

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

Weekday Mass times:

Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 9:30am
Wednesday 8:00am
Thursday 12:00noon
Friday 8:00am
Saturday 9:30am

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

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

4th February 2024

**HE CURED MANY
WHO WERE SICK,
AND HE DROVE OUT
MANY DEMONS.**

On 14th February 2024, with Ash Wednesday, we will begin the holy season of Lent, 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading up to Easter. It's a time when Christians prepare themselves spiritually, remembering the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert. During this time, Jesus faced challenges and temptations, but He remained strong and faithful.

As we delve into this Sunday's Gospel (Mark 1:29-39), we encounter a vivid portrayal of Jesus's ministry — a ministry brimming with healing, compassion, and the transformative power of God's presence. In the narrative, we observe Jesus immediately after leaving the synagogue, extending his hands to heal Simon's mother-in-law. This healing touch is not just a mere gesture; it symbolises the restoration of life, as immediately after being healed, she begins to serve, indicating a return to active participation in community life. As the evening falls, more people gather, bringing their own burdens and seeking solace in Jesus's healing presence. He responds with unwavering compassion, curing diseases and casting out devils, marking the transformative power of God's grace that penetrates the deepest recesses of human suffering.

Yet, amidst this bustling activity, Jesus seeks solitude, rising early to pray in a lonely place. This intimate communion with the Father is the wellspring of his strength and guidance, a humble lesson for us as we approach the season of Lent.

Why Lent matters? Our lives are often busy and full of noise. Lent offers us quiet time to think about our lives, the choices we make, and how we can live better. By spending more time with God and less on distractions, we learn to listen to Him and feel His presence more in our lives. By setting aside time for prayer, saying sorry for our wrongdoings (penance), and helping others (almsgiving), we clean our hearts and make room for God's grace.

In the spirit of this upcoming Lenten season, I warmly invite each one of you to explore the array of Lenten spiritual exercises listed at the back of our newsletter page 70. Let's make this coming Lent a time of fruitful reflection and spiritual growth.

Fr Peter

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 piotrkucharski@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

Otford, 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

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

We invite each of you to join in our communal Lenten observance:

ASH WEDNESDAY (14th February) Holy Mass with imposition of ashes:

- St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: 8:00am (English), 8:00pm
- Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 10:00am
- St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: 11:00am
- St Joseph's, Borough Green: 6:00pm

TAIZÉ EVENING, a special Taizé Prayer Evening with Adoration of the Cross, a time for meditative prayer, chant, and reflection on Christ's sacrifice. This serene service, known for its peaceful and contemplative atmosphere, will offer us all a chance to deepen our Lenten journey through song, silence, and adoration. Please join us at St Thomas', Sevenoaks on Sunday 18th February at 7:00pm.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS. A way of prayer, that helps us to understand the great sacrifice of Jesus for our salvation. He suffered and died for us, out of love, so we could be forgiven and stay close to God. When we pray the Stations of the Cross, we walk step by step with Jesus, thanking Him, learning about His love and courage, and asking for strength to carry our own troubles with faith and hope.

- St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Fridays at 8:00pm
- Most Holy Trinity, Otford: Thursdays at 7:30pm, instead of the usual Holy Hour
- St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: Fridays at 7:30pm
- St Joseph's, Borough Green: Fridays at 6:00pm

LENTEN TALKS on Wednesdays in March at 7:00pm. Make the most of your Lent by coming to the series of individual in-depth talks, followed by discussion, and prepare well for Easter.

- Wednesday 6th March - Prayer and the Victory of God by Brother John Church and Deacon Bede Mullens OP. They are both young men who joined the Dominican order from university and are studying for the Priesthood at Blackfriars Oxford.
- Wednesday 13th March - Lenten call to create a Kingdom of Justice and Peace by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ Parish Priest of Farm Street, the Jesuit church in Central London, Chair of Justice and Peace in the Diocese of Westminster and Lecturer in Theology at St Mary's University.
- Wednesday 20th March - Why did Jesus have to be rejected, suffer, and be killed? by Fr Lawrence Lew OP, former Parish Priest & Prior of St Dominic's Priory, Haverstock Hill, London currently at Blackfriars Oxford. Fr Lawrence is Promoter General for the Rosary and is author of the CTS booklet 'Lenten Devotions'.
- Wednesday 27th March - Being Passionate: Getting the most out of Holy Week and Easter by Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ, Sister of the Congregation of Jesus, Director of the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge. She is Chair of trustees of the Community of St. Anselm at Lambeth Palace.

HOLY HOUR. Spend time in quiet prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist. It's a peaceful time to listen to God and feel His loving presence.

