

## 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](http://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](http://www.saintthomas.co.uk)

**Headteacher:**  
Ms Geraldine Leahy  
Tel: 01732 453921

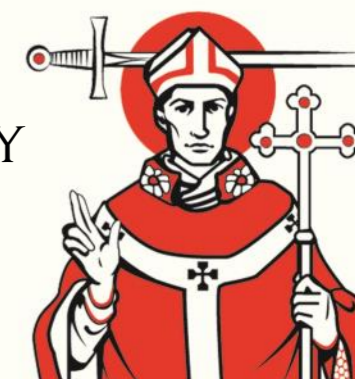
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

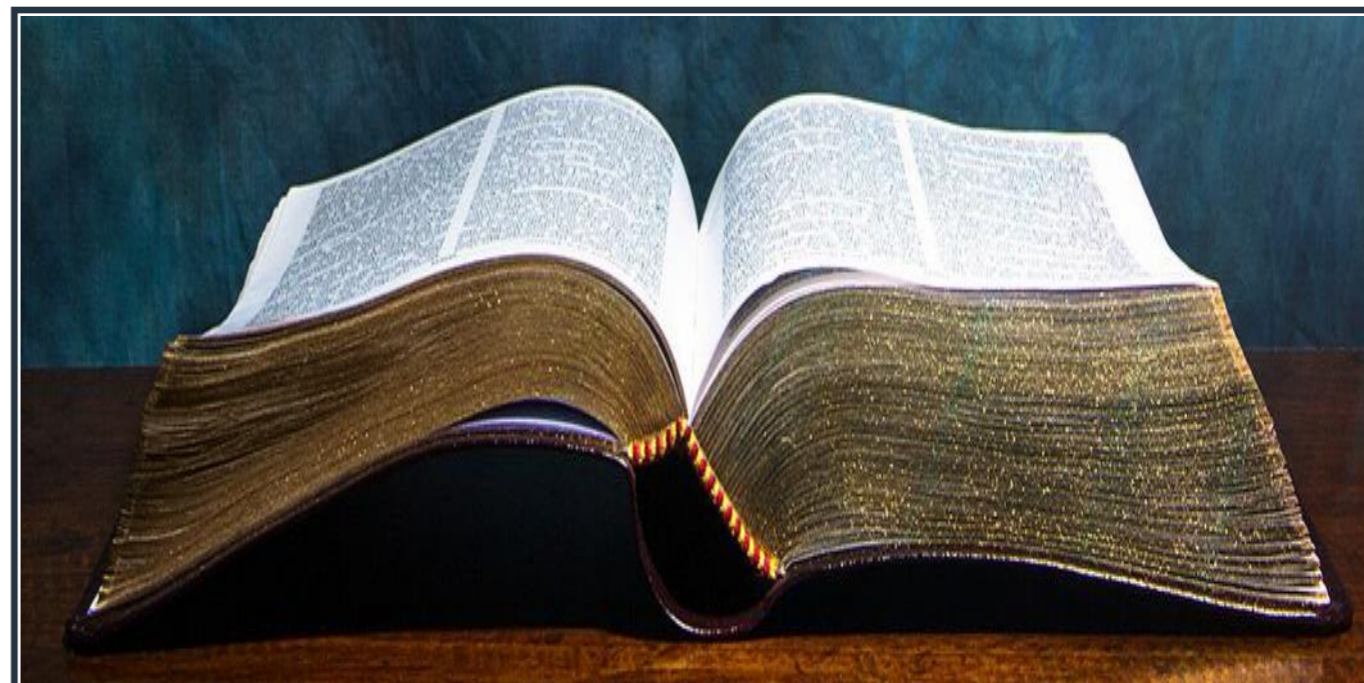
## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

21st January 2024



The Third Sunday in the Ordinary Time is celebrated as the Sunday of the Word of God. This weekend we are invited to reflect upon the universal calling of all Christians to engage deeply with the Scriptures. This year, the day is enriched by the Church's recognition of the vital roles that lay people, both men and women, play in the life of the Church. The Pope's decision to open the ministry of Lector and establish the ministry of Catechist for lay members is a testament to the Church's ongoing journey towards fully embracing the gifts and talents of all its faithful.

