

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

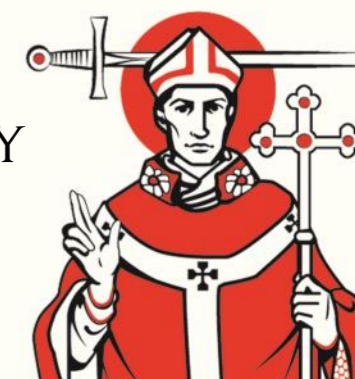
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

24th March 2024



Today the Christian community enters into the final week of preparation for Easter Sunday, a week often called Holy Week, with its climax in the Holy Triduum. Taken from a Latin root that means "three days," it is a period of time that traces the final days of Jesus' life, his death, and his resurrection.

Starting on the Thursday before Easter Sunday, each day is traditionally marked with a particular liturgy. On Holy Thursday, there is the Mass of the Lord's Supper, which marks the Last Supper that Jesus had with his disciples, wherein he showed them what it means to serve by washing their feet. It also marks what is seen as the establishment of the celebration of the Eucharist (or Mass).

Good Friday is marked with fasting and prayer as a way to remember Jesus' suffering and death on the cross. The Good Friday liturgy involves the reading of Jesus' passion and death from the Gospel of John, as well as an opportunity to pray with and venerate a cross – the instrument of Jesus' death and our salvation.

Holy Saturday is meant to be a quiet day, remembering the empty space that was present for the disciples of Jesus after his death and before his resurrection. They did not expect the resurrection and so were left in a place of grief. After sundown on Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil is celebrated. It is one of the longest of Catholic liturgies, involving several readings from scripture tracing God's care for humanity, the baptism and reception of new members of the Church, the celebration of the Eucharist, and a great many joy-filled hymns. It was that night when Jesus rose from the dead. It is that great victory over sin and death that our community celebrates.

We will then gather again on Easter Sunday to celebrate Mass and continue the joy of celebration. But first, let us embrace the Passion of Christ and prepare ourselves to walk the Way of Salvation with Christ.

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

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PALM SUNDAY?

Palm Sunday ushers in Holy Week with a bittersweet symphony of triumph and tragedy. On this day, the jubilation of Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem is shadowed by the foreboding of His impending crucifixion. A day of paradoxes, it reflects humanity's fickle nature—from cries of "Hosanna" to demands of "Crucify Him." Friends become deserters, and admirers turn into mockers, all within the span of a single, tumultuous week.

This day of celebration and contradiction finds its origins in the events narrated in the Gospels, where Jesus, fulfilling ancient prophecies, enters Jerusalem not as a conquering warrior but as the prince of peace, mounted on a humble donkey. This act, occurring on the Sunday before Easter, starkly contrasts with the expectations of a Messiah who would overthrow Roman rule. Instead, it reaffirms Jesus' message of peace, humility, and salvation—a message that would, in mere days, lead to His trial and crucifixion by the very crowds that once hailed Him as their king.

The juxtaposition of Jesus' peaceful entry with the forthcoming agony of His passion underscores the transient nature of human fidelity and the enduring truth of divine love. The palms, symbols of victory in ancient times, waved by the multitudes as Jesus entered the city, become emblems of the ultimate victory over death that Jesus would achieve through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

This narrative, steeped in historical and spiritual significance, is commemorated annually by Christians around the world on Palm Sunday. The tradition of carrying palm branches dates back to the earliest days of

Christianity, echoing the actions of those who welcomed Jesus into Jerusalem. Today, these palms serve as a tangible connection to the biblical account, symbolizing both the triumphs and trials of the Christian journey. They remind us of the victory to be won against sin and the promise of new life through Christ's resurrection.

The liturgical observance of Palm Sunday has evolved over centuries, incorporating a variety of customs and practices that reflect the diverse heritage of the Christian faith. From the solemn processions reenacting Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to the blessing and distribution of palm branches, these rituals embody a rich tapestry of faith, history, and communal identity. They invite believers to enter into the mystery of Jesus' passion, to walk with Him through the shadows of suffering and the light of resurrection, and to embrace the paradoxical beauty of a love that gives itself wholly for the redemption of the world.

As Palm Sunday approaches this year, it offers an opportunity for reflection on the profound themes of Holy Week: the fleeting nature of human glory, the depth of Christ's sacrifice, and the enduring promise of salvation. It beckons us to consider our own journey of faith, marked by moments of both triumph and trial, and to renew our commitment to following the path laid out by Christ—a path that leads through death to the fullness of life. In this sacred commemoration, we are reminded that the story of Palm Sunday, with all its historical detail and spiritual depth, is not just a tale of the past but a living narrative that continues to unfold in the hearts of believers today.

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

PALM SUNDAY

At St Thomas's, for the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses please collect your Newsletter, hymnbook and Palm Cross, and assemble in the Presbytery car park for the Palm Gospel and Procession. At other Masses please assemble in front of the main Entrance.

At the other churches please assemble as directed by the welcome. At Otford there is an ecumenical service at 11:00am on the Green.

SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection this weekend is for the Easter Flowers.

MISSED SECOND COLLECTION

Last weekend we have missed the second collection for the Poor Parishes. This is a crucial support for the parishes experiencing financial difficulties. Therefore this will be collected on the Divine Mercy Weekend, 6th/7th April. Please use the special Gift aid envelopes if you can.

