

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

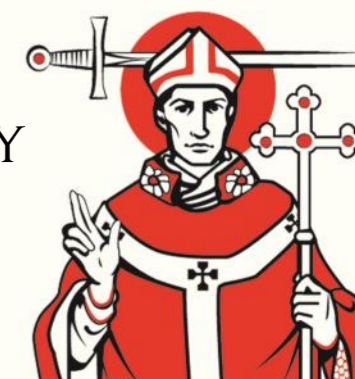
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

28th January 2024



As we navigate through the liturgical year from this Ordinary Sunday through the Candlemas towards the introspective Lenten season, we are invited into a journey of spiritual discovery and renewal. The 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time presents us with the powerful image of Jesus asserting His dominion over evil forces. This narrative, especially poignant as it unfolds on the Sabbath, reminds us of God's enduring love and His promise to deliver and purify His people from sin.

Candlemas, celebrated on February 2nd, signifies the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and His revelation as the Light of the World. The lighting of candles on this day serves as a physical embodiment of Christ's light, guiding and purifying us. This feast echoes Jesus' mission to cleanse and renew, setting the stage for the upcoming Lenten season. As we approach Lent, it becomes crucial to prepare our hearts and minds for this sacred time. Lent is not just a period of fasting and abstinence; it's an opportunity to 'lose' time for Jesus, engaging more deeply with Him through various devotions and activities. This season calls us to awaken our faith, uniting with Christ who suffered, died, and rose again.

Let us make ourselves ready to embrace the traditional practices of fasting and abstinence as a means to discipline the body and focus the spirit. This can also be a time to fast from certain habits or distractions that hinder our spiritual growth. Let us engage in parish-led initiatives like Stations of the Cross, Lenten talks and retreats, or charity events. These communal activities foster a sense of fellowship and shared faith journey.

Make yourself and your family ready now and dedicate specific times for personal prayer and reflection, creating space to listen to God's voice.

As we journey from the affirmation of Christ's power over evil in Ordinary Time, through the revelation of Him as the light of the world in Candlemas, to the call for renewal in Lent, let us embrace this time of spiritual enrichment. May our preparations for Lent, through fasting, prayer, and devotion, lead us to a deeper union with Christ, enabling us to experience the fullness of His resurrection at Easter.

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, Sarah Harrison and Kate Travers

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

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

WHAT IS CANDLEMAS?

Candlemas Day, celebrated on February 2nd each year, holds a special place in the Christian calendar, particularly for Catholics. This feast, also known as the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, used to mark the end of the liturgical Christmas season, before the reform of the Roman Catholic Liturgy.

The Feast of the Presentation commemorates the day when Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem. This event, occurring forty days after His birth, followed the prescriptions of the Torah for purification and dedication. According to the Book of Leviticus, a woman was considered "unclean" after giving birth to a child. The child was circumcised on the eighth day, and the mother remained at home for another 33 days. After this period, the parents went to the temple for purification rites, including a sacrifice, which for a poorer family like Mary and Joseph, was two pigeons or turtledoves.

Additionally, the Torah required the redemption of the first-born son, a symbolic act acknowledging God's claim over the first-born, in memory of the Passover in Egypt. While St. Luke's Gospel focuses on the presentation aspect rather than this redemption, it highlights the consecration of Jesus to God and prefigures His future as the priest who would offer Himself for humanity's salvation.

An integral part of the Presentation narrative is the figure of Simeon, a righteous and devout man who was promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple, Simeon recognized Him as the light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of Israel. His words to Mary, foretelling that a sword would pierce her soul, underscore the bittersweet nature of this event, revealing both the salvation and suffering that would come through Jesus.

Candlemas is steeped in rich traditions. Since at least the seventh century, candles have been blessed during Mass on this day, to be used

throughout the year, hence the name "Candlemas." These candles symbolise Christ as the light of the world and serve as a reminder for Christians to be bearers of this light. In several Eastern European countries, Candlemas still marks the traditional end of Christmas celebrations. A custom started by Saint John Paul II includes keeping the Nativity scene displayed until this day.

Today, Candlemas invites reflection on themes of purification, light, and dedication. It mirrors the experience of Christian baptism, where individuals are dedicated to God and called to be lights in the world. The feast remind us of both joy of the celebration and reflection, as it remembers Jesus' first entrance into the temple, foreshadowing His ultimate sacrifice and His role as a beacon of hope and salvation for all humanity.

For us, contemporary Catholics, Candlemas is a call to embody the light of Christ in a complex world. This feast, commemorating Jesus' presentation and the fulfillment of ancient prophecies, invites us to renew our commitment to living our faith actively and purposefully. It challenges us to bring the light of hope, compassion, and justice into our communities, reflecting the transformative power of Christ's love in our daily actions. In celebrating Candlemas, we are reminded of our role as bearers of this divine light, entrusted with the mission to illuminate the darkness of our times with the enduring brightness of our faith.



