

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

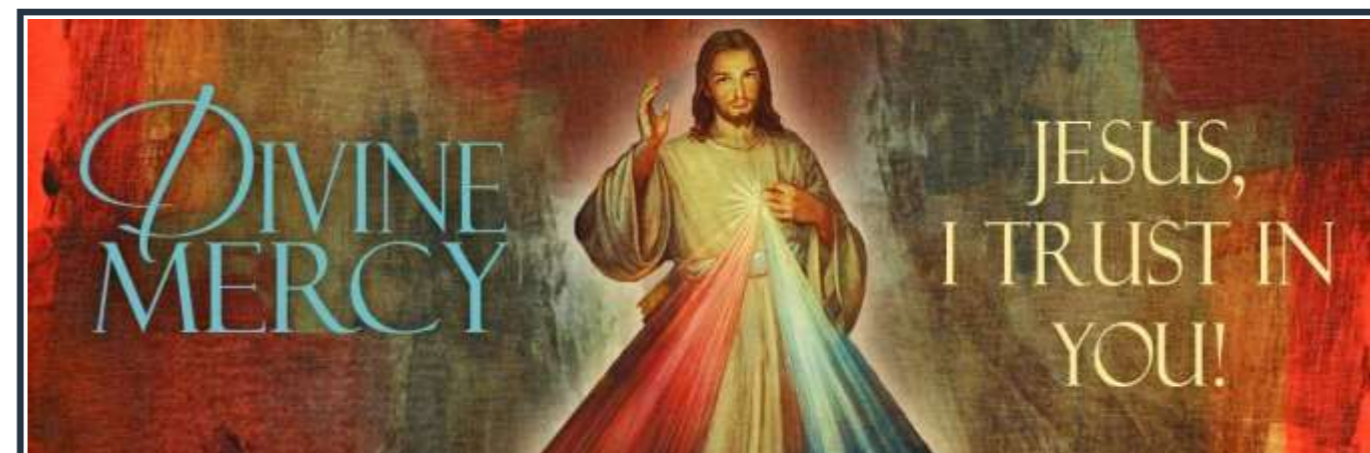
PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

7th April 2024



On the Second Sunday of Easter, the Church observes Divine Mercy Sunday, a celebration established by Saint John Paul II in 2000, inspired by the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska. This day underscores the limitless mercy of God and encourages the faithful to fully trust in Jesus' infinite compassion. It is a call to live out mercy in our interactions with others and to approach the sacraments of Confession and Eucharist with a heart open to receiving God's grace, thus fulfilling the requirements for a plenary indulgence linked to this special observance. The revelations given to Saint Faustina, as detailed in her *Diary*, reveal Jesus Christ's deep desire for a day devoted to extending His divine mercy, emphasizing its critical importance not only for sinners but for all who seek God's forgiveness and love.

This day's profound significance is further highlighted by the post-resurrection encounters between Jesus and His disciples, where He offers them peace and commissions them with the task of forgiveness, embodying the very essence of divine mercy. These moments demonstrate Jesus' intent to reach out to His followers in their doubts and fears, granting them His peace and the mandate to share His merciful love with the world. It's a vivid reminder for Christians to act as vessels of divine mercy, reflecting Jesus' compassion and forgiveness in their own lives.

As Easter people, Christians are called to embody the hope, renewal, and joy of the resurrection, living out the values of mercy, love, and compassion that Divine Mercy Sunday celebrates. It is an opportunity for the faithful to remember the importance of mercy in a world that often seems devoid of it, and to share God's merciful love with everyone, especially those most in need. This celebration acts as a powerful reminder to come together in prayer, particularly during the Divine Mercy Hour, to seek forgiveness for our sins and those of the whole world, truly embodying the mercy and love that the Risen Christ generously extends to each of us.

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

THE GREAT SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EMPTY TOMB OF JESUS

The empty tomb of Jesus is a crucial sign confirming His resurrection and stands as a cornerstone of Christian faith. The empty tomb is not merely a vacated space but a profound symbol of victory over death. In Christian theology, the resurrection of Jesus, as evidenced by the empty tomb, confirms the divine nature of Christ and God's power to transcend death (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 657). Theologians like N.T. Wright and Karl Barth have discussed at length the significance of the resurrection in Christian thought, noting that it serves as a tangible sign of the new creation, where death is no longer the end but a transition to eternal life with God.

The Gospels of Matthew (28:1-10), Mark (16:1-8), Luke (24:1-12), and John (20:1-18) provide accounts of the empty tomb, each emphasising different aspects of the discovery and its aftermath. Historical-critical scholarship, as seen in the works of Raymond E. Brown and John Dominic Crossan, offers insights into the historical veracity and theological framing of these accounts. The consensus among biblical scholars underscores the empty tomb as a historical event that bears theological significance, contributing to the early Christian proclamation of the risen Christ.

The empty tomb has profound implications for Christian eschatology—the doctrine of the last things—and anthropology—the understanding of human nature. It proclaims that death does not have the final say in the human story. Instead, as articulated by theologians such as Jürgen Moltmann and Elizabeth Johnson, it opens up a future hope for resurrection and eternal life for all humanity, echoing the promise of a new creation free from sin and death. This eschatological vision challenges and transforms Christian anthropology, asserting that human destiny is not bound by death but is oriented towards a transformed existence in communion with God.

The empty tomb reinforces central Christian doctrines such as the incarnation, atonement, and resurrection, grounding them in the historical event of Jesus' resurrection. It serves as a foundation for Christian liturgical practices, especially the celebration of Easter, which commemorates the resurrection. Therefore, the

empty tomb is not only a historical testament but also a living tradition that informs Christian worship, theology, and ethics.

