

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

31st March 2024



Do not abandon yourselves to despair.
We are the Easter people and ALLELUIA is our song.

- Saint John Paul II -

As we celebrate Easter Sunday, these words from Pope John Paul II remind us of the essence of our faith — the joyous victory of the Resurrection. Today's readings vividly bring to life the miracle of Easter, as we witness the triumph of Jesus Christ over death. This miraculous event offers us hope, renewal, and the promise of eternal life, inviting us to reflect on the enduring love and mercy of God. It is a time for us to rejoice and be grateful for the gift of salvation and the new beginnings it signifies.

On behalf of all the clergy here at Sevenoaks Parish, which includes St Thomas of Canterbury, St Joseph's, Most Holy Trinity, and St Bernadette's, we extend our warmest Easter greetings to you and your loved ones. May the joy of this sacred season fill your hearts with peace and happiness, and may you feel the comforting presence of God's love in every moment.

We also wish to convey our heartfelt THANKS to everyone involved in the Holy Week services. From those who dedicated their time to beautify our churches and those who participated in the liturgies, to our choirs, musicians, servers, readers, and ministers, your contributions have been invaluable. Your presence and efforts have made our Easter celebrations deeply meaningful and beautiful. Together, we have brought to life the message of Easter, making it a profound experience for all.

May you be blessed with happiness, health, and God's grace this Easter and always. Let us go forth with the joy of the Resurrection in our hearts, spreading hope and love in our world.

Christ has Risen!

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)

Ann Vallins: annavallins@hotmail.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

A PROFOUND CONNECTION OF THE TWO EASTER SUNDAYS

- RESURRECTION & DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY -

Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday are two cornerstones of the Christian liturgical year. These celebrations, occurring consecutively, encapsulate the profound mysteries of sin, redemption, resurrection, and the boundless mercy of God.

EASTER SUNDAY: THE FOUNDATION OF CHRISTIAN FAITH

Easter Sunday, the culmination of Holy Week, celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It is the cornerstone of Christian faith, as Saint Paul articulates, "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins" (1 Corinthians 15:17). The resurrection is not just a testament to the power of God, but also a symbol of the new life Christians are called to in Christ—a life of grace, overcoming sin and death.

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: THE FEAST OF GOD'S INFINITE MERCY

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the Sunday following Easter, was officially instituted by Pope John Paul II in 2000, coinciding with the canonisation of Saint Faustina Kowalska. Saint Faustina, a Polish nun, received visions and messages from Jesus about God's immense mercy and the need for trust in His mercy. The core message she conveyed was, "Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy" (Diary, 300). This feast is grounded in the belief that God's mercy is unlimited and available to all, especially the most sinners.

The origin of Divine Mercy Sunday is deeply rooted in the revelations received by Saint Faustina. Jesus expressed His desire for a special feast of mercy to be celebrated, saying, "I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners" (Diary, 699). The timing—on the Sunday after Easter—was chosen by Jesus Himself to highlight the close connection between His resurrection and His infinite mercy.

THE CONNECTION BETWEEN EASTER AND DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

The link between Easter and Divine Mercy Sunday is profound and intrinsic. Easter celebrates the victory of Christ over death, His resurrection being the supreme act of divine mercy towards humanity. Divine Mercy Sunday

extends this celebration, focusing on the gift of mercy that flows from Christ's Passion and Resurrection. It serves as a reminder that the resurrection is a promise of mercy, offering forgiveness and a new beginning to all who turn to God with trust.



Hans Urs von Balthasar, a prominent theologian, emphasized the drama of Holy Week and its resolution in the light of mercy, stating, "In Christ, God has revealed Himself as love, and this revelation of love necessarily takes the form of mercy" (Mysterium Paschale). The resurrection is thus seen not only as a historical event but as an ongoing encounter with the merciful love of God. Furthermore, the Divine Mercy devotion, with its focus on trust and the act of mercy, is a practical expression of the theological virtue of hope. Pope Benedict XVI reflected on this, noting, "Divine mercy, which overcomes all human limitations and shines in the darkness of evil and sin, is based on hope" (Spe Salvi).

