

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

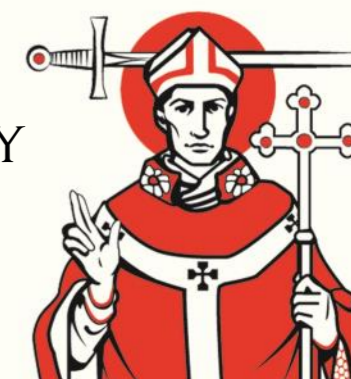
www.sevrcparish.org.uk



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

26th 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

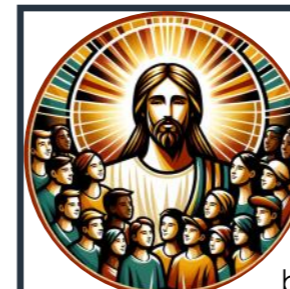
South Park,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH
www.saintthomas.co.uk

Headteacher:
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

DONATIONS



GIFT AID FORM



CHRIST THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE & YOUTH SUNDAY

As we approach the Solemnity of Christ the King, I want to share with you, especially the youth and the young, why this day is more than just a date on our liturgical calendar. It's a call to each of us, no matter our age, to recognise and celebrate the profound truth that Jesus Christ is not just a historical figure, but a living King, reigning over all aspects of our lives.

Pope Pius XI established this feast in 1925, a time not unlike our own, full of uncertainties and challenges. The world was reeling from the aftermath of a devastating war, societies were in turmoil, and many felt a deep sense of hopelessness. Pope Pius XI saw the need to remind everyone, young and old, that despite the chaos, Christ reigns as an eternal King, a source of hope and guidance.

Why this matters for the young? You are living in and exploring a beautiful world, but one buzzing with information and misinformation, with opportunities and challenges. Sometimes, it might feel overwhelming to make sense of it all. But remember, you're not alone in this journey. Christ the King is not a distant ruler; He's a guide, a friend, and a source of strength, especially when things get tough. Remember, that you have unique perspectives and ideas that are invaluable to our parish. Whether it's through joining parish groups, joining the ministry at the altar or participating in discussions, your involvement brings fresh energy and insights. Sometimes, faith might seem like an old tradition, disconnected from the modern world. But the truth of Christ's kingship is timeless. It's about finding peace, purpose, and joy in a world that often overlooks these values. Just as Christ brings light into our lives, you too can be a source of hope and positivity in your circles, whether at school, university, place of work, your own family, in your neighbourhood, or on social media.

Why this matters for us all? Our role in nurturing the faith of the young generation is crucial. They learn from our example, our words, and our actions. Whether you are a parent, grandparent, parish leader or a long-standing parishioner, there are at least three things you should embrace in making the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus present:

- 1) Motivate the young and the old to be active in parish activities and to explore their faith through different means like art, music, and community service.
- 2) Engage in open conversations about faith, possible doubts, and faith-inspiring ideas. Your willingness to listen can be incredibly affirming.
- 3) Be Role Models. Show people, especially the young, what it means to live out one's faith in everyday life. Our example is a powerful tool in guiding them on their spiritual journey.

As we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King and the Youth Sunday 2023, let's remember it's more than acknowledging Christ's reign. It's about actively inviting Him into our daily lives, spreading His message of love and hope, and showing to the youth, that they are not just the future of the Church; they are a vital part of its present. Together, let's journey in faith, united under the loving reign of Christ the King, growing in love, wisdom, and service to one another.

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 piotr.kucharski@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Vipin James, vipin.james@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson neil.philipson@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: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Oxford, 9:30am Mass:

Catherine Bennett: 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

PARISH CENTRE FUNDRAISING

Final Days of Parish Centre Fundraising – the fundraising campaign for the refurbishment of the Parish Centre will conclude with the **Taizé concert at St Thomas's church on Friday 1st December** (see separate notice for details of the concert). Our sincere thanks for the tremendous response from parishioners so far, and we can confirm that the original £75,000 fundraising target has been reached. We have been blessed by some large donations and many small to medium size donations.

However, given the age of the building and limited maintenance over the years, we have identified some additional remedial work; mainly because of water ingress into the fabric of the building- made worse by the (biblical) amount of rain we get. The ridge where the Church roof and Parish centre roof meet, seem to have leaked for many years and so needs urgent repair. There is no point in refurbishing Parish rooms if the Church roof is leaking and water is flowing into the Parish room. Also, the guttering around the entire building is broken. Such maintenance would be required even if we were not doing the Parish room refurbishment. All the details of the additional costs and quotes are on the Parish website.

This has increased the final project cost; **so, if you have not yet contributed and are able to do so, please make a contribution through one of the following options in the coming weeks** (using **Parish Centre** as the payment reference if applicable):

- ✓ making a bank transfer to Nat West, RCAS Sevenoaks, 60-19-02, 25782002
- ✓ donate on the Parish justgiving page <https://justgiving.com/fundraising/sevenoaksparish>
- ✓ writing a cheque, payable to RCAS Sevenoaks, or making a cash donation into a Mass collection using the printed envelopes available in the four parish churches
- ✓ making a card payment using the Supporting the Taizé concert at St Thomas's church on Friday 1st December

Updated full details on the Parish Centre refurbishment project are available on the Parish website at <https://sevrparish.org.uk/quotes.htm>.



