

## 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](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

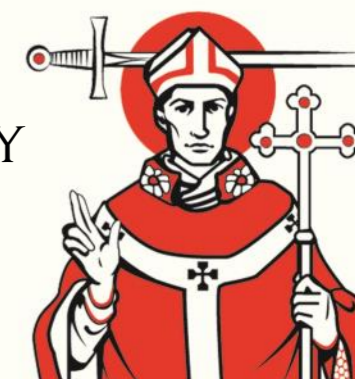
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

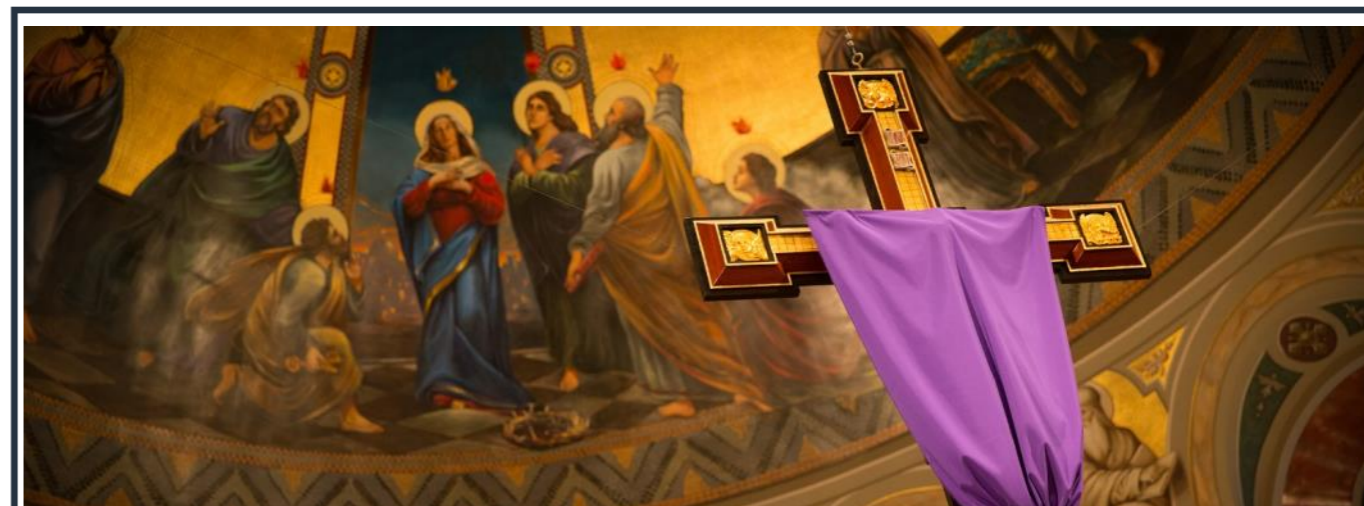
## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

17th March 2024



As we enter the 5th Sunday of Lent, it's important to remember a tradition that once marked this day as Passion Sunday, initiating the period known as Passiontide. This time, leading us deeper into the mysteries of our faith, was historically a moment to begin a more intense reflection on Jesus' Passion, the ultimate demonstration of His love for us. This is vividly symbolised in our practice of veiling crosses and statues in our churches. This tradition, dating back centuries, is not merely about changing the decor of our sacred spaces. Instead, it's a profound invitation for us to shift our gaze inward, to the core of our spiritual journey. It serves to strip away the familiarity of our sacred images, encouraging us to contemplate the depth of Christ's sacrifice with fresh eyes and hearts. This act mirrors the journey of Jesus into the desert, inviting us into a desert of our own, where we can face ourselves and our relationship with God more starkly.

This Sunday, let us also keep in mind our Catechumens preparing to join the Catholic faith. For them, a special theme of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead (John 11:1-45) forms the Third and Final Scrutiny, as our Lord enters the ultimate contrast: from death, he calls forth life.

As we move through these final weeks of Lent, let us embrace the call to reflection and conversion, preparing our hearts for the mystery of Easter. In doing so, may we find ourselves drawn closer to the heart of our faith, ready to celebrate the resurrection with joy and a renewed spirit.

