

## 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](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

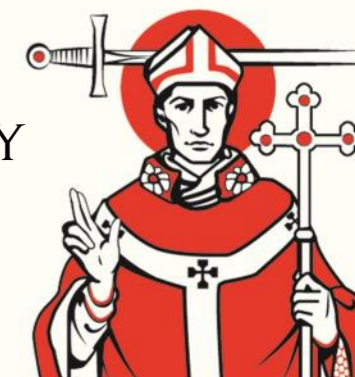
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

14th April 2024

He said to them, "Go into all the world  
and preach the gospel to all creation."  
**Mark 16:15**

Jesus in this Sunday's Gospel teaches His apostles how to interpret the Scriptures. He tells them that all the Scriptures of what we now call the Old Testament refer to Him. He says that all the promises found in the Old Testament have been fulfilled in His Passion, death, and Resurrection. And He tells them that these Scriptures foretell the mission of the Church—to preach forgiveness of sins to all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

In today's First Reading and Epistle, we see the beginnings of that mission. And we see the apostles interpreting the Scriptures as Jesus taught them to. God has brought to fulfillment what He announced beforehand in all the prophets, Peter preaches. His sermon is shot through with Old Testament images. He evokes Moses and the Exodus, in which God revealed himself as the ancestral God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (see Exodus 3:6, 15). He identifies Jesus as Isaiah's suffering servant who has been glorified (see Isaiah 52:13).

John, too, describes Jesus in Old Testament terms. Alluding to how Israel's priests offered blood sacrifices to atone for the people's sins (see Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9–10), he says that Jesus intercedes for us before God (see Romans 8:34), and that His blood is a sacrificial expiation for the sins of the world (see 1 John 1:7).

Notice that in all three readings, the Scriptures are interpreted to serve and advance the Church's mission—to reveal the truth about Jesus, to bring people to repentance, the wiping away of sins, and the perfection of their love for God. This is how we, too, should hear the Scriptures. Not to know more "about" Jesus, but to truly know Him personally, and to know His plan for our lives.

## 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)

*Oxford, 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)**

Ann Vallins: [annavallins@yahoo.com](mailto:annavallins@yahoo.com)

#### **Webmaster**

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

## THE YEAR OF PRAYER

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', the Holy Father has asked that 2024 be year of prayer, starting from Advent 2023 and focusing on the Lord's Prayer (Our Father...)

The Lord's Prayer offers us a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer, as the oldest and most important prayer of Christians, the result of a unique lesson that Jesus gave to his disciples over 2000 years ago.

We know it by heart, we have uttered it from our mouths and hearts hundreds of times. But does that mean we know everything about it?

To this day, three texts have been preserved in which the Lord's Prayer is present. The first two, which the average believer is likely aware of, are of course the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. And there's also the Luke's version. But few know that there is another of this prayer. Didache, also known as the Teaching of the Twelve Apostles, is a short, anonymous treatise of ancient Christianity. It is one of the earliest writings of the Apostolic Fathers. They began to write their texts directly after the apostolic times, invoking the authority of the apostles. Especially that of the longest-lived among them, John. However, their writings did not enter the canon of the New Testament. Including the Didache containing the Lord's Prayer. Today, it is simply treated as an apocryphal text. The Lord's Prayer is in the eighth chapter. It is recommended to recite this prayer three times a day.

There is also something called doxology. It is a phrase that is added at the end of the Lord's Prayer during liturgy or during normal, private recitation: For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen. This was incorporated into the text of the Gospel of Matthew around the 3rd century. Why? A theory explains that a certain copyist, while transcribing the manuscript of the Gospel, most likely unwittingly added to the prayer words with which he himself prayed at gatherings. And because of such a possibility, in contemporary editions of the NT, the text of the doxology is not included. Which does not mean that it cannot be used. It can. And it is used in many communities including Church of England.

The words of Our Father prayer are key in changing our perception of God. Until now, He was God the Creator, Judge, Almighty, Just. From the moment Jesus gave us this prayer, we can also treat God as a Father. And if God is our Father, it means that we are His children. And that means He certainly loves us. And that He will do everything to make us happy. A revolution.

Now that we know who God is, let's find out where to start building a relationship with Him. Nothing in the Lord's Prayer is by chance. The order of the petitions too. The most important task of creation is to praise the Creator. To give Him glory. Essentially, the main reason for the great universe and the small man at its centre is God's glory. And God's glory is best revealed in the love of our neighbour, as Jesus reminded us. If there were no words as we forgive those who trespass against us, it would be a mere claimant's outstretched hand. But this way, we have a request with a specific commitment attached - if I have not forgiven, it is tactless to ask God to forgive me.

*Our Father,*

Who art in Heaven,  
hallowed be Thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come,  
Thy will be done  
on earth as it is in Heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil

*Amen.*

# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection next week is for the Priest Training Fund. This collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. 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

## CANON DAVID GIBBONS

Fr David is to be formally installed as a Canon of the Cathedral on Tuesday 23rd April at the Chapter Mass at 6:00pm, in St George's Cathedral. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

## QUITE DAY OF REFLECTION

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on **Saturday 27th April 2024** at The Barn, Poult Farm, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10.00 to 16.00.

The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 20 years. **Please bring** a bible, a packed lunch and a change of shoes as part of the day can be spent outside.

Suggested contribution for the day is £5. If you would like to attend please email Gilly at [gf58b@icloud.com](mailto:gf58b@icloud.com)

## 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](https://bit.ly/LISS2024)

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone for your continued support this year. Everyone's contribution whether small or large is important. In the 2023/2024 tax year we will be able to claim back from the Inland Revenue nearly £57,000. It has been boosted this year, by donations towards the refurbishment of the parish centre. It is a big part of our income and allows us to fund our four Mass centres and contribute to the diocese.


Those who are registered as Gift Aid'ers in our Parish can now collect their boxes of weekly envelopes at the back of church. Please take your box home.

There is small bundle of envelopes at the back of church for those who donate by standing orders. Each bundle is in an envelope with your name on it. Please find your envelope and take it. Many thanks.

**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](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.**



**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 14<sup>th</sup> April

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)

9:15am  
11:15am  
6:00pm  
9:30am Otford

9:30am Borough Green  
11:00am West Kingsdown

## Monday 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00am

## Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>

8:00am  
10:00am Otford

## Thursday 18<sup>th</sup>

10:00pm Borough Green  
12:00noon

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Saint Alphege, Archbishop of Canterbury, Martyr

8:00am  
10:00am West Kingsdown

## Saturday 20<sup>th</sup>

9:30am

## SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)

9:15am  
11:15am  
6:00pm  
9:30am Otford

9:30am Borough Green  
11:00am West Kingsdown

## THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

Wellbeing of Clancy Schueppert  
All dec'd members of the Andradi-Brown family  
Nora McCaffrey  
Wellbeing of Canon Luke smith  
Fr Barry Hughes RIP  
In thanