

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

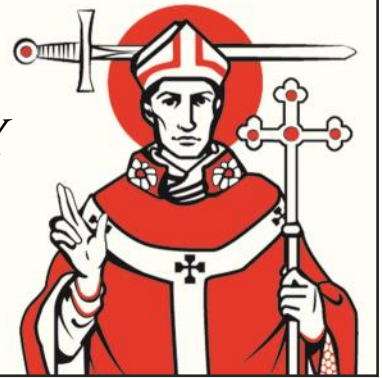
www.sevrcparish.org.uk



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

10th March 2024



*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



As we embrace the 4th Sunday of Lent, also known as Laetare Sunday, our hearts are filled with anticipatory joy. "Laetare" means "Rejoice" in Latin, and on this day, the Church invites us to look forward with hope to the Resurrection. The Gospel of John 3:14-21, speak profoundly to this joy, reminding us of God's immense love, symbolized through the lifting up of the Son of Man, so that *everyone who believes may have eternal life*. This message of salvation and light overcoming darkness is a beacon of hope as we draw nearer to Easter.

In the midst of this joyful anticipation, we continue our journey with the Elect through the RCIA process, marking the Second Scrutiny (Sunday 11:15am Mass). The Second Scrutiny, intended to heal and purify, is accompanied by the Gospel of John 9:1-41 - the healing of the man born blind. This passage is chosen specifically for its thematic focus on enlightenment and sight given by Christ, reflecting the inner illumination the Elect are experiencing. It diverges from the usual Year B readings to emphasize the transformative journey of the Elect, as they, like the blind man, come to see the world anew through the light of Christ.

Laetare Sunday also coincides with Mothering Sunday, a day when we honor and give thanks for all mothers and mother figures who nurture and guide us in our lives. Tracing its roots back to the 16th century, it was originally a day when people would visit their "mother" church or cathedral for a special service, symbolically reuniting families and communities. Today, it serves as a heartfelt occasion to express gratitude and love to our mothers, recognizing their unwavering care and influence in our lives.

To all mothers in our parish and beyond, we extend our warmest wishes and prayers for joy, peace, and fulfillment. May this Laetare Sunday be a source of light and joy for you and your loved ones, as we journey together towards the glorious celebration of Easter.

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 THREE

SUFFERING IN THE CHURCH

John Paul II also draws our attention to the fact that suffering in union with Christ also introduces us into the Mystery of the Church – the mystical Body of Christ. In this Body, Christ wants to be united with all men. Especially, however, He is united with those who suffer. He who suffers in union with Christ not only draws his strength from Christ but also "completes" with his suffering "the afflictions of Christ". Here, the truth about the creative character of suffering is particularly emphasized.

The Pope makes us aware that the suffering of Christ created the good of the Redemption of the world. This good in itself is inexhaustible and infinite. No man can add anything to the good of Redemption. At the same time, however, in the mystery of the Church as His Body, Christ somehow opened His own redemptive suffering to every human suffering. As far as man becomes a participant in the sufferings of Christ – in any place in the world and any time in history – in his own way, he completes that suffering through which Christ accomplished the Redemption of the world.

Redemption, accomplished by the power of atoning love, is always open to any love that is expressed in human suffering. In this dimension of love, Redemption, which was fully accomplished, somehow continually accomplishes anew. Therefore, suffering has a special value in the face of the Church.

SUFFERING AND RESURRECTION

According to the successor of St. Peter, suffering has been especially included in the victory over the world, as revealed in the Resurrection. Christ retains in his resurrected body the marks of the wounds of the Cross on his hands, feet, and side. Through the Resurrection, He reveals the victorious power of suffering and tries to breathe this conviction into the hearts of those He chose as His Apostles, and those He continually chooses and sends.

The witnesses of the Cross and Resurrection of Christ left the Church and humanity a specific gospel of suffering. It was written by the Redeemer first with his own suffering undertaken out of love. This suffering, together with the living word of teaching, became a rich source for participants in the sufferings of Jesus in the first and all subsequent generations of His disciples and followers.