## 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)

*Otford, 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: [mmdbiggs@outlook.com](mailto:mmdbiggs@outlook.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers: [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## UNDERSTANDING SUFFERING FINAL PART

#### THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Christ shows us another dimension of suffering related to the parable of the merciful Samaritan. It indicates what should be the attitude of each of us towards suffering neighbours. The merciful Samaritan is every person who stops at the suffering of another person, whatever it may be. This stopping does not mean curiosity, but readiness. It is the opening of some inner disposition of the heart, which also has its emotional expression. The merciful Samaritan is every person sensitive to the suffering of others, a person who "is moved" by the misfortune of his neighbour. Sometimes this compassion remains the only or main expression of our love and solidarity with the suffering person.

The merciful Samaritan from Christ's parable, however, does not stop at mere emotion and compassion. It becomes for him an incentive to actions aimed at helping the wounded person. The merciful Samaritan is ultimately the one who provides help in suffering, of whatever nature it may be. Help, as far as possible, effective. In this help, he puts his heart, and also does not spare material means.

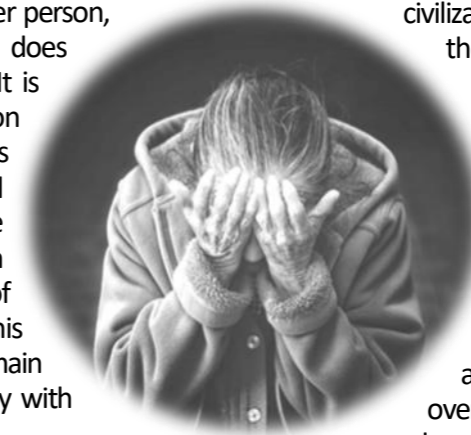
The merciful Samaritan is a person capable of giving of himself. This leads us to the discovery that suffering, which in so many different forms is present in our human world, is also present in it so as to unleash in man love, that very disinterested gift of one's own "I" for the sake of other people, suffering people. The world of human suffering constantly calls another world: the world of human love — and this disinterested love, which awakens in his heart and

deeds, man somehow owes to suffering. In the messianic program of Christ, which is also the program of the kingdom of God, suffering is in the world so as to unleash love, so as to give birth to works of love for one's neighbour, so as to transform the whole human civilization into a "civilization of love". In this love, the salvific meaning of suffering is fulfilled to the end and reaches its ultimate dimension.

#### IN THE LIGHT OF FAITH

Facing suffering, terrified by its enormity and rebelling against its destructive power, we discover that it cannot be explained or its meaning found without God. Man, remaining alone in suffering, is inevitably doomed to overwhelming pain and destruction. Suffering can become grace only when we start seeking its meaning with God. Then not only will we be able to accept it, but it may become for us a good, a source of inner transformation and conversion, and ultimately what is the meaning of life for every Christian — union with Christ.

Looking at suffering in the light of faith unleashes its healing power — a school of love. Both for the person suffering, who, by uniting their pain with Christ, offers it for the salvation of the world, but also for those who, not experiencing suffering themselves, become capable of carrying disinterested love to those who need it. Therefore, despite its enormous weight on human life, suffering in the light of faith ultimately proves to be good. Therefore, asking about the meaning of suffering, let us seek answers only with God.



## EASTER TRIDUUM



### **ST THOMAS' SEVENOAKS**

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY (28th March)**

- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00pm

#### **GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)**

- Children's Stations of the Cross at 10:30am

- Liturgy of the Passion at 3:00pm

- Meditation on the Cross at 8:00pm

#### **HOLY SATURDAY (30th March)**

- Polish Blessing of Easter food at 11:30am

- Easter Vigil Liturgy & Mass at 9:00pm

#### **EASTER SUNDAY (31st March)**

- Holy Mass at 8:00am (Latin), 9:15am, 11:15am, 6:00pm

### **MOST HOLY TRINITY, OTFORD**

#### **MAUNDY THURSDAY (28th March)**

- Mass of the Lord's Supper at 8:00pm

#### **GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)**

- Liturgy of the Passion at 3:00pm

#### **HOLY SATURDAY (30th March)**

- Easter Vigil Liturgy & Mass at 8:00pm

#### **EASTER SUNDAY (31st March)**

- Holy Mass at 9:30am

### **ST JOSEPH'S, BOROUGH GREEN**

#### **GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)**

- Liturgy of the Passion at 3:00pm

#### **EASTER SUNDAY (31st March)**

- Holy Mass at 9:30am

### **ST BERNADETTE'S, WEST KINGSDOWN**

#### **GOOD FRIDAY (29th March)**

- Liturgy of the Passion at 3:00pm

#### **EASTER SUNDAY (31st March)**

- Holy Mass at 11:00am



# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

**NEXT LENTEN TALK** on Wednesday **20th March** at 7:00 for 7:30pm: *Lenten call to create a Kingdom of Justice and Peace* by Fr Dominic Robinson SJ - moved from 13th March.