As we reflect on the readings for this Sunday, let us consider how they speak to our individual and collective callings. Jonah's message to the Ninevites, Paul's words to the Corinthians, and Jesus' call to His first disciples all underscore a responsive and active engagement with God's Word. These Scriptures invite us to not just be hearers of the Word, but active participants in its proclamation and living out in our daily lives.

The Church, in opening these ministries, affirms that every one of us has a role to play in the life and mission of our faith community. It is a clear message that our individual gifts, irrespective of our walks of life, are invaluable to the Church. We are all called to be bearers and teachers of the Word, in our unique ways, contributing to the rich diversity and strength of our parish community.

This Sunday, as we embrace these changes, let us renew our commitment to the Word of God. Let us be inspired to bring our talents and energies to the forefront of our mission, to spread the Gospel and to be living examples of Christ's love and teachings in our community and beyond. May the Word of God continue to guide and enrich our journey of faith together.

## 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, [vipin@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:vipin@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@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, Sarah Harrison and Kate Travers

[sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **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: [mmdbbiggs@outlook.com](mailto:mmdbbiggs@outlook.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers: [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## THE WORD OF GOD IN PERSONAL PRAYER

**The word of God draws each of us into a conversation with the Lord: the God who speaks teaches us how to speak to him... In this way, our word to God becomes God's word, thus confirming the dialogical nature of all Christian revelation, and our whole existence becomes a dialogue with the God who speaks and listens, who calls us and gives direction to our lives. Here the word of God reveals that our entire life is under the divine call. (Verbum Domini 24)**

The Bible is intimately connected to the concrete circumstances of the individual reader, so that a reading of the Word of God deeply linked to the concrete, daily life of the community produces a surprising mutual enlightenment between the Bible and life. The meaning and scope of the Word and of the many words that make up Scripture appear and are enriched in the light of the many different situations that are lived and experienced in life and vice versa. In the background is the living consideration that assures us that, since God has acted in a prodigious way in the past to liberate and give life to his people in the various stages of their history, he will do the same today in the concrete history of his community, the Church.

It is amazing how people have this ability to discover or read the presence of God in daily life. Every personal and communal encounter with the Word of God has the saving effect of changing the people who hear it, because listening is intimately linked to action, commitment and solidarity with those who are privileged in the work of evangelisation. Hence the need to embark on feasible commitments in our environment.

- Jesus encourages us as a community to feed daily on the Word of God in order to become, like him, contemporaries ('people of today') and bearers of the Good News of liberation for those we meet: the poor, the imprisoned, the blind, the oppressed and the new and countless despised and marginalised by society, culture, and the economy.

- Jesus exhorts us to open our eyes to come out of the individualism that leads to asphyxia and sterility, to walk with courage, dignity and Christian responsibility the path of sharing and solidarity with those whom he has a preferential option.

- Jesus shows us the vital urgency of going today to proclaim with authority and determination (parrhesia) the gospel to everyone, everywhere and on every occasion, without delay, without ill will and without fear, because the joy of the Gospel is for all people, it cannot exclude anyone.

- Jesus reveals to us, with a clear orientation, who must be especially favoured in the proclamation: the poor and the sick, those who are often despised and forgotten, those who have nothing to give in return.

- Jesus assures us that, today and always, the poor are the privileged recipients of the gospel, and that evangelisation directed gratuitously to them is a sign of the Kingdom that he has come to bring.

- Jesus leaves no doubt that there is an inseparable link between our faith and the care and liberation of the poor, and that there are no valid reasons to leave them alone, but urgent reasons to engage in their struggles and in the search to obtain justice for them.

- Jesus asks us for an ecclesial spirituality that heals, liberates, that fills with life and peace, that calls for communion in solidarity and missionary fruitfulness, and that

humanises all without distinction or exclusion and gives glory to God.

