

## 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](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

18th February 2024



On this first Sunday of Lent the Gospel reading (Mark 1:12-15) tells us, that the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness, and he was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him. Then, after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.'

There's that word 'repent'. We see it often throughout the gospel. See it, particularly during the season of Lent leading up to a Holy Week each year. What does it mean? It means to turn back to God.

It's amazing how we can turn away from God by degrees. It's not that we turn our back completely on God. It's not that we reject God completely, but it's easy to turn away from God by degrees. It's easy to turn away from God in a little thing. And then, of course, if we turn away from God in many little things, then we can find ourselves disoriented. Why? Because we turn away from God, we get disoriented. We lose track of which way is north and which way is true north.

And so to ask ourselves today, "How do we turn away from God in little ways?" And to hear the call of repentance, not necessarily as a huge thing. It can be at some times in our lives, and it may need to be that at this time in your life. But it may be these micro repentances, these micro turning back to God when we feel tempted to turn away from God can have a very powerful effect in aligning us with God, in aligning us with the will of God, and aligning us with the best version of ourselves.

May God bless us on this journey through Lent 2024. Let us try to bring back the very best version of ourself, all that God created us to be.

## 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 Piotr Kucharski [piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Vipin James, [vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:vipinjames@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)

## God Leads us into the desert

The liturgical period of Lent is a time of preparation for the proper experience of the great Paschal mysteries. It is meant to help us open up even more to God and our neighbour. Lent is a good time to draw closer to the Lord God, to draw strength and courage from Him for the journey ahead. However, to do this, one must stop and calm one's interior, which is usually immersed in the fervour of daily matters and the events that consume us, including political and social ones. It's not about worshiping God with lips only, but being close to Him with our hearts (cf. Mk 7:6).

God leads us into the desert in this Lenten time to teach greater trust in Himself and in the plan He has for each of us without exception. It's about not just believing in God, because even Satan believes in Him, but to learn to believe God, to trust that He really knows what is good for us. Then His words will be a simple and unambiguous signpost for us in all matters in which we have to make decisions.

Lent is also a time of greater openness to others, especially the sick, those in need, suffering physically or spiritually. By stopping in the daily rush, we suddenly begin to notice also the people around us, their suffering, sometimes helplessness, incompetence, weakness. Perhaps we will manage to see those who are waiting for our time and interest, as well as for concrete help.

The Lenten devotions offered by the Church, such as the Stations of the Cross, meditations, holy hours, retreats and days of focus, are all meant to help us in knowing and deepening God's love, which was fully revealed on the Cross. Being aware of the love God has bestowed upon us, we can more easily open up and turn to Him, and thus try to imitate Him in this love.

In this Lenten time, the saints teach us how to go through "the night of the soul", accepting the poverty of faith. Pope Francis spoke about this at the recent Wednesday audience, in another catechesis on vices, this time dedicated to acedia, which is often wrongly identified with laziness. The Holy Father reminded us that acedia means "lack of care about one's own being" and is a very dangerous temptation, resembling depression.

Pope Francis pointed out that a person who falls victim to acedia feels as if crushed by the desire for death: experiences disgust for everything. Her relationship with God becomes boring for her; even the holiest acts, which warmed her heart in the past, now seem completely useless to her. A person begins to regret the passing time and youth that has irretrievably gone by.

Acedia is defined as the "noonday demon." It strikes us in the middle of the day when fatigue reaches its zenith, and the coming hours seem monotonous, impossible to live through. It very much resembles the evil of depression, both from a psychological and philosophical point of view. *"Indeed, for those who have fallen into acedia, life loses its meaning, prayer seems boring, every battle seems pointless. Even if we nurtured passions in our youth, now they seem like dreams that did not make us happy. So, we give up, and distraction, not thinking, seem to be the only way out: one would like to be stunned, to have a completely empty mind"* – explained the Holy Father comparing acedia to premature dying.

Masters of spirituality propose various remedies for the dangerous vice of acedia. The most important seems to be the patience of faith. Even when under the influence of acedia we want to escape from reality, we must have the courage to persevere and accept in my "here and now" the presence of God. Monks say that for them the cell is the best teacher of life, because it is the place that concretely and daily tells you about your love story with the Lord. Acedia is a decisive battle that must be won at all costs.