ADVENT QUIET DAY

ON SATURDAY 2ND DEC 2023 FROM 10.00 - 16.00
AT THE POULT HOUSE BARN, ASHES LANE, HADLOW, TN11 9QU
(ENTRANCE OPPOSITE NORTH FRITH FARM)
SUGGESTED CONTRIBUTION £5

Through the use of music, poetry, prayer and nature, the day will be an opportunity to prepare for Christmas by reflecting on events and people leading up to Jesus' birth.

The day will be led by Sevenoaks parishioner Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 20 years.

Please bring a bible and a packed lunch. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided. Please wear weather appropriate clothes and shoes as there will be an opportunity to spend part of the day will be outside.

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

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTIONS

This Sunday (26th November) is National Youth Sunday, and the retiring collection will be for the work of the Southwark Catholic Youth Service, which is re-launching several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details about what is on offer, please see our website tinyurl.com/scys1. Please also sign up to our network at tinyurl.com/scysnetwork to receive regular updates. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has produced further World Youth Sunday resources at worldyouthsunday.org/wyd2023.



ST THOMAS' PTA NOTICE

Volunteers will be selling tickets for our Christmas raffle after Mass for the next three weekends. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 8th December. Money raised by the PTA is greatly appreciated by our parish school and there are some fantastic prizes to be won!

GIFT AID - QR CODE

Please consider supporting the Parish and enhancing your contribution through Gift Aid if you are a UK taxpayer.

You can sign up by scanning the QR code provided. Simply complete your details, choose Sevenoaks Parish from the dropdown menu, select the email of the Sevenoaks Gift Aid Coordinator, and we will take care of the rest. Thank you for your generous support!



PREPARE FOR ADVENT

Next Sunday we will begin the holy season of Advent. Advent is not just a countdown to Christmas. The first phase of Advent invites us to reflect on Christ's Second Coming, calling us to a state of vigilance and spiritual readiness. Beginning on December 17th, the second phase shifts our focus more directly to the Nativity of Jesus, deepening our preparations for celebrating His birth.

Blessed John Henry Newman beautifully articulates the essence of Advent: *"Advent is a time of waiting, a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but also a time of commitment. It motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance."* This active waiting is a period for deepening our faith and preparing our souls.

SPECIAL ADVENT EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

⇒ **Taizé Evening:** Please join us for a prayerful Taizé evening on Friday 1st December at St Thomas' church 6pm–6.45pm. Refreshments will be available afterwards in the porch and all donations will go to the Parish refurbishment project.

⇒ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:** we continue with our regular Adoration times on Monday (8.30-9.30am) and Tuesday (6.00-7.00pm), with an additional session on Saturdays from 2nd December (10.00-11.00am).

⇒ **Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Extra opportunities for reconciliation with a priest available on Monday 18th December (8.30-9.30am), Tuesday 19th December (6.00-7.00pm), and with two priests available on Saturday 23rd December (10.00-11.00am).

⇒ **Rorate Candle Mass:** On Wednesday 20th December at 7.30pm, we will hold a special Rorate Caeli Mass. This traditional Advent Mass, dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, is celebrated by candlelight, symbolizing Mary's role in bringing the Light of the World into our darkness. The Mass will include a reflection on the meaning of the Christmas Season.

These special events are designed to help us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ. We warmly invite each one of you to join in these moments of prayer, reflection, and reconciliation, as we journey together towards the joyous celebration of Christmas.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 26th November

6:00pm (Sat) Michael Stack RIP
 8:00am (Latin) Simon Aspinall RIP
 9:15am People of the Parish
 11:15am John Hallorem RIP
 6:00pm Mattie & Sheila Brennan RIP
 9:30am *Oxford* Colleen Lockyer (birthday)
 9:30am *Borough Green* Fr Vipin
 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Winifred Havercan RIP

Monday 27th Feria

8:00am Good intentions of the donor

Tuesday 28th Feria

9:30am Rachel Alexander RIP

Wednesday 29th Feria

8:00am Renee Ordonez RIP
 10:00am *Oxford* Holy Souls

Thursday 30th Saint Andrew, Apostle

10:00am *Borough Green* Relatives of Gallagher and Foley families
 12:00noon Holy Souls

Friday 1st December Feria

8:00am Holy Souls
 10:00am *West Kingsdown* Laura Gobel RIP

Saturday 2nd Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30am Cleta & Timothy Andradi RIP

SUNDAY 3rd December

6:00pm (Sat) Suzi Elliot RIP
 8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls
 9:15am Private Intention
 11:15am John Hallorem RIP
 6:00pm Judy West RIP
 9:30am *Oxford* People of the Parish
 9:30am *Borough Green* John Lobo RIP
 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Fr Patrick O'Grady RIP

CHRIST THE KING

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

Alfred & Agnes Houghton, Una McKeever, Alice Still, Evelyn Smith, Winifred de Birbal, Eamon Cullen, Nelly Bankes, Alexander Morel, Michael Flanagan, James Kyte, Lilly Davis, Diana Osborne, Fr John Hennessey, Victor Johnson.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est, accipere virtutem et divinitatem et sapientiam et fortitudinem et honorem. Ipsi gloria et imperium in saecula saeculorum.

Communion:

Sedebit Dominus Rex in aeternum; Dominus benedicet populo suo in pace.