

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday
10:00am - 10:30am
5:15pm - 5:45pm

Adoration:

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

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

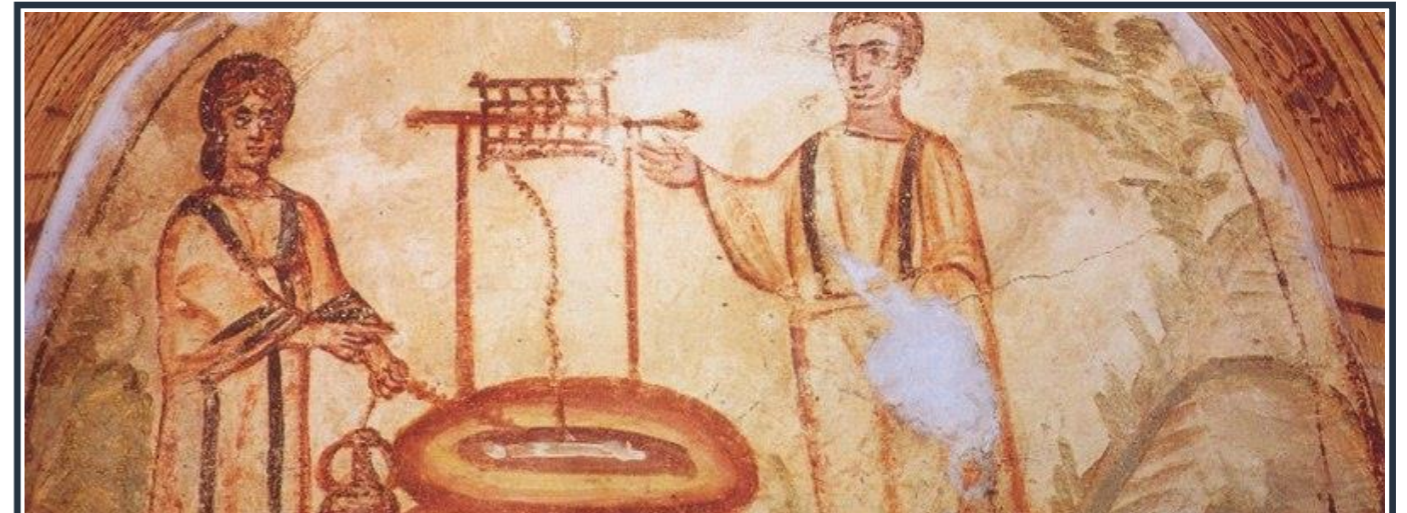
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

3rd March 2024



Lent is not only the time of penance, conversion and spiritual growth for Christians. It is also a special time of direct preparations for the Catechumens, who just before Ash Wednesday were publicly elected to receive the Sacraments of initiation at Easter. On the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent they participate in three successive rites called "the Scrutinies." The three passages from St John's Gospel for these Sundays were selected around 500 AD as powerful depictions of the hidden transformation God accomplishes in the Elect through each Scrutiny.

The "Elect" stand before the celebrant and the assembly, who pray for them silently with a series of intercessions. It culminates in a prayer of cleansing and protection (exorcism) with the laying-on-of-hands. The Scrutinies are God's way of taking a close, loving look at the Elect, not to find what's wrong with them but to celebrate all that's beautiful, good, and true in them. He also reveals to us the ways in which we are hurting, or sick, or sinful. This is not to reject us, but to call us to new life and to healing.

The First Scrutiny leads the Elect to focus on conversion and on the new life that will begin through the sacraments. In the Gospel, Jesus encounters the Samaritan Woman at Jacob's well (John 4:5-42). Our Lord is the Light who alone is able to examine and scrutinise the hidden places of our hearts.

Tradition gives us the name of the Samaritan Woman as Photina, which means Light Bearer (Lucina in Latin). Soon the Elect will receive the Living Water and will become radiant bearers of the Light of Christ. Let us continue to hold them in prayer during these final weeks of their journey.