Well, we mustn't forget that faith tormented by the experience of acedia does not lose its value. On the contrary, it is true faith, very human faith, which despite everything, despite the darkness that blinds it, still humbly believes.



# Parish and other NOTICES

## PARISH OFFICE BREAK

The Parish Office will re-open on Wednesday 21st February.

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

**This Weekend** for the Sick and Retired priests of our Diocese. Envelopes available.

**Next Week** for for the CAFOD Family Fast Day. Envelopes available.

**TAIZÉ EVENING.** Please join us for a Lenten Taizé evening this 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.

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

**HOSPITALITY for speakers at our Lenten Talks.** We are having some wonderful speakers coming to give Lenten talks in our Parish every Wednesday in March (see the note above). Would you be willing to give them an early supper (or take them to a local restaurant) at 5:30pm on those evenings; some of them, who are travelling long distances may also need accommodation for that night. If you think you can help please contact ben.andradi@gmail.com

## 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: 17<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk)

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 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**GRIEF in LOSS and HOPE in CHRIST retreat** on Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th March 2024 led by Ged Walsh O.Carm, Barbara Salamonczyk & 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](mailto:retreat@thefriars.org.uk) tel: 01622 717272

## DIVINE MERCY AFTERNOON OF REFLECTION

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Afternoon of Reflection on Saturday 24 February 2024 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St. Lawrence Church, 1 Hamilton Road, Sidcup DA15 7HB.

The Reflection will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Way of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

## LISTENING TO YOU – Monday 19 February 2024

10.30 am – midday

Do come along if you would like a quiet, confidential space to talk and be listened to. There is no need to let us know you are coming. There are always two of us waiting for you and we have coffee and biscuits ready. We will be in the Presbytery until further notice while the parish renovations are going on.

We look forward to seeing you.

**ST JOSEPH'S QUIZ NIGHT** Thank you to all who supported the Quiz Night at St Joseph's last Saturday. The raffle raised £255 and in total we made a profit of £694.75 for our local church funds. We are hoping to have a wine tasting evening in the autumn, so watch this space.

# MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas's CHURCH unless otherwise stated

## SUNDAY 18<sup>th</sup> 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
9:30am Otford	Margaret Mary Healy RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Archie Payne RIP (anniversary)
11:00am West Kingsdown	Nolie Simmonds RIP and the comfort of her family

## Monday 19<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am	Tim Kelly RIP (anniversary)
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## Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am	Neil D'Souza RIP (birthday)
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## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feria

8:00am	Canon Luke Smith - special intention
10:00am Otford	Zofia's Birthday

## Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> Saint Peter's Chair

10:00am Borough Green	Canon Luke Smith
12:00noon	Chiara Mascarenhas RIP

## Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feria

8:00am	Honor Margaret Sherrott RIP
10:00am West Kingsdown	Private Intention

## Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am	Edwina Collier Baggs RIP
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## SUNDAY 25<sup>th</sup> February SECOND SUNDAY of LENT

6:00pm (Sat)	Canon Luke Smith
8:00am (Latin)	Good intentions of the donor's
9:15am	Mary & Ted Cronin RIP
11:15am	Holy Souls
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am Otford	Edmund Thomas Watts RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Natalina Morbi RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	In remembrance of Albert Gregory Munden

## 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

Constance Dumaresq, Norman Woodhead, Daisy Mooney, Jean Carolin, Jon Le Sbirel, Michael Hague OBE, James Doherty, Lynn Marie Rayner, Joseph Stewart, Albert Munden, James Grigg, Auriol Wheating, Joseph McAdam, Patricia Hills, John Gordon, Edmund Eccles, Teresa Pragnell, Geoffrey Hickey, Piermario Lichi, Florence Roberts, Monica Knox, Archie Payne, Sheila McEvoy, Michael Barry, C. Edwards, J. Walsh, Mary O'Driscoll, Johanna Kenward, Leslie Stuart, Madeleine Raison, Richard Curtes, Julia Pert, Kathleen Gaunt, Peter Gray, Rev. Christopher Bunch.

## Latin Antiphons

### Entrance:

Invocabit me, et ego exaudiam eum; eripiam eum, et glorificabo eum, longitudine dierum adimplébo eum.

### Communion:

Non in solo pane vivit homo, sed in omni verbo quod procedit de ore Dei.