

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

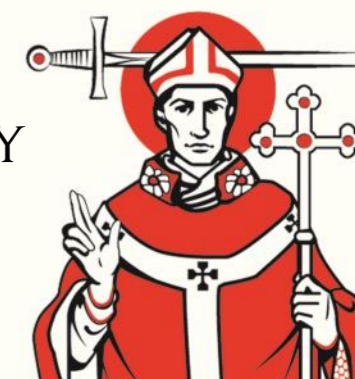
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

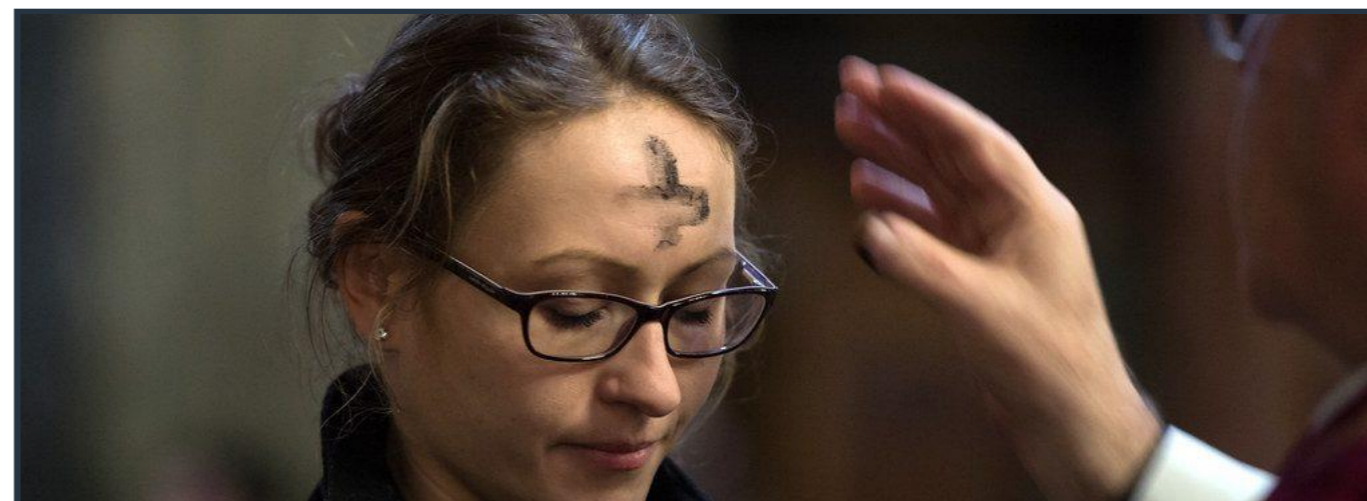
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

11th February 2024



Lent, a 40-day period beginning with Ash Wednesday (this week) and culminating with the Holy Week, invites us into deep reflection on our spiritual lives, emphasizing the need for a contrite heart and a return to God's fundamental love for us. This season calls us to engage in practices of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting, reminding us of our earthly origins and our eventual return to dust, symbolised by the ashes received on Ash Wednesday.

Parallel to this journey of Lenten introspection and penance is the biblical narrative of leprosy, a condition seen as a punishment for disobedience, rendering individuals "unclean" and isolated from their community. The Old Testament stories of healing, such as that of Naaman by Elisha, underscore not just the physical restoration but a deeper spiritual reconciliation with God. In the Gospel, Jesus' healing of the leper transcends the mere act of curing a disease; it signifies the messianic arrival of God among His people, offering purification from sin and a restoration of life.

Jesus, in His healing ministry, demonstrates that He is more than a prophet; He is the divine made manifest, whose words and actions bring about the reality they signify. This sacramental quality of Jesus' healing mirrors our own journey through Lent and participation in the sacrament of penance. Like the leper who approached Jesus, we are called to acknowledge our sins and seek God's mercy, which is graciously offered through the Church's sacraments, especially that of reconciliation.

The connection between Lent and the healing of leprosy teaches us that repentance and turning back to God lead to a profound renewal of life. It reminds us that divine mercy is always available, inviting us to a transformation that goes beyond the external to touch the very core of our being. As we journey through Lent, let us be inspired by the leper's example to seek Jesus with a humble heart, rejoicing in the mercy we receive and committing to live lives that reflect the healing and renewal we have experienced. This dual reflection on Lent and leprosy challenges us to see the season not just as a time for personal penance but as an opportunity to experience the transformative power of God's love and to share that love with the world. *Fr Piotr*

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 Piotr 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

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

THE JOURNEY OF LENT BEGINS

Lent begins with an invitation from God: "Come back to me, with all your heart" (see Joel 2:12). Our Lenten journey is our response to God's invitation.