Easter Sunday and Divine Mercy Sunday stand together as a testament to the Christian narrative of salvation. They remind us of the depth of God's love, the power of the resurrection, and the inexhaustible nature of divine mercy. In celebrating these feasts, we are invited to experience anew the joy of our redemption and to trust deeply in the mercy that God offers to each of us, no matter our failings. As Saint John Paul II eloquently put it during the canonisation of Saint Faustina, "From here must go forth the 'spark that will prepare the world for [Christ's] final coming'" (Diary, 1732). This spark of mercy must be passed on to the world. In the mercy of God, the world will find peace and mankind will find happiness!"

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

EASTER OFFERING

Your donation today is your Easter Offering to Fr Peter and Fr Vipin, for which they are very grateful. If using the card reader please select the First Collection. If you are making a bank transfer please put Easter Offering and your name in the reference (so the parish can reclaim the Gift Aid).

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK

The Second Collection next week for the Poor Parishes (moved from 17th March. This is a crucial support for the parishes experiencing financial difficulties. Please use your Gift aid envelopes if you can.

EASTER OCTAVE

EASTER MONDAY

This is a Bank Holiday, so Holy Mass is at 9:30am.

PARISH OFFICE EASTER BREAK

The Parish Office will re-open on Monday 8th April after the Easter break.

FUNERALS

John Skinner - Tuesday 2nd April at St Thomas' (1pm)
Josephine Moore - Thursday 4th April at St Joseph's (10am)

NEXT SUNDAY: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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

NOTICES

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS (LISS) 2024

Life in the Spirit programme delivered by the Southwark Catholic Charismatic team during April and May, is being made available for participation locally in St Thomas' parish this year. The parish programme will comprise of five evening meetings in the St Thomas' Parish Centre, starting the week beginning 21st April and a retreat day on Pentecost Saturday 18th May at St George's Cathedral.

More details on the programme and how to register will follow in the coming weeks, but in interim if you would like to understand more about LISS please contact Deacon Neil neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk who is hosting the St Thomas' parish LISS meetings.

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.



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.

WOMEN'S RETREAT at AYLESFORD 17th - 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. Only 4 more spaces available.

The Sixteen CONCERT
Friday, 21 JUNE 2024
at St Thomas' church, Sevenoaks

SAVE the DATE: 21st June 2024.

We are delighted to be able to host the world renowned choir, *The Sixteen* conducted by Harry Christophers, CBE, at St Thomas', for a specially-curated gala evening concert, with poetry readings by Actors Antonia Christophers and Noel Byrne.

Tickets to go on sale soon: watch the Parish website and the newsletter!

The proceeds of the ticket sales will go to our St Thomas Parish Community projects, specifically the Most Holy Trinity, Otford.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

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

Monday 1st April

9:30am

Easter Monday

Good intentions of the Donor

Tuesday 2nd

9:30am

Easter Tuesday

Ro & Paul Leary RIP and the comfort of their family and friends

Wednesday 3rd

8:00am

10:00am *Otford*

Easter Wednesday

In thanksgiving
Kate Authers (birthday)

Thursday 4th

10:00pm *Borough Green*
12:00noon

Easter Thursday

Funeral Mass - Josephine Moore RIP
Kenneth D'Souza RIP

Friday 5th

8:00am
10:00am *West Kingsdown*

Easter Friday

Fr David Standley
Agnes Duncan RIP

Saturday 6th

9:30am
11:15am

Easter Saturday

All dec'd members of the donor's family
Private Mass - Catherine Andradi (65th birthday) - In thanksgiving

SUNDAY 7th April **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (2nd Sunday of Easter)**

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

People of the Parish
Good intention of J J Hussem
Martina Wilkins
St Thomas's Pray Group - in thanksgiving
Sylvia Dand RIP
Dawid & Magda (birthday)
Donor's Intentions
Kathleen Rocke RIP

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 APRIL

Edward and Marguerite Maxwell, Alice Mather, Henry Hatfield, Elizabeth Grandi, Ann Carrol, Ellen Partington, Robert Hitchman, Fanny Fabri, Allan Hearn, Alice Hatfield, Iona Kramer, Giuseppe Villa, Betty Lumsden, Herbert Inglin, Lawrence Chamberlain,

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Resurréxi, et adhuc tecum sum, allelúia:
posuisti super me manum tuam, allelúia:
mirábilis facta est sciéntia tua, allelúia, allelúia.

Communion:

Pascha nostrum immolátus est Christus, allelúia;
ítaque epulémur in ázymis sinceritátis et veritátis, allelúia, allelúia.

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 at piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk or Ben at ben.andradi@gmail.com.