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

## Friday 10<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

## Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> November

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:30am *West Kingsdown*

## 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

## Feria

Fr Joe Andradi

## Dedication of St Georges Cathedral, Feast

Fr Ignatius Lazzari RIP

## Feria

Lockyer & Conroy families  
and their parents RIP

Private Intention

## Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, Feast

Patricia & Norman Wright

Dec'd family members and friends of Janet Clare (Smoker)

## St Leo the Great, Pope & Doctor of the Church, Memorial

Christine Hallam RIP & family

Kerry Halloran RIP

## St Martin of Tours, Bishop, Memorial

Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP

## THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY

Wellbeing of Edwards

Holy Souls

People of the Parish

Lucy Cziraki

Private Intention

Angela Brunning RIP

Requiem Mass for the dead  
of two World Wars

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

### THE SICK

Sue Spilstead, 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 in the Parish.

### ANNIVERSARIES IN NOVEMBER

Florian Rodrigues, Doris White, Joseph Donovan, Thomas Healy, Mary Loveden, Terry Baxter, Maurice Rodgers, Edward Dodd, Bridget McGavin, Leon Burnett, John Fleming, James Johnston, Nora Bishop, Fr Michael Lane, David Green, Eric Smith, Pat Keown, Doris Rackley, Celia Rudden, Ben Dwyer, Morvenne Tomlinson, Eric Mottram, Edward Wright, Mrs. Gibberd, Adelane Smis, Reg Dominey, Peggy Whitehead, Sheila Kennedy, Victor Desmond, Christopher Wuimsett, Jenola Wronowski, Jan Jablonski, Dorothy Pakenham, Maureen Baldrige, Constance Edwards, Hilda Scanhill, Jeremiah O'Dwyer, Timothy Carroll.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

Ne derelinquas me, Dómine Deus meus, ne discédas a me; inténde in adiutorium meum, Dómine, virtus salutis meæ.

### Communion:

Notas mihi fecísti vias vitæ, adimplébis me lætítia cum vultu tuo, Dómine.