THE ORIGINS OF "LENT"

The term "Lent" traces its linguistic roots back to Old English, evolving through the ages from the word "lengthen." This etymology reflects the season's coincidence with the lengthening days of early spring, symbolising rebirth, the awakening of nature, and a fresh beginning. Just as spring rejuvenates the earth with new life—trees sap-stirring, flowers blooming, and the world turning greener—Lent offers us a chance for spiritual cleansing. It's an opportunity to declutter our lives, making space for closer communion with God and each other.

While Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday spans 46 days, Lent observes a 40-day period of reflection and preparation. This discrepancy isn't a mathematical oversight but rather a theological choice. Sundays during Lent are celebrations of Easter, each a mini-festival commemorating Jesus' resurrection. By excluding the six Sundays from Lent's duration, we adhere to the tradition of a 40-day fast, echoing Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness.

By the late fourth century, the practice of a 40-day fast preceding Easter had taken root in the church, initially to commemorate Jesus' desert fasting. Over time, Lent evolved into a season of penance and preparation. Initially, Lent served dual purposes: preparing catechumens for baptism and offering reconciliation for penitent sinners. However, as the centuries passed, the focus shifted towards a general season of fasting and reflection.

ASH WEDNESDAY: A SYMBOL OF MORTALITY AND REPENTANCE

The use of ashes as a sign of penitence is grounded in biblical traditions. Figures such as Abraham, Jeremiah, and Daniel used ashes and sackcloth as expressions of humility and repentance. Within the early Christian community, Ash Wednesday began as a day for public sinners to seek forgiveness, marked by the wearing of sackcloth and the receiving of ashes. Though the practice of public penance faded, the distribution of ashes remained, serving as a poignant reminder of our mortality and the need for God's grace.

The Second Vatican Council revitalised Lent's baptismal character, emphasizing preparation for baptism and penitential reflection. This shift towards a baptismal focus is evident in the rites and practices of Ash Wednesday, inviting believers to a deeper engagement with their faith and the promises made at baptism.

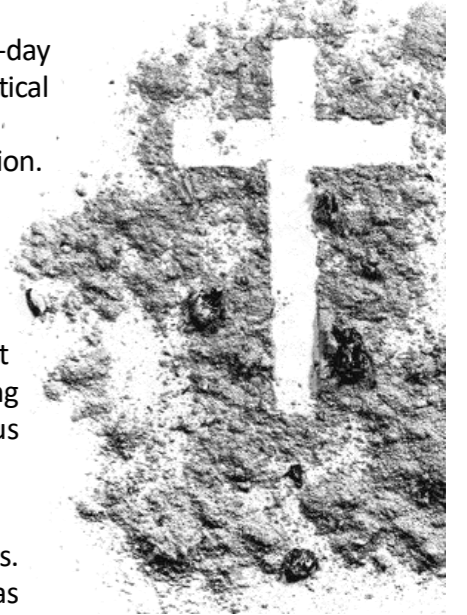
Ash Wednesday sets the tone for Lent focusing on the continuous conversion and spiritual growth. The journey from receiving ashes to the renewal of baptism at Easter encapsulates the essence of Lent: a time to embrace our humanity, acknowledge our need for transformation, and renew our commitment to live in the light of the Gospel. Lent calls us to engage more deeply with the disciplines of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. These practices aim to sharpen our spiritual focus, drawing us closer to the divine and to the heart of our faith.

FASTING during Lent is a call to simplicity, allowing us to become more attuned to God's presence. **ABSTINENCE**, particularly from meat, connects us with the broader human family, sharing in a common act of sacrifice. These disciplines remind us of our shared vulnerability and our reliance on God's sustenance.

PRAYER deepens our conversation with God. Lent encourages us to intensify our prayer life, seeking a more profound communion with the Divine. Through various forms of prayer—be it private reflection, communal worship, or engaging with sacred texts—we open ourselves more fully to God's grace.

ALMSGIVING extends beyond financial assistance to the poor; it encompasses a generous sharing of our time, talents, and resources. This practice challenges us to consider how we might contribute to healing the world's brokenness, offering what we can to mend the fabric of our communal life.

As we embark on our Lenten journey, let us consider how we might respond more fully to God's invitation to renewal. This season offers a sacred space to reflect, repent, and reorient our lives towards the Gospel's call to love and service.



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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

- St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: 8:00am (in 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. Please join us for a Lenten Taizé evening Sunday 18th February from 7:15pm at St Thomas', Sevenoaks. This will be a reflective evening of prayer, with music to pray with and through.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

- St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Fridays at 8:00pm
- Most Holy Trinity, Otford: Thursdays at 7:30pm
- 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.

