

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

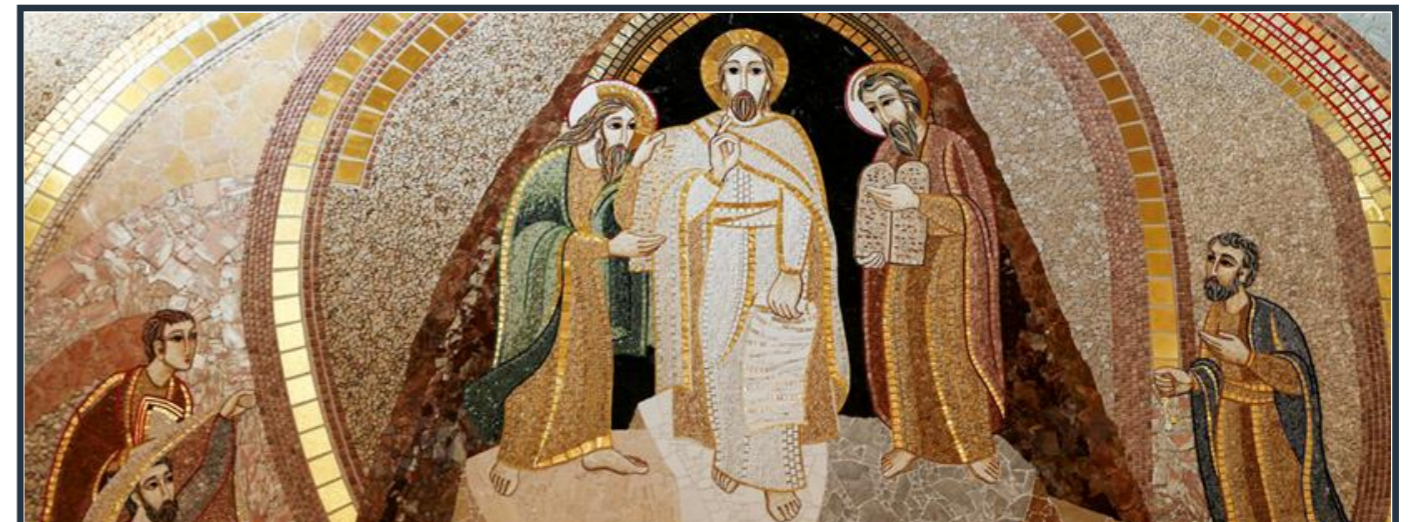
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

25th February 2024



The Second Sunday of Lent invites us to look closer into the story of Abraham, reminding us of the depth of faith required to walk in God's ways. The Church interprets Abraham's story as a testament to God's immense love for us, demonstrated in giving His only Son. Paul, in today's Epistle, and the Gospel echo this message, presenting Jesus as the beloved Son, offered up for our salvation. These narratives are not just ancient texts; they are alive, calling us to recognise Christ's identity and to draw strength in our own times of trial. Jesus shows us the way of true faith. His transfiguration and willingness to face suffering and death for us are central to our Lenten reflections. They are stark reminders of the love poured out for us and the call to respond with our whole hearts.

In this season of renewal, let us be inspired by the faith of Abraham, the obedience of Isaac, and the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus. May their stories encourage us to face our challenges with faith and to offer ourselves fully to the Father.

I encourage each of you to engage more deeply with our Lenten journey by participating in the communal prayers and, especially, the Stations of the Cross. These moments of prayer are not just rituals; they are opportunities to walk alongside Christ, to feel His presence, and to transform our lives in His image.

Let us come together as a community, supporting one another in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In doing so, we not only prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter but also strengthen the bonds of our parish family. May this Lent be a time of meaningful reflection, spiritual growth, and renewed commitment to our faith. Let's embrace this journey with open hearts, ready to be transformed by God's grace.

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

UNDERSTANDING SUFFERING

PART ONE

Suffering touches every person who has experienced it profoundly. It raises difficult questions and often rebellion. It is so hard to accept, to understand... There is no person who has not questioned the meaning of suffering that affects them, their loved ones, or even strangers. Yet, human answers often remain inadequate.

To understand the existence of suffering, we must turn towards faith, ask God Himself. St John Paul II, in his apostolic letter *Salvifici Doloris*, addresses the question of the meaning of suffering.