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

HOLY WEEK

WELCOME to Fr Wojciech Kuzar from the Archdiocese of Przemysl, Poland, who will stay with us for the Holy Week.

PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE on Tuesday, 26th March at 7pm with 3 visiting priests available and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Please use this time, as it will be THE LAST opportunity before Easter. Please note that in general the priests will NOT be available for confessions during the Easter Triduum.

NEXT LENTEN TALK on Wednesday 27th March at 7:00 for 7:30pm: *Being Passionate: Getting the most out of Holy Week and Easter* by Sr Dr Gemma Simmonds CJ.

WEEKDAY MASSES in HOLY WEEK

Please note that there are no weekday Masses at Otford, Borough Green and West Kingsdown this week. Masses as normal at St Thomas' on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. On Tuesday the 9.30am Mass will be with our school children.

CHRISM MASS on Wednesday at 11:30am in St George's Cathedral. It is advisable to get there early if you want a seat.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Mass of the Lord's Supper in both St Thomas' and Most Holy Trinity at 8:00pm, followed by the Watch before the Altar of Repose. The Traditional Choir provides the music at St Thomas'

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday is a day of fasting and abstinence. The Collection is for the Holy Places; this helps to upkeep the churches, schools, clinics, etc in the Holy Land.

Children's Stations of the Cross in St Thomas' at 10:30am.

Good Friday Liturgy in all four churches at 3:00pm.

Prayer evening at 8.00pm at St Thomas', meditation on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross led by Fr Peter.

HOLY SATURDAY

It is the silent preparation day for the Easter Celebrations. **Święconka** (blessing of food in Polish) at St Thomas's at 11:30am.

The Easter Vigil at Most Holy Trinity at 8:00pm.

The Easter Vigil at St Thomas' at 9:00pm.

EASTER SUNDAY

Holy Mass at all four churches at the normal Sunday times. The Collection will be your Easter Gift Offering to Fr Piotr and Fr Vipin, for which they thank you in advance.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

In preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter, 7th April, Deacon Neil will lead the Divine Mercy Novena via Zoom. If you want to take part please contact Deacon Neil on neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk. He will contact you with the details of Zoom links for each day. We start praying the Novena on Good Friday, this year from 29th March. You can also join a Divine Mercy WhatsApp group in our Parish. If you are interested please let Deacon Neil know, and he will add your details to the group.

Divine Mercy Hour at St Thomas' will begin at 2:30pm, with the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, meditations, and refreshments after.

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. 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 / 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 code.



MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 24th March

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

PALM SUNDAY

In thanksgiving
Angie Perkins RIP
Theresa Gould
Private Intention
People of the Parish
Ken Kirwan RIP
Margaret Vinson RIP
The recovery of our dear parishioner Margaret O'Grady

Monday 25th

8:00am

Holy Week

Donor's Intention

Tuesday 26th

9:30am

Holy Week

David Livingston RIP

Wednesday 27th

8:00am

Holy Week

Lionel R. L. Edwards RIP (anniversary)
Lionel & Aileen RIP (wedding anniversary)

Thursday 28th

8:00pm

Maundy Thursday

1. John Stanley Skinner RIP
2. Lawrence Cronin RIP
In thanksgiving

Friday 29th

3:00pm

Good Friday

Liturgy of the Passion
Liturgy of the Passion
Liturgy of the Passion
Liturgy of the Passion
Meditation on the Cross

3:00pm Otford

3:00pm Borough Green

3:00pm West Kingsdown

8:00pm

Saturday 30th

11:30am

Holy Saturday

Święconka: *Polish Blessing of Easter food*
Katherine Sewell RIP
1. Peace in the World
2. Peter Black RIP

8:00pm Otford

9:00pm

SUNDAY 31st March

8:00am (Latin)

9:15am

11:15am

6:00pm

9:30am Otford

9:30am Borough Green

11:00am West Kingsdown

EASTER SUNDAY

Edward & Marguerite Maxwell RIP
Sr Mary John
Blessings upon Gillian
Canon Luke Smith
People of the Parish
Ann Bailey (birthday)
Margaret Holden RIP

RECENTLY BAPTISED

Welcome to
James Barnes
who were Baptised on Saturday,
at Most Holy Trinity,
Otford.

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

Pauline Chapman, Patrick Thomason, Richard Morel, Catherine Odger, Annie McCarron, John Wilson, Roy Gambrell, Paul Hayden, Leo Conney, Charles Piddock.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Ante sex dies sollémnis Paschæ, quando venit Dóminus in civitátem Ierúsalem, occurrerunt ei púeri: et in mánibus portábant ramos palmárum et clamábant voce magna, dicéntes:

Hosánna in excélsis:

Benedíctus, qui venísti in multítudine misericórdiæ tuæ.

Attóllite, portæ, cápita vestra, et elevámini, portæ æternáles, et introíbit rex glóriæ. Quis est iste rex glóriæ? Dóminus virtútum ipse est rex glóriæ.

Hosánna in excélsis:

Benedíctus, qui venísti in multítudine misericórdiæ tuæ.

Communion:

Pater, si non potest hic calix transíre, nisi bibam illum, fiat volúntas tua.

MONTHLY COLLECTIONS 2024:

⇒ January: £ 14,133.59

⇒ February: £ 13,025

* CAFOD: £ 1,834.12