- **Wednesday 6th March** - *Prayer and the Victory of God* by Brother John Church and Deacon Bede Mullens OP.
- **Wednesday 13th March** - *Lenten call to create a Kingdom of Justice and Peace* by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ
- **Wednesday 20th March** - *Why did Jesus have to be rejected, suffer, and be killed?* by Fr Lawrence Lew OP,
- **Wednesday 27th March** - *Being Passionate: Getting the most out of Holy Week and Easter* by Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ,

HOLY HOUR. Spend time in quiet prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist at St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Mondays at 8:30am & Tuesdays at 6:00pm, in Most Holy Trinity, Otford: Fridays at 11:00am.

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.

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.sevrparish.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 FINANCE COMMITTEE The meeting will be held on Thursday 15 February at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

GRIEF in LOSS and HOPE in CHRIST retreat

Friday 22nd- Sunday 24th March 2024 Led by Ged Walsh O. Carm, Barbara Salamonyczk & Liz Taylor. For anyone who has experienced a bereavement, whether recently or some time ago.

We grieve, remember, hope and give thanks for our loved ones in the light of the Resurrection Jesus. Cost: £230 single £210 shared. To book please contact retreat@thefriars.org.uk tel: 01622 717272

SAVE THE DATE 16th March 2024 9.45am – 4.00pm **Building a Better Marriage**

This day, held at St John's RC Primary School, Rochester Road, Gravesend, DA12 2JW, starts at 9.45am until 4pm, is a day in which married couples can privately explore their relationship more deeply and gain valuable insights into the communication and the call of the Church to the married. There is no charge for this course.

Booking is essential - please contact Teresa on gravesend@rcaos.org.uk or by phone: 01474 352 415. Refreshments will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

PASSING ON THE FAITH

How do we start? How do we continue? What works well for children at different stages?

Four online sessions for **parents** starting Wednesday 28th February, 8pm – 9:30pm.

And for **grandparents**, focusing specifically on the conversations which can help to anchor faith, four online sessions starting Thursday 18th April, 7:30 – 9pm. Email Lisette on mflse@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

During the half term 12th - 20th February Parish office will be closed.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 11th February SIXTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME

- 6:00pm (Sat) Holy Souls
- 8:00am (Latin) People of the Parish
- 9:15am All dec'd members of the donor's family
- 11:15am In thanksgiving from Mercado family and for good health & passing the year
- 6:00pm Urszula Kowalik RIP
- 9:30am Otford Holy Souls
- 9:30am Borough Green Martin and Vivienne Andrews
- 11:00am West Kingsdown Nolie Simmonds RIP

Monday 12th Feria
8:00am Canon John Bailey RIP (anniversary)

Tuesday 13th Feria
9:30am Beryl Pluck RIP (anniversary)

Wednesday 14th ASH WEDNESDAY
8:00am Dora & Eugene Binken RIP
10:00am Otford High McAteer RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown Nolie Simmonds RIP
6:00pm Borough Green Fr Thomas Quinn RIP
8:00pm Nolie Simmonds RIP & her family

Thursday 15th Feria
10:00am Borough Green Izabella's Parents RIP
12:00noon Canon John Bailey RIP (anniversary)
In thanksgiving

Friday 16th Feria
8:00am Sarah Boyle RIP (anniversary)
10:00am West Kingsdown Fiona Knight RIP

Saturday 17th Feria
9:30am Aileen Edwards RIP
and wellbeing of Lionel and the family

SUNDAY 18th February FIRST SUNDAY of LENT
6:00pm (Sat) Wellbeing of Geoff Harris
8:00am (Latin) Holy Souls
9:15am People of the Parish
11:15am Wellbeing of Liz Ballanger
6:00pm Seamus Reid RIP & John Black RIP
9:30am Otford Margaret Mary Healy RIP
9:30am Borough Green Archie Mayne RIP (anniversary)
11:00am West Kingsdown Nolie Simmonds RIP
and the comfort of her family

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

Adriana Boulter, Alice Farrar, Cdr. Eugene Esmonde, Sister Gertrude, Marie Lady Temple, Bridget Jones, Mary Barrett, Annie Curtis, Martin Wood, Canon John Bailey, Margaret Reid, James Lunn, Julia Brooks, William Pragnell, Agnes Duncan, Betty Crawley, Sheila Nettleingham, Ursula Cassidy, Charles Hatfield, John McCarthy, Donald McCarthy, Reginald Palmer, Caroline Doran, James Daly, James Ratchford, Agnes Duncan, Frank Conroy, Elenor Middleton, Joan Edbrooke, Patricia Crosland, Mary Sparsholt, Albert Barnes, Nora Kelleher, Patricia Nash, Emily Thorpe, Mary Connolly, Baby Glanville, Kathleen Rocke.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Esto mihi in Deum protectorem, et in locum refugii, ut salvum me facias. Quoniam firmamentum meum et refugium meum es tu, et propter nomen tuum dux mihi eris, et enutries me.

Communion:

Manducaverunt, et saturati sunt nimis, et desiderium eorum attulit eis Dominus; non sunt fraudati a desiderio suo.