THE IMMENSITY OF SUFFERING

Firstly, we must recognise the true scale of human suffering around us, which deeply touches human existence. This dimension of human life cannot be reduced to physical suffering alone. No less significant, though harder to grasp, is psychological suffering. Even if the body remains healthy, a person can experience pain – no less severe than physical – related to undergoing difficult emotional or life situations.

Equally painful, though often unrecognised, is moral suffering or "pain of the soul." It is associated with the danger of one's own death or that of others, persecution from one's surroundings, pangs of conscience, or the difficulty of understanding why people who do evil prosper while the righteous suffer. Suffering can also take on a human or social dimension when tragedy affects many people at once, as in natural disasters, epidemics, or wars.

Seeking what unites all these types of suffering, St John Paul II draws our attention to the fact that at the heart of all this, which constitutes the psychological shape of suffering (experiencing any pain), there is always some experience of evil, because of which a person suffers. Suffering for the good that is not theirs, from which they have been somehow cut off or which they have deprived themselves of. A person suffers especially when this good – in the normal order of things – "should" be theirs, but is not.

THE QUESTION OF MEANING

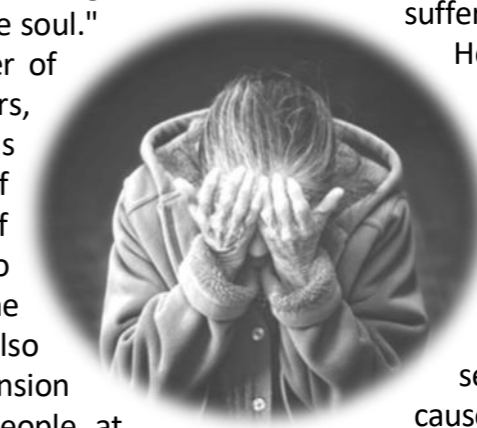
Discovering the multiplicity of suffering and its intrinsic connection to human life naturally raises the question of the meaning of suffering. This question seems to define the human content of suffering. Often, when a person asks this question, they also pose it to another person, and soon, inevitably, to God. If they cannot find a satisfying answer to this question, often on the basis of this question, many breakdowns occur in the relationship between man and God, and sometimes even the denial of God.

God listens to the human question about the meaning of suffering and expects it. He does not answer it directly, but often indicates a way to find the answer. At the beginning of the search is one of the most fundamental truths of religious faith, also based on Revelation, that God is a just Judge, who rewards for good and punishes for evil. Human suffering is therefore fundamentally linked to the order of justice.

Often in a person's life, sin appears first, and suffering is "only" its consequence. However, it must be seen that even if in biblical stories the concept of suffering is connected with experiencing punishment, this punishment has a personal dimension – it creates an opportunity to rebuild good in the suffering person. In this sense, suffering can become a cause for conversion, a call to penance and the knowledge of God's Mercy.

However, such reasoning does not explain all suffering. While it is true that suffering makes sense as punishment when it is related to guilt, it is not true that all suffering is the result of guilt and has the character of punishment. This is evidenced by the story of the righteous Job, which we learn from the Old Testament. In his case, suffering has rather the character of a trial. To understand suffering, we must turn our gaze to the revelation of God's love, the ultimate source of meaning for everything that exists.

To be continued...



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

SECOND COLLECTION

This week **CAFOD Family Fast Day**. Envelopes available.

TAIZÉ EVENING. A big thank you to our musicians and singers and all who made the Taizé evening so special.

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

WORD DAY OF PRAYER on Friday 1st March 2024, 2:00pm the theme is '**I beg you, bear with one another in love**' the service this year was compiled by our Christian sisters in Palestine and will be held at The Vine Baptist Church on the corner of Vine Court Road and Park Lane, followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

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.

ALTAR SERVERS MEETING

A special meeting for our Altar Servers in preparation for the Holy Week and the Easter Liturgy on Friday 8th March at 6.30pm at St Thomas', Sevenoaks.

TRUTH SEEKERS will commence on Saturday 9th March 2024 at 7:10pm in St Thomas's Presbytery.

TRUTH SEEKERS is a program for teenagers who have completed their confirmation to reinforce the awareness and knowledge of Christ for the teenagers and to help sustain a lifelong love of God and His Church. The program aims to encourage learning, debate and discussion on fundamental Catholic faith matters, whilst establishing a safe and supportive community, where teenagers feel comfortable exploring their faith. The program is run in blocks on a Saturday evening, and ideally it is encouraged that those attending also attend the 6pm Mass at St Thomas', Sevenoaks. A typical session runs for about an hour, starting with a light meal (typically pizza) followed by a video & general debate and discussion on the content.