- St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Mondays at 8:30am & Tuesdays at 6:00pm
- Most Holy Trinity, Otford: Fridays at 11:00am

These devotions and times are special opportunities during Lent to grow closer to God, reflect on Jesus' love and sacrifice, and prepare our hearts for the joy of Easter. It's a time to slow down, pray more, and focus on what truly matters.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday (14th February) marks the beginning of Lent, a solemn 40-day period of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving in preparation for Easter. During services, ashes made from blessed palm branches are placed on the foreheads of the faithful in the shape of a cross. This act serves as a reminder of our sinfulness and the need for penance, urging us to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. Coming to church on Ash Wednesday helps us to humbly acknowledge our weaknesses and seek God's mercy and strength for spiritual renewal.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are to be observed as days of fast and abstinence. Fasting means that the amount of food we eat is considerably reduced. Abstinence means that we give up a particular kind of food. On Ash Wednesday Roman Catholics ought to obtain the abstinence from meat (from 14-60 years old) and have only one full meal and – if needed – two smaller meals (18-60 years old).

Please see the details of our Lenten Spiritual Exercises, especially Stations of the Cross (page 7) in each of the churches and make time in your diary.

TAIZÉ EVENING. Begin the season of Lent with prayer and join us for the adoration of the Cross in the spirit of Taizé on Sunday 18th February at 7:00pm in St Thomas', Sevenoaks.

LENT QUIET DAY

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 3rd March 2024 at The Barn, Poult Farm, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10.00 to 16.00.

Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity for quiet contemplation in preparation for Easter by accompanying Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and his Passion.

The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 20 years. Please bring a bible, a packed lunch and a change of shoes as part of the day can be spent outside.

Suggested contribution for the day is £5.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR REQUIRED

Laleham Lea Catholic Independent School is looking to appoint a Governor to join their dedicated Governing body. (Please note, this is an unpaid voluntary position). Please contact secretary@lalehamlea.co.uk for further details or 0208 660 3351. We look forward to hearing from you.

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.sevrccparish.org.uk

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.

PARISH CENTRE REFURBISHMENT UPDATE

The refurbishment project is proceeding well, and we hope that the Parish centre will be ready for use around the end of March, at Easter. We have had a delay for the delivery of the new windows and until these have been put in, we cannot do the floor.

If you recall the budget for this project was around £225k and we now anticipate that final costs will be around £233k due to some additional plaster work in some of the rooms and other minor additions.

The Parish centre building and structure has also needed significant additional work. This came about as the Archdiocese did a quinquennial (every 5 years) inspection and we discovered many other issues beyond the refurbishment project- significant water ingress on roof which had damaged all the loft insulation; fractures in most of the pointing on the chimney stacks rendering them unsafe; need to improve fire safety in building; damage to the drains. These repairs would have had to be done anyway and these will cost about £31k.

The fundraising has gone very well and exceeded our expectations due to your generosity. Our target for fundraising was £75k- we have ended up raising nearly £100k, with gift aid contributions. We want to express our most sincere thanks for all who donated to support the well-being of our Parish community- especially in these difficult times.

And we had some brilliant news. We were informed that our refurbishment project has just qualified for a National Lottery grant of £20k; this will go towards replacing all the widows in the Parish centre.

There are more details of the refurbishment project on Parish website including the report from Adam Graham, our Quantity surveyor.

If you have queries on:

Parish Finances contact- ben.andradi@gmail.com

Parish centre project- christinarose528@gmail.com

Fundraising: andrew.latrobe@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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*

Monday 5th

8:00am

Tuesday 6th

9:30am

12:00noon *West Kingsdown*

Wednesday 7th

8:00am

10:00am *Oxford*

Thursday 8th

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

Friday 9th

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Saturday 10th

9:30am

SUNDAY 11th 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

Saint Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

Patrick Kinnell RIP (1st anniversary)

Saints Paul Miki and his Companions, Martyrs

Frank Haggarty RIP (anniversary)

Funeral Mass - Mary Simmonds RIP

Feria

Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

Holy Souls

Feria

Holy Souls

Lilian Spragg RIP

Feria

Fr Joe Andradi

Michael Goodall RIP

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Holy Souls

SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

Holy Souls

People of the Parish

All dec'd members of the donor's family

In thanksgiving
for good health and passing the year

Urszula Kowalik RIP

Holy Souls

Martin and Vivienne Andrews

Nolie Simmonds RIP

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 FEBRUARY

Martha Griessen, Derek Goldsmith, Norah Healy, Irene Brain, Bart McGirr, Maria Cerullo, Kitty Meanden, Anne Sommer, Tom Loader, Eliane Viner, Denis Threlfall, Ivan Jones, Madeleine Campbell, Pike Carey, Claude Hopkins, Gwen Lumsden, Margaret Remnant, Elrie Waine, Kathleen Galvin, Des Donegan, Maureen Smith, Antoni Kozlowski, John O'Grady, Mai Jordan, Frank Haggarty, Joseph Drummond, Peter Devaney, Michael Lynch, Denise Epsley, Theresa Corry, Derick Goldsmith, George Piper, James Elliott, Bill Keating, David van Hesteren, Joe Donohoe, Elizabeth Murphy, Yvonne Haggarty, Fr Douglas Morris, Louise Comerford, John Havercan, Stephanie Catherwood, Mary Meaden

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Venite, adorémus Deum, et
procidámus ante Dóminum, qui fecit
nos; quia ipse est Dóminus Deus
noster.

Communion:

Confiteántur Dómino misericórdiæ
eius, et mirabilia eius filiis hóminum,
quia satiávit ánimam inánem, et
ánimam esuriéntem satiávit bonis.