If we are to find our way towards the true and strong relationship with God, we must invite the Word of God more deeply into our personal prayer lives. The Scriptures are not just ancient texts; they are the living voice of God speaking to us today, in our specific circumstances through daily Scripture reading, Biblical meditation, especially in Lectio Divina, praying with Scripture and apply it to life. By weaving Scripture into our personal prayer lives, we allow the Word of God to become a living and active force in our daily journey. It's not just about reading a text; it's about engaging in a conversation with the Lord, who speaks to us through His Word. As we deepen our relationship with the Scriptures, our lives increasingly reflect the light and wisdom they contain. Let us, then, approach the Word of God with open hearts and minds, ready to be transformed by its power.



# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## ECUMENICAL SERVICE at MOST HOLY TRINITY, OTFORD

Today 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.

## PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

You may have seen posters about a Medjugorje pilgrimage on 12<sup>th</sup> May when Fr Vipin will be joining a small group from our parish.

The current cost for one weeks' half board is £760 which will reduce to £730 if booked before 1<sup>st</sup> February. There is a significant surcharge for single room occupancy, one is normally expected to share, and you will need to arrange your own travel insurance.

If you are interested please contact Barry Authers 07773 658469 by text or call to discuss further details.

## 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.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

- **Lilian Spragg** aged 97. The Funeral will be at St Thomas' on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 11:00am.
- **Mary Dolores Simmonds**, aged 79. The Funeral will be at St Bernadette's on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 12:00.

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> January

6:00pm (*Sat*)

8:00am (*Latin*)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

## Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:00am

## Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

9:30am

## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

10:00am *Otford*

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

10:30am

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> January

6:00pm (*Sat*)

8:00am (*Latin*)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

## SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

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

## Monday of week 3 Ordinary Time

David & Colleen Lockyer and their 5 children

Anne Knight (birthday)

## Tuesday of week 3 Ordinary Time

Fr Patrick Moloney RIP

## Saint Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor

Aileen Edwards RIP -

the consolation of Lionel & the family

Good estate of Arthur Hughes

## The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Holy Souls

Lilian Spragg RIP

## Saints Timothy and Titus, Bishops

Holy Souls

Daphne Gobel RIP

*Funeral Mass - Anita O'Keefe RIP*

## Saturday memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary

All dec'd of the donor's family

## FOURTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Stanislaw Czaja RIP, Stefania & Jan Ociepa RIP

Holy Souls

June Hicks RIP (anniversary)

People of the Parish

Good health of Monica D'Souza

Mrs Hughes RIP & Mr O'Flaherty

Holy Souls

David Bunton RIP

## FOR YOUR PRAYERS

### THE SICK

Milena Currall, Diana Latter, Sue Spilstead, Elizabeth Sherratt, Philip Hardaker, Paulina Andrea, Zamora Hernandez, Mavis Mitchell Lambert, Toni Barrett, Frank Easterbrook, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Peter Ringham, Ann Steven, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

### ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Daniel Hassett, Patrick McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson, Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John O'Leavy, Albert Munden, Thomas Salt, Cyril Gouldstone, Maria Glenister, Rosemary Creagh, Harry Healy, Liberato Siuiflia, James Regan, Celia Kinnell, Patricia Mary Rudden, David Cole, Simon Emmerson, Nora McCoy, Deacon Sanuel Gyepi-Garbrah, Terence Lyons, Bob Kossowski, Eileen Bass, Ethel Whiddett, Oswald Brown, Mary Collier, Dorothy Claydon, Marguerite Ogden, Kathrine Lester, Mary Gerrard, Kathleen Kavanagh, Bernard Burt, Sheila Murphy, Nora O'Neill, Sandra Spokes, Brian Denton, Daniel Driscoll, Kathleen Wright, Val Parsons, Nora West, Erin Smith, Thomas Moran, Vera Hearn.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

Cantáte Dómino cánticum novum, cantáte Dómino, omnis terra.  
Conféssio et pulchritúdo in conspéctu eius, sánctitas et magnificéntia in sanctificatióne eius.

### Communion:

Accédite ad Dóminum et illuminámini, et fácies vestrae non confundéntur.