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: mmdbiggs@outlook.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

UNDERSTANDING SUFFERING PART TWO

God's love, which can help a person truly understand their suffering, is salvific love – freeing a person from the evil that carries the ultimate and absolute perspective of suffering. While previous considerations are primarily focused on suffering in its many earthly forms, looking at the salvific dimension of God's love directs us towards understanding suffering in its fundamental and ultimate meaning, namely as the loss of eternal life, rejection by God, condemnation.

John Paul II believes that to understand the true and deepest meaning of human suffering, we must first understand the suffering of Christ, who was given to humanity to protect man primarily from the ultimate evil and ultimate suffering. Christ, through His Cross and Resurrection, does not remove earthly sufferings from human life, does not free from suffering the entire historical dimension of human existence, but he casts new light on this dimension and on every suffering, which is the light of salvation. In his messianic activity, Christ continually approached the world of human suffering. He was sensitive to every human suffering, both of the body and of the soul.

Above all, however, Christ approached the world of human suffering by taking that suffering upon himself. Reading the messianic texts (e.g., the Songs of the Suffering Servant) or the Gospels, we can discover that Jesus' suffering has human dimensions, it also has a depth and intensity unique in human history, which, being human, can be such an incomparable depth and intensity of suffering because the Man who suffers is at the same time God. John Paul II states that the answer to the question of suffering, the meaning of suffering, is given by Christ not by his teaching alone: the Good News, but above all by his own suffering, which is organically and inseparably integrated with this teaching, with the Good News. It is as if the last, synthetic word of this teaching: "the teaching of the cross".

Human suffering reached its zenith in the torment of Christ. At the same time, it entered a completely new dimension and a new order: it was linked with love. From this greatest

suffering – the Cross of Christ – the highest good was derived – the good of the Redemption of the world. Only in this context is it possible to truly understand the meaning of suffering.

REDEEMED SUFFERING

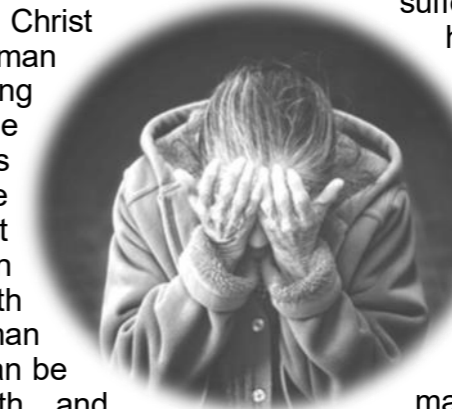
The Pope also points out to us that in the Cross of Christ, not only was Redemption accomplished through suffering, but also human suffering itself was redeemed. The Redeemer suffered for man and for man. Every person has a share in Redemption. Everyone is also called to participate in that suffering through which Redemption was accomplished. According to John Paul II, by accomplishing Redemption through suffering, Christ also raised human suffering to the level of Redemption. Therefore, in his human suffering, every person can become a participant in the redemptive suffering of Christ.

A person, aware that the agony of the Cross is inseparably connected with the glory of the Resurrection, finds entirely new light that helps him break through the dense darkness of humiliations, doubts, despair, and persecution.

Discovering through faith the redemptive suffering of Christ, he also discovers his own sufferings in it, finds them through faith anew, saturated with new content and new meaning.

The Pope in his apostolic letter tries to make us realize that God wants man to discover the truth of God's love, which led Christ to the Cross. He lives in it, in the person He loved, in man. When a person, through faith,

discovers this truth and begins to respond with love to His love, Christ becomes also in a special way united with man, through the Cross. At this moment of weakness, all human sufferings are penetrated by the same divine power that was revealed in the Cross of Christ. Thus, to suffer in union with Christ is to become as if especially susceptible, especially open to the action of the salvific powers of God, offered to humanity in Christ. God wants to act especially through suffering, which is weakness and destruction of man, and wants to reveal His power precisely in this weakness and destruction.



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

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.

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.