## 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' church** on Fridays at 3:30pm.

**DAYTIME STATIONS OF THE CROSS by Pilgrims** on Monday 18th March at 12:00noon (last one)

**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.

## Other special Confession times before Easter:

Most Holy Trinity, Otford: Wednesday 20th March at 10:30-11:00am

St Joseph's, Borough Green: Thursday 21st March at 10:30-11:00am

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown: Friday 22nd March at 10:30-11:00am

St Thomas's, Sevenoaks: Monday 25th March at 8:30-9.15am

**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>

**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.

**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.

**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).

**LISTENING TO YOU** - Monday, 18th March - 10.30-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 that you are coming. We will always have coffee and biscuits ready for you. While the parish room is being refurbished, we are meeting in the Presbytery from 10.30 to midday.

**PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE.** The Parish Finance Committee will meet on Thursday 21st March at 7.30pm in the Presbytery.

**CONFIRMATION 2024. Attention all those currently in Year 7 or above:** Registration for this year's Confirmation Programme is now open. Please register online at [sevrparish.org.uk](http://sevrparish.org.uk). A welcome meeting for parents, candidates and catechists will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 from 7:30pm-9:00pm in St Thomas' church. **Closing date for registration: Tuesday 30th April 2024.**

**WALKING PILGRIMAGE TO CANTERBURY.** On Saturday 6th of April Br David and Margaret Briggs will guide a group on the first stage from Otford to Wrotham. Each month the group will be taken on subsequent stages (2nd Stage - Wrotham to Halling - 25th of May) ending in Canterbury later this year. If you have ever dreamed of walking the Camino or are simply curious about pilgrimage in general then please consider joining. The group is open to everyone and will start and end at a local train station for ease of transport. There is no charge to join however we would advise purchasing a Pilgrim Passport for £5 (which we will be able to provide) to record your journey and gain free entry into Canterbury Cathedral at the end. If you would like to sign up or find out more please contact Br David at [action.youth@kscsouthwark.org](mailto:action.youth@kscsouthwark.org) / 07821049827.

**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



# MASS INTENTIONS

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

**SUNDAY 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> Feria**

8:00am

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Saint Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:30am

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> Feria**

8:00am

10:00am *Otford*

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> Feria**

10:00am *Borough Green*

12:00noon

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feria**

8:00am

10:00am *West Kingsdown*

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feria**

9:30am

**SUNDAY 24<sup>th</sup> March PALM SUNDAY**

6:00pm (*Sat*)

8:00am (*Latin*)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am *Otford*

9:30am *Borough Green*

11:00am *West Kingsdown*

**FIFTH SUNDAY of LENT**

People of the Parish

Freda May Ford RIP

Private Intention

The O'Hara family RIP

Robert Elliott RIP

Nora & Jack Wilson RIP

Christopher Moore RIP

Wellbeing of Maggie Cross RIP

Maria Fatima Carbozo RIP (1<sup>st</sup> anniversary)

Special Intention

Gilbert Smoker RIP (birthday anniversary) and Amy Smoker RIP

Lynda Bernard RIP

Holy Souls

Private Intention

Eamonn Murphy RIP (anniversary)

Veronica Hearn RIP

Anthony Schnorr RIP

In thanksgiving

*Mass not booked yet*

Theresa Gould

Private Intention

People of the Parish

Ken Kirwan RIP

Margaret Vinson RIP

The recovery of our dear parishioner Margaret O'Grady

**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](mailto:ben.andradi@gmail.com).

## RECENTLY DEPARTED

**Lynda Bernard**

**Anthony Schnorr**

**John Skinner**

**Josephine Moore**

*Eternal rest grant unto them,  
O Lord, and let perpetual light shine  
upon them.*

*May they rest in peace*

## 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

Hugh Viner, Daphne O'Riordan, William James, Edward Kenny, Nancy Geer, 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.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

*lúdica me, Deus, et discérne causam meam de gente non sancta; ab hómine iníquo et dolóso éripe me, quia tu es Deus meus et fortitúdo mea.*

### Communion:

*Amen, amen dico vobis: Nisi granum fruménti cadens in terram mórtuum fúerit, ipsum solum manet; si autem mórtuum fúerit, multum fructum affert.*