

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

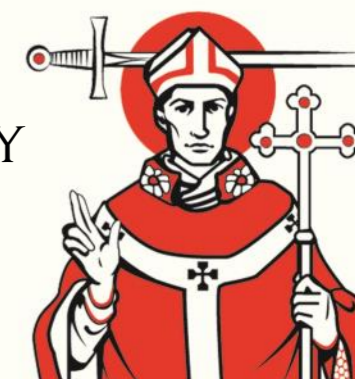
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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

10th December 2023



Our God is coming.

The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading (Isaiah 40:1–5, 9–11) promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel (Mark 1:1–8) shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God — the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God. God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus toward the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1–4). John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has done all this not for humanity in the abstract but for each of us.

The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle (2 Peter 3:8–14). Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.

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, 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: 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: mmdbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Goebel: Mark J: 8
Second Sunday of Advent (Year B)



Make a straight path

for the Lord. How will you do that this Advent?

Today we think about preparing a way and making a straight path

for the Lord. Match each letter path to a number action that we can do to get

ready for Jesus.

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PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

ADVENT SEPCIALS

From December 17th, the second phase of Advent shifts our focus more directly to the Nativity of Jesus, deepening our preparations for celebrating His birth at Christmas.

⇒ Find time for private reflections and sign up for **Southwark Advent Reflections 2023** at www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/news-events/news/southwark-advent-reflections/

⇒ Come and spent time with Jesus at **the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**: an additional session on Saturdays 10-11am.

⇒ **Sacrament of Reconciliation**: on Saturdays as usual and some extra opportunities 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.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

The Second Collection this week is for Christmas flowers for our churches. A big thank you to our flower arrangers for all their hard work in the past year.

ST THOMAS'S REPOSITORY SALE

This Sunday and the following one, we invite you to our Repository Sale. Join us before and after each Mass to explore a delightful assortment of Christmas gifts and cards. Discover unique and beautiful presents suitable for both young and old. Embrace the spirit of giving this holiday season. We look forward to welcoming you and sharing the joy of pre-Christmas festivities.

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN

Please join us on Thursday 14th December 10-11am for winter cleaning of St Thomas church, to ensure 'Our Lord's House' looks its best for Christmas? Just turn up on the day; no experience or cleaning materials required. For details contact James McSharry (jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com). Thank you so much.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Envelopes are available in all four churches. You can also make a bank transfer (to NatWest Bank, RCAS Sevenoaks, Sort Code 60-19-02, A/c No 25782002); please put Christmas Offering as the reference. We are very grateful for your kindness and generosity.

CHRISTMAS EVE 'CRIB SERVICE'

We are hoping to lead the short Liturgy for children before the Vigil Mass on Christmas Eve at St Thomas's, but we are still desperate for some parents to help organise it as well as children to participate. Please contact Magda in the Parish Office if you can help.

ST THOMAS' SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE

This Thursday 14th December (7pm) at St Thomas'. Family members of the pupils are very welcome to attend.

ALTAR SERVERS

As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, we recognise the vital role that our altar servers play in enhancing the liturgy. Your dedication is truly valued. To prepare for the upcoming Christmas Holy Mass, we cordially invite all altar servers to a rehearsal on the 22nd of December (Friday) at 7:00pm in the church. Your presence and participation are crucial to the success of this celebration. We look forward to seeing you at the rehearsal.

CHRISTMAS CAKE

Like every year, St Thomas' Parish is responsible for providing Christmas Cakes to the people who are attending the Foodbank. We have between 40 and 50 clients for the moment and we are trying to give them the best Christmas possible. Cakes can be left in the Foodbank boxes at church. Thank you in advance for your generosity. *Isabelle Mercer*

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 10th December

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
6:00pm
9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*
11:00am *West Kingsdown*

Monday 11th Feria

8:00am Thomas Healy RIP

Tuesday 12th Feria

9:30am Fr Joseph Phillips RIP

Wednesday 13th Saint Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

8:00am Dec'd members of the Andradi-Brown family
10:00am *Oxford* Anthony Gibbons RIP and the comfort of his family

Thursday 14th Saint John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor

10:00am *Borough Green* Chin Kimee Ayoung-Chee RIP
12:00noon Donal Lowry RIP (1st anniversary)

Friday 15th December Feria

8:00am Paul Edwards RIP
9:30AM *School Mass*
10:00am *West Kingsdown* Brian Dulston RIP

Saturday 16th Feria

9:30am Good intentions of the donor

SUNDAY 17th December

6:00pm (Sat) Eileen & Michael McSharry
8:00am (Latin) Heather Bohan RIP
9:15am Theresa Gould
11:15am Good health and wellbeing of John Power
6:00pm Anne Cecilia Kayo Inoue RIP
9:30am *Oxford* Mary Tyler RIP
9:30am *Borough Green* People of the Parish
11:00am *West Kingsdown* Bertha & Ruth Lett RIP

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Canon Anthony Ford RIP
Fr Joe Andradi
People of the Parish
Good health for Rosemary Taylor
John Perkins RIP
Sheila Ahrens RIP
Canon Philip Donnelley RIP
Kathleen & John Doyle RIP

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 DECEMBER

Therese Rucker, David Cantwell, Ron Jones, Eileen Fowley, Mary Parr, Daphne Gobel, Allison Tilling, Mercedes Mora, Rev Thomas Quinn, Mary Gannon, Albert Goldsmith, Bertie Jordan, Derek Turpin, David Fowdrey, Eileen Edwards, Peter Miah, Patrick Donoghue, Mary Kitching, John O'Neill, Dora Acott, Hannah Cunningham, Sheila Lamb, Margaret & James Chambers, Lady Claire Followes, Marjorie Lindsey, Mary Lille, Canon Anthony Ford, Brian Burns.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Pópulus Sion, ecce Dóminus véniet ad salvándas gentes; et audítam fáciat Dóminus glóriam vocis suæ in lætítia cordis vestri.

Communion:

Ierúsalem, surge et sta in excélsó, et vide iucunditátem, quæ véniet tibi a Deo tuo.