

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

GIVE A LITTLE



GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

14th January 2024



This Peace Sunday, with its emphasis on harmony and understanding, sets a tone of contemplation and unity for us. As we hold this message close to our hearts, we also recognise the significant milestones ahead for our parish community. As we step into the freshness of a new year and the beginning of the Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar, our parish community stands on the threshold of significant spiritual milestones. The coming weeks not only mark the progression of time but also guide us toward the profound season of Lent, leading us to the joyous celebration of Easter.

This period is a time of special significance for many in our community. Our RCIA group is preparing with earnest dedication to become full members of the Catholic Church. Their journey, filled with learning and spiritual growth, is a testament to the transformative power of faith. As they step closer to this pivotal moment in their spiritual lives, let us keep them in our prayers and offer them our support and encouragement.

Simultaneously, our children in the First Communion programme are approaching a vital step in their faith journey - the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This milestone is not just a moment of grace but also an opportunity for them to deepen their understanding of God's mercy and love. It is a foundational step towards their First Holy Communion, a moment that will further integrate them into the life and sacraments of our Church.

In the midst of these significant events, our Christian life indeed moves swiftly. However, it is crucial that we do not lose ourselves in the speed of life's journey or in the pursuit of theoretical progress. We are reminded of the words of Samuel, who, upon recognising God's call, responded, "Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." This attitude of attentive listening, reflection, and discernment is what we are called to emulate.

As children of God, we are invited to find time in our busy lives to listen to the Lord's voice, reflect on His word, and discern His direction. This process is not just for those preparing for sacraments or joining the Church but for each one of us, regardless of where we are in our faith journey. Let this Ordinary Time be a period of extraordinary growth and introspection. May it be a time where we not only prepare for the external observances of Lent and Easter but also cultivate an internal landscape rich in prayer, reflection, and a deeper connection with God. As we move through this season, let us support one another, grow together in faith, and continue to be a vibrant, prayerful community, always attentive to the voice of God and the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

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, vipin@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

PEACE SUNDAY

As we step into the new year, our parish community joins the global Catholic family in commemorating the 57th World Day of Peace. This year's celebration, marked on the 1st of January, was enriched by the insightful and forward-looking message of His Holiness Pope Francis, who brought our attention to a contemporary and crucial topic: the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Peace.

Pope Francis, in his message, offered a prayerful reflection on the rapid development of AI technologies. His concern was not just about technological advancements but their impact on the fabric of human society. He prayed, "at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family." While we embrace the advancements of our time, our focus must remain steadfast on the dignity and welfare of every individual, especially the most vulnerable among us.

In the Catholic Church of England and Wales, we mark this significant message this weekend, on Peace Sunday. This day offers us an opportunity as a parish community to reflect on how we can contribute to a world where peace and justice are not just ideals but lived realities.

It is fitting to draw inspiration from the prayer of St Francis of Assisi, "Make me a channel of your peace." This prayer, though often associated with St Francis, was actually composed in the early 20th century, but it reflects well the spirit of this great saint. St Francis, who lived in the 12th and 13th centuries, was a man of profound faith and simplicity. He abandoned a life of luxury for one of

poverty, dedicating himself to serving the poor and living in harmony with nature. His life was a testament to the power of transforming love and peace.

The prayer, "Make me a channel of your peace," calls on us to be instruments of peace, love, pardon, faith, hope, light, and joy. It echoes the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Franciscan emphasis on peace and goodwill towards all creation. Theologically, this prayer is a reflection on the Beatitudes, which Jesus preached in the Sermon on the Mount. It reminds us that peacemakers are blessed and shall be called the children of God (Matthew 5:9).

In the context of our modern world, and especially in light of Pope Francis' message on AI and peace, this prayer becomes even more relevant. It invites us to consider how we, as individuals and a community, can be channels of peace in an age dominated by technology. It challenges us to ensure that our advancements are used not just for economic gain or power, but for promoting peace, reducing inequality, and alleviating suffering.

As we gather for Mass on Peace Sunday, let us contemplate the words of Pope Francis and consider how our community can be an instrument of peace in a world increasingly shaped by digital innovations. Let us carry in our hearts the prayer of Pope Francis for the new year, aspiring for a world where technological advancements harmonize with the principles of justice and peace, creating a future where every person is valued and dignified. Together let us journey in faith and action towards this noble goal, guided by the timeless wisdom of St Francis' prayer.



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

PEACE SUNDAY today. The second collection will be for Pax Christi.

MONDAY - Listening to you @ 10:30 - noon

Do come along if you would like a quiet, confidential space to talk and be listened to. We will be in the Presbytery until further notice while the parish renovations are going on.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18-25th January 2024

Jesus prayed that we may all be one. Christians gather annually to pray that this be realised.

“In this Week of Christian Prayer for Christina Unity the Church is being challenged to stop and ten to the wounded and, in doing so, to recognise, our own wounds as churches and as communities. Facing the reality of our own brokenness helps to connect us to the suffering of others from a place of humility and deep empathy, creating a sacred of encounter inspired by Christ’s healing love” Nicola Brady, General Secretary Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

The parable of The Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

ECUMENICAL SERVICE at MOST HOLY TRINITY, OTFORD

On Sunday 21st January from 5:00 to 6:00 pm Most Holy Trinity in Otford will be hosting an ecumenical service which will reflect on this passage from scripture, welcoming people from a variety of Christian churches, not only from Otford but also from the wider Sevenoaks area. We warmly invite you to share in this service.