CARITAS SOUTHWARK 1ST ANNIVERSARY MASS

You are warmly invited to Caritas Southwark 1st Anniversary Celebration on 16 March 2024 at St George's Cathedral at 12.30pm. Mass will be followed by a gathering in Amigo Hall, as an opportunity to hear from Caritas Social Action Network, the national picture as well as from parishes, schools and partner groups in our diocese. Archbishop John Wilson will be the principal celebrant at the Mass while Raymond Friel, the CEO of Caritas Social Network England and Wales, will be the principal speaker. All are welcome.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS to Claire Smith, the organist at Otford for many years, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on 6th March.

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 and to help them 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

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.

Medjugorje is an inspirational place when you will feel the presence of Our Lady leading you closer to Our Lord.

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 as we have received a generous donation to allow one person or two people with 50% off their cost. Please contact Barry Authers by text or phone on 07773 658469.

SAVE THE DATE for THE PARISH SUMMER PARTY Sunday 7th July 2024 at 12:30pm in the Presbytery Garden

Join us for an incredible social gathering that brings together young and old, families, and retirees from Sevenoaks, Otford, Borough Green, and West Kingsdown. Entry is free! Enjoy a BBQ with plenty of food and drinks provided.

The event will feature many attractions, including a performance by St. Thomas' Primary School Choir, a variety of stalls from popular Bottle and Toy stalls to other Parish group offerings, and a raffle to raise funds for the Parish. We promise great fun and a wonderfully enjoyable atmosphere. If you have any ideas to make this event even better, please contact Fr Piotr or ben.andradi@gmail.com.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 3rd March

6:00pm (Sat)
8:00am (Latin)
9:15am
11:15am
6:00pm
9:30am Otford

9:30am Borough Green
11:00am West Kingsdown

Monday 4th Feria

8:00am

Tuesday 5th Feria

9:30am

Wednesday 6th Feria

8:00am
10:00am Otford

Thursday 7th Feria

10:00am Borough Green
12:00noon

Friday 8th Feria

8:00am
10:00am West Kingsdown

Saturday 9th Feria

9:30am

SUNDAY 10th March

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

THIRD SUNDAY of LENT

Sr Josephine
Christopher (recently died)
Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
Wellbeing of Andy Costello
Private Intention
Nurse Mary Sullivan (nee Morrison) RIP and the comfort for her family
People of the Parish
Bridget and Arthur Ryan RIP

Rita Lewis RIP (anniversary)

All deceased members of the Andradi-Brown family

Lockyer & Conroy families and their parents
Mass not booked yet

Mass not booked yet

Paul Edwards RIP (birthday)

Good intentions of the donor
Sister Mary

Mass not booked yet

FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT

People of the Parish
Halina Bukowska RIP
In thanksgiving (1st birthday)
Elzbieta Hydzik RIP
John Black RIP
Teresa Mary Watts RIP
Patrick & Daphne O'Riordan RIP
Elizabeth & Ron Henry RIP

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: 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 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 MARCH

Becky Simmonds, Mary Oram, Margaret Coghlan, Edith Withers, Germaine Davies, John Phillips, Mary Glover, Clarissa Orchard, Edith Weaver, Dorothy Allen, Kenneth Blake, Jan Kuraszewicz, Michael Sullivan, Margaret Geer, Mona Fancher, William Querney, William Welsh, Nora Rigg, Patrick Rudden, James Boddy, Arthur Robert Stapleton, Yolande Brown, Sam Quick, James D'arcy, John Marchant, John McGavin, Doreen Watts, Robert Withers, Peter Mulheran, Ken Wheatcroft, Giovanni Nagasi. Hugh Viner, Daphne O'Riordan, William James, Edward Kenny, Nancy Geer.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Oculi mei semper ad Dóminum, quia ipse evélet de láqueo pedes meos. Réspice in me et miserére mei, quóniam únicus et pauper sum ego.

Communion:

Passer invénit sibi domum, et turtur nidum, ubi repónat pullos suos: altária tua, Dómine virtútum, Rex meus, et Deus meus! Beáti qui hábitant in domo tua, in sæculum sæculi laudábunt te.