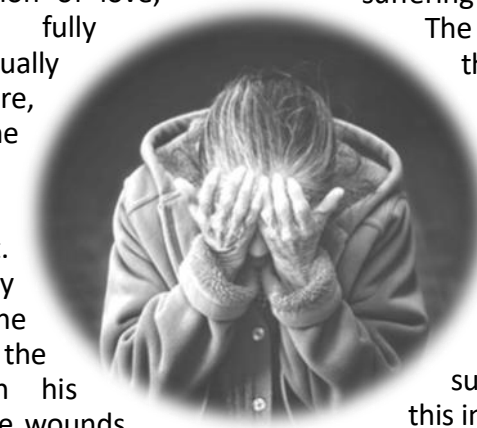
Through the ages and generations, it has been found that suffering contains a special power that inwardly brings a person closer to Christ, a special grace. Man discovers the salvific meaning of suffering, but above all, that in suffering he becomes a completely new person. He finds as if a new measure of his entire life and calling. This discovery is a special confirmation of the spiritual greatness that is in man, which is quite disproportionately greater than the body. Then, when this body is deeply sick, completely disabled, and the person is as if incapable of living and acting, this inner maturity and spiritual greatness are even more emphasized, constituting a moving lesson for healthy and normal people.

According to John Paul II, in the face of his suffering brother or sister, Christ gradually opens and unfolds the horizons of the kingdom of God: a world converted to the Creator, a world freed from sin, built on the salvific power of love. And to this world, to this kingdom of the Father, Christ slowly but effectively introduces the suffering man, as if through the very heart of his suffering.

As a man takes up his cross, spiritually uniting with the Cross of Christ, the salvific meaning of suffering is revealed to him. Then also man finds in his suffering inner peace, and even spiritual joy.

The source of joy becomes overcoming the sense of the uselessness of suffering, a feeling that is very strongly rooted in human suffering. The discovery of the salvific meaning of suffering in union with Christ transforms this depressing feeling. The Pope draws our attention to the fact that faith in participation in the sufferings of Christ carries within it this inner certainty that the suffering man "completes the afflictions of Christ", that in the spiritual dimension of the work of Redemption serves, like Christ, the salvation of his brothers and sisters. (...) And therefore, the Church sees in all suffering brothers and sisters of Christ as if a manifold subject of its supernatural power.

The more man is threatened by sin, the heavier structures of sin he carries within himself in the contemporary world, the greater the eloquence within himself of human suffering. And the more the Church feels the need to appeal to human sufferings for the salvation of the world.



PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

NEXT LENTEN TALK on Wednesday **13th March** at 7:00pm: *Lenten call to create a Kingdom of Justice and Peace* by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ. We would appreciate if you can **help** in looking after our Lenten speakers (give them an early supper or take them to a local restaurant) around 5:30pm on Wednesday evenings, as some of them are travelling long distances. They may also need accommodation for that night. If you think you can help please contact ben.andradi@gmail.com

ALL NIGHT VIGIL at St Thomas' on Friday 22 March. We would love you to join us on our all night prayer which we will commence with Stations of the Cross at 8:00pm, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, and end with Mass at 6.30am on Saturday. You may not be able to make the whole night, but consider spending an hour or two with our Lord. Maybe come as a family, bring a friend – it is a beautiful way to open up Holy Week. Please contact Deacon Neil on 07394112514 if you have any queries.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE. Please join us for our Parish Reconciliation Service with individual confessions and visiting priests on Tuesday 26th March at 7:00pm at St Thomas', Sevenoaks. For us priests, Holy Week is busy with preparation for the Liturgy of the season, as well as our personal Lenten spiritual journey, so please, do not leave your confession to the last minute. Please note that in general the priests will NOT be available for confessions during the Easter Triduum.

THE PASSION OF JESUS on 29 Mar 2024 in Trafalgar Square. A moving open air portrayal of the final days of Jesus. Live performances at 12noon and 3:15pm. Approx 90 minutes, free of charge. See <https://www.wintershall.org.uk/passion-jesus>

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

EASTER FLOWER SECOND COLLECTION on Palm Sunday Weekend, 23rd/24th March in all our churches.