WOMEN’S RETREAT at AYLESFORD

SAVE THE DATE: 17th to the 19th May 2024

Hope: Living Differently

If you have never been on a retreat before maybe this is the time? Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ will be leading the retreat and we are so lucky to have managed to book her. She has been a spiritual director, retreat giver and lecturer for over 25 years, as well as having worked as a prison and

university chaplain. She is the author of The Way of Ignatius and Dancing at Still Point (SPCK).

Please do consider attending. The cost for the retreat for full board, lodging and the retreat facilitator is £240.

If you would like to attend please pick up a registration form from the back of your Church or download a form from the website www.sevrcparish.org.uk (just click on the news and masses tab and this opens up a tab for retreats and the registration form).

Lift shares to Aylesford will be organised.

Any queries please contact Catherine Rodger by email at c.rodger@btinternet.com or by 01732 458852

The registration form and non refundable deposit of £20 made payable to ‘RCAS Sevenoaks’ must be returned to the Parish Office in an envelope marked PARISH RETREATS by the 31st March 2024.

UKRAINIAN CANDLE APPEAL - HELP NEEDED

Support Ukrainians in need by donating candles. Contact Magda at sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk for details on where to send your contributions. Your small gesture can bring comfort and light to those facing difficult times.

FUNERALS

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the recently deceased parishioners and for the comfort of their families.

- **Anita O’Keefe RIP.** The Funeral will be at St Thomas’ on Tuesday 26th January 2024 at 10:30am.
- **Lilian Spragg** aged 97. The Funeral will be at St Thomas’ on Tuesday 30th January 2024 at 11:00am.

BECOME A EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

We are excited to offer an opportunity for parishioners to deepen their faith and service to our community by becoming Eucharistic Ministers. This role is a sacred privilege, allowing you to serve Christ and our parish in a very special way. As a Eucharistic Minister, you will be entrusted with assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion during Mass and taking it to the sick and housebound parishioners. This ministry calls for a deeper relationship with the Lord in the Eucharist, the central element of our Christian faith.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 14th January

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am (Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

SECOND SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- Brian Wilkins RIP
- People of the Parish
- Antonetta Quider Ali RIP (birthday)
- George & Anne Anniversary RIP
- Annie Gordon RIP
- Wellbeing of Mary Foley & the family
- Ben Spinks RIP
- Josie Coakley RIP

Monday 15th

- 8.00am

Monday of week 2 Ordinary Time

- Lilian Spragg RIP

Tuesday 16th

- 9:30am
- 11:30am

Tuesday of week 2 Ordinary Time

- God’s blessing on my family & friends this year
- Service Sean Martin Mcloughlin RIP

Wednesday 17th

- 8:00am
- 10:00am Otford

S Anthony, Abbot

- Good health & safe travels of donor
- Wellbeing of Angela Newton

Thursday 18th

- 10:00am Borough Green
- 12:00noon

Thursday of week 2 Ordinary Time

- Bernard Summerville RIP
- Good intentions of the donor’s family

Friday 19th

- 8:00am
- 10:00am West Kingsdown

Friday of week 2 Ordinary Time

- Celia Kinnell RIP (60th anniversary)
- John Havercan RIP

Saturday 20th

- 9:30am

Saturday of week 2 Ordinary Time

- Wellbeing of Gallagher family

SUNDAY 21st January

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am(Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

THIRD SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- Noreen & Hubert Seusmen RIP
- Ken Connolle (anniversary)
- People of the Parish
- Harry McAleer RIP
- Alfred Micallef RIP
- Louise Laval & Marie Lourdes Radegonde RIP
- Intentions of the donor
- UCM Intentions

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

THE SICK

Diana Latter, Sue Spilstead, 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, Mary & Chris Scott, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Sarah Parsons, Denes Pogany, Paul Bourquin, Mary Potter, Ena Authers, Leslie O’Brien, Margaret Rawlins, Mary Mileham, James Conney, Mary Perriam, Lisa Taylor, Martha Jeffrey, Derek Crofton, Marie Fitzgerald, Denise Hafford, Gertrude Firmin, Mary Hall, Clare Undy, John Fortune, Ida Stapleton, Esther Reekie, Winifred Jessie Chinnery, Erna Schwarz, Laura Coyle. Pat Edwards, Terence Beaumont, Maria Bowditch, Mary Salt, Margaret Ashdown, Jim Coles, Gerald Caruana, Sara Gallagher, Helen Cheshire, Claire Lund, Mary Blake, Monica Casey, Mary McCoy, Genevieve O’Donovan, Agnes Goodman, Vicky Parker, Joseph Doris, Margaret Reid, Patricia Winkley, David Crook, Jane Regan, Mary Brasher, J. Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Gomar, Alan Frederick Peters.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Omnis terra adoret te, Deus, et psallat tibi; psalmum dicat nomini tuo, Altissime.

Communion:

Parasti in conspectu meo mensam, et calix meus inebrians quam praecclarus est!