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

NO ADORATION

Please note that there will be no 6:00 pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday 30th January.

CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW CANONS

We are delighted to announce, that Fr David Gibbons, our former Parish Priest has been granted the prestigious title of Honorary Canon as a mark of recognition for his ministry and dedication; and to Fr John Diver, our Dean, who serves as the Parish Priest of Westerham and Biggin Hill and as the Episcopal Vicar for Safeguarding, has been honoured with the distinguished position of Chapter Canon and Member of the College of Consultors. We congratulate them on these well-deserved recognitions.

ST ANSELM BARN DANCE

St Anselm's, Pembury are holding a barn dance with live band and a chilli supper on Saturday 10th February from 6 -10:00 pm. Real ale, hay bales and lots of fun guaranteed. For tickets go to bit.ly/StAnselmBarnDance

WOMEN'S RETREAT at AYLESFORD

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

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).

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

There is a significant demand for candles, whether unused or used, that can be melted down and reconstituted in tins (such as soup or bean tins). Ukrainian front-line troops in the trenches urgently require these candles to heat their food in conditions much colder than those experienced here. There will be a box for the candles in each church. Please contact Magda at sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk for details on where to send the candles. 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.

- **Mary Dolores Simmonds**, aged 79. The Funeral will be at St Bernadette's on Tuesday 6th February at 12:00.

BECOME A EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF EUCHARISTIC

We are excited to offer an opportunity for parishioners to deepen their faith and service to our community by becoming Extraordinary 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.

MARRIAGE WEEK 2024

Is an annual celebration offering the opportunity to support and promote marriage and family life. It is celebrated this year from 7th - 14th February. Find more details on the website www.cbcew.org.uk

Also, an exciting **free** ONLINE course, for married and engaged couples, has been developed in collaboration with the Southwark Marriage and Family Life team and Sycamore, a programme about the Christian faith by Fr Stephen Wang.

Growing in Faith Together consists of four hour-long sessions via Zoom and is a wonderful opportunity for:

- married couples to enrich their friendship and love.
- engaged couples who have completed their marriage preparation course and want to continue exploring their faith together

The course runs on Tuesday evenings from 8 - 9:00 pm beginning 13th Feb 2024 and continuing on 20th Feb, 27th Feb, 5th Mar, 12th Mar, 19th Mar 2024.

Find more information and register form on the website www.aec.rcaos.org.uk/together

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 28th January

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

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

Monday 29th

8:00am

Monday of week 4 Ordinary Time

Holy Souls

Tuesday 30th

9:30am

11:00am

Tuesday of week 4 Ordinary Time

Holy Souls

Funeral Mass - Lilian Spragg RIP

Wednesday 31st

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

Saint John Bosco, Priest

Holy Souls

Blessings upon all parish volunteers

Thursday 1st February

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

The Conversion of Saint Paul, Apostle

Wellbeing of Canon Luke Smith

Cleta & Timothy Andradi RIP

Friday 2nd

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

The Presentation of the Lord

Reeda D'Souza RIP

Molly Kitchen RIP

Saturday 3rd

9:30am

Saints Laurence, Dunstan, and Theodore, Archbishops of Canterbury

Holy Souls

SUNDAY 4th February

6:00pm (Sat)

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Oxford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

FIFTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Donor's Intention

Dec'd members of Kucharski family

Wellbeing of Canon Luke Smith

Lilian Spragg RIP

People of the Parish

Blessings upon Wiacek family

Blessings upon Casey

The good estate of the Buch family

RECENTLY DEPARTED

Dennis Goodall

*Eternal rest grant unto them,
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine
upon them.
May they rest in peace.*

RECENTLY BAPTISED

Welcome to

Emmanuel & Clarissa Biendarra

who were Baptised on Saturday,
at St Thomas',
Sevenoaks.

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

Isabella Worsley, Sheila Gill, Mary Ann Wilkinson, Mary Mannelly, Emily Washe, Bertha Allchorne, Ray Neale, Kazimierz Lepak, Joan Harris, Rosemary Creagh, John Taylor, James Davis, Stephanie Staples, Katherine Sewell, Alan Meerton, Patrick Donoghue, Winifred Sherratt.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Salvos nos fac, Dómine Deus noster,
et cóngrega nos de natióibus, ut
confiteámur nómini sancto tuo, et
gloriémur in laude tua.

Communion:

Illúmina fáciem tuam super servum
tuum, et salvum me fac in tua
misericórdia. Dómine, non confúndar,
quóniam invocávi te.