This is the 2nd year that the parish is running the program and we encourage all those who participated in 2023 as well as any other teenagers who have completed their confirmation to consider joining the program. For any queries and to register your child interest please email Giuseppe on giuseppe@desimone.co.za

SOUTHWARK CATHOLIC YOUTH

The Southwark Catholic Youth Service has re-launched several activities in 2024 for those aged 10-35. For more details see tinyurl.com/scysnetwork

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Dear Friends, there are still a few places available for the upcoming week's parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje on Sunday 12 May. Fr. Vipin would be delighted if you are able to join him on this his 10th Anniversary year of Ordination.

My first visit to Medjugorje was in 1994 following my beloved wife Marie's visit there in 1993, and was the catalyst for me to embark on the RCIA programme with Canon Luke after twenty married years as a protestant.

Medjugorje is an inspirational place when you will feel the presence of Our Lady leading you closer to Our Lord, and Fr Boniface and other priests have joined us there on our multiple pilgrimages.

The price is £760 which includes flights, transfers, a local guide, and half board accommodation close to St James church. It is expected that you will share with a fellow pilgrim, otherwise a supplement of £150 will be applied. If anyone is put off by the price, we may be able to help.

Please contact me by text or phone on 07773 658469.

Peace and Blessings. Barry Authers

SVP LENTEN COLLECTION. The parish SVP collection this Lent will be partly for the Food Bank (loavesNfishes) and partly for "Friends of the Holy Land". Please save your donations and bring them in to all Masses on Palm Sunday 24th March.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 25th February **SECOND SUNDAY of LENT**

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

Monday 26th **Feria**

8:00am	Julia Pert RIP
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Tuesday 27th **Feria**

9:30am	Successful operation for Alison
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Wednesday 28th **Feria**

8:00am	David & Colleen Lockyer and their 5 children
10:00am <i>Oxford</i>	Holy Souls

Thursday 29th **Feria**

10:00am <i>Borough Green</i>	Holy Souls
12:00noon	Holy Souls

Friday 1st **Saint David, Bishop**

8:00am	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP
10:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Daphne Gobel RIP

Saturday 2nd **Feria**

9:30am	Fr Joe Andradi
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SUNDAY 3rd March **THIRD SUNDAY of LENT**

6:00pm (<i>Sat</i>)	<i>Mass not booked yet</i>
8:00am (<i>Latin</i>)	<i>Mass not booked yet</i>
9:15am	Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
11:15am	Wellbeing of Andy Costello
6:00pm	Private Intention
9:30am <i>Oxford</i>	People of the Parish
9:30am <i>Borough Green</i>	<i>Mass not booked yet</i>
11:00am <i>West Kingsdown</i>	Bridget and Arthur Ryan RIP

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Most Holy Trinity, Oxford: Thursdays at 7:30pm

St Joseph's, Borough Green: Fridays at 6:00pm

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: Fridays at 7:30pm

St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Fridays at 8:00pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

at St Thomas', Sevenoaks on Fridays at 3:30pm.

DAYTIME STATIONS OF THE CROSS by Pilgrims on

Monday 26th February, 4th & 18th March at 12:00noon

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

Anne Villemur, John Dean, Mary Corbett, Mary Colton, John Winzinger, Patrick Connolly, Harold Batty, Michael Molloy.

ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

Eldon Wright, Arthur Knowles, Frances Brooks, Evie Bell, Michael Neville, Amy Wilkins, Mary Porteous, Carmela Galuszka, Eugenie Hopkins, Freda Mead, John Cooney, Rev. Noel Lewenz, Christopher Spellacy, Anthony Aftergutt, Frances Davies, Pauline Vavasour, Alfred Lawrence, James Gannon, Kathleen Mary Mitchell, Maureen Kenny, Bill Keating, Ann Mullan, Anne Jenkins, Alison Fitzgerald, Jacqueline Turpin, Ellen Clark, Pater Galvin.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Tibi dixit cor meum quæsi vultum tuum, vultum tuum, Dómine, requíram. Ne avértas fáciem tuam a me.

Communion:

Hic est Fílius meus diléctus, in quo mihi bene complácu; ipsum audíte.