ST THOMAS PRE-EASTER SPRING CLEAN. Easter is fast approaching and it would be wonderful to give our church a really good pre-Easter Spring clean. Do you have just one hour to spare on Thursday the 14th March at 10:00am? No experience required just enthusiasm and to present Our Lord's House at its best for this most holy feast. Just turn up on the day and if you have any questions beforehand don't hesitate to contact James at: jamesmcsarry@hotmail.com or 07917032024

HOLY TRINITY GARDEN TIDY UP. Please come and join us at Holy Trinity, Otford on Saturday 23rd March from 10:00am - 12:00noon. We need lots of helpers to keep our grounds and borders looking good. No gardening skills required and refreshments will be served.

COUNTERS NEEDED. We are desperate for more volunteers for counting and completing the weekly spreadsheet. This ministry is crucial for the flow of the parish. It requires a couple of hours every few weeks. We will provide the necessary training and assistance. Please speak to Fr Peter or Andy Hicks (usually Monday mornings at the Parish Office).

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: giuseppe@desimone.co.za

SAVE THE DATE for THE PARISH SUMMER PARTY on 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY WORKSHOP DAY organized by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Southwark. The event is scheduled for Saturday, 27 April 2024 in St Thomas' Parish Centre. Participants will have the opportunity to share the joy of this ministry, be formed, and gain valuable insights. Booking required. More details on the Poster & the QR code.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 10th March	FOURTH SUNDAY of LENT
6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Halina Bukowska RIP
9:15am	In thanksgiving (1 st birthday)
11:15am	Elzbieta Hydzik RIP
6:00pm	John Black RIP
9:30am Otford	Teresa Mary Watts RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Patrick & Daphne O'Riordan RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	Elizabeth & Ron Henry RIP
Monday 11th Feria	
8:00am	Donor's Intention
Tuesday 12th Feria	
9:30am	Ivan Jones RIP (birthday)
Wednesday 13th Feria	
8:00am	Celia Jane Ford RIP
10:00am Otford	Adrian Doyle RIP (10th anniversary)
Thursday 14th Feria	
10:00am Borough Green	Margaret Vinson RIP
12:00noon	Donor's Intention
Friday 15th Feria	
8:00am	Chiara Mascarenhas RIP
10:00am West Kingsdown	Doris Spellacy RIP
Saturday 16th Feria	
9:30am	Dorothea & Patrick Murphy RIP (anniversary)
SUNDAY 17th March	FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT
6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Freda Mary Ford RIP
9:15am	Private Intention
11:15am	The O'Hara family RIP
6:00pm	Robert Elliott RIP
9:30am Otford	Nora & Jack Wilson RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Christopher Moore RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	Wellbeing of Maggie Cross 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 18th March at 12:00noon (last one)

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

Fr St Clare Hill, Gustav Von Klemperer, John Kelly, Eileen Kidd, Giovanni Rapicano, Josephine Haynes, James Brown, Margaret O'Dwyer, Elizabeth Hollingshead, William Tallents, Thomas Bowditch, Suzie Symonds, Lilian Owen, Arthur Stubbs, Geoffrey Smith, Monique Glenister, Pauline Chapman, Patrick Thomason, Richard Morel, Catherine Odger, Annie McCarron, John Wilson, Roy Gambrell, Paul Hayden, Leo Conney, Charles Piddock, Margaret Coghlan, Dora Pemberton, Francis O'Toole, Patricia Dolby-Fray, Enzo Collini, John Haskins, Veronica Poole, John Conney.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Lætáre, Ierúsalem, et convéntum fácite, omnes qui dilígitis eam; gaudéte cum lætítia, qui in tristítia fuístis, ut exsultétis, et satiémini ab ubéribus consolatiónis vestræ.

Communion:

Ierúsalem, quæ ædificátur ut cívitas, cuius participátio eius in idípsum. Illuc enim ascendérunt tribus, tribus Dómini, ad confiténdum nómini tuo, Dómine.