The empty tomb of Jesus is a pivotal event in Christian history and theology. It symbolises the defeat of death and the promise of resurrection, offering hope that is both future-oriented and present in the lived experience of the Christian community. Through the lenses of scripture, theology, and history, the empty tomb challenges believers to live in the light of the resurrection, embodying the hope and freedom it signifies. As such, it remains a central element of Christian faith, inviting continuous reflection on its implications for understanding life, death, and the promise of new life beyond.

But the empty tomb isn't just a historical or theological concept; it's a deeply emotional and spiritual touchstone that speaks to the heart of our faith and our personal journey with God.

The empty tomb tells us that death could not hold Jesus, serving as a tangible promise that it will not hold us either. This distinction between the resurrection and the empty tomb is crucial; while the resurrection signifies Jesus' victory over death, the empty tomb provides the evidence and the assurance of this victory, reminding us of our own resurrection to come. It serves as a universal symbol within Christianity, much like the cross, reminding us of Jesus' sacrifice and his triumph over death.

Let us consider how this cornerstone of our faith inspires us to live our lives. It challenges us to bring the hope and joy of the resurrection into our daily encounters, our families, our communities, and even into conversations with those who may not share our beliefs. It inspires us to live a life of purpose and meaning, guided by the transformative power of God's grace. The empty tomb is a sign for us of new life and a call to start anew. It symbolises the beginning of a life filled with wholeness, holiness, and a focus on Christ.

The empty tomb of Jesus is not just an event in history; it's a continuous call to each of us to embrace the hope, joy, and new life that comes from Christ's resurrection.



Parish and other NOTICES

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.

SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection this week is 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.

FUNERALS

- Victoria Vickers on 22nd April, 12.00noon in Sevenoaks
- Peter Ringham on 24th April, 11.30am in Borough Green
- Joyce Manners on 26th April, 11.30am in Borough Green
- Patricia Neville on 30th April, 11.00am in Sevenoaks
- Veronica Dowling, details to follow

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COMES TO SEVENOAKS 2024

Confirmation, which most of us have received, strengthens us in the Holy Spirit, but have we truly discerned the gifts that He makes available to us in the sacrament. For some He gives the gift of prophecy, for others the gift of healing, teaching, discernment, patience, wisdom and many more. These gifts empower us to be more effective in responding and fulfilling our unique purpose which is His plan for our lives. But we have free will and it is only in exceptional cases that His will is overtly revealed – like with St Paul, Job, Jonah and some of the Saints. For the rest of us we need to come to Him in prayerful humility seeking to discern the gifts he has given us and how we should be using them. Life in the Spirit helps us to reflect, to better understand these charisms of the Holy Spirit – transforming our lives. This year we have the privilege of a Hub at St Thomas, Sevenoaks 8pm to 9.30pm, on Tuesdays from 23rd April to 28th May 2024 - retreat day Saturday 18th May. Talks delivered at the Cathedral will be live streamed. Please listen to that still small voice inside you and register to attend under St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks using the link: bit.ly/LISS2024

PARISH PILGRIMAGE

Dear Friends, there are still a few places available for the upcoming 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.

LISTENING TO YOU. Anyone is welcome to join on Monday 15th April on 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. 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.**

THE PARISH SUMMER PARTY will be 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.



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.

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

6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Good intentions of J. J. Hussem
9:15am	Martina Wilkins
11:15am	St Thomas's Pray Group - in thanksgiving
6:00pm	Sylvia Dand RIP
9:30am Otford	Dawid & Magda (birthday)
9:30am Borough Green	Donor's Intention
11:00am West Kingsdown	Kathleen Rocke RIP

Monday 8th **The Annunciation of the Lord**

8:00am Good estate of Canon Luke Smith

Tuesday 9th Donor's Intention

9:30am Donor's Intention

Wednesday 10th Wellbeing of Lionel D Edwards (83rd birthday)

8:00am Wellbeing of Lionel D Edwards (83rd birthday)

10:00am Otford Dec'd members of Authers and Cromwell families

Thursday 11th **Saint Stanislaus, Bishop, Martyr**

10:00pm Borough Green Holy Souls
12:00noon Conrad Waite RIP (anniversary)

Friday 12th Fr Michael Daly RIP

8:00am Fr Michael Daly RIP
10:00am West Kingsdown Peter Catherwood RIP

Saturday 13th In thanksgiving

9:30am In thanksgiving

SUNDAY 14th April **3rd SUNDAY OF EASTER**

6:00pm (Sat)	Wellbeing of Clancy Schueppert
8:00am (Latin)	All dec'd members of the Andradi-Brown family
9:15am	Nora McCaffrey
11:15am	Wellbeing of Canon Luke smith
6:00pm	Fr Barry Hughes RIP
9:30am Otford	In thanksgiving for safe delivery of the grandson and Mother's good health
9:30am Borough Green	People of the Parish
11:00am West Kingsdown	In thanksgiving

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

Thomas Greene, Edmund Curtis, Thomas Griffin, Jane Heyward, Harry Bellingham, Laure Haffenden, Edward Travers, Agnes Cramer, Harold Fletcher, Paul Travers, John Dolby-Gray, Mary Warnett, Kathleen Lawless, Jeanne Austin, John Salt, Cyril Hardakerm Christina Chambers, Michael O'Farrell.

Latin Antiphons

Entrance:

Quasi modo géniti infántes, rationábile, sine dolo lac concupíscite, ut in eo crescátis in salútem, allelúia.

Communion:

Mitte manum tuam, et cognósce loca clavórum, et noli esse incrédulus, sed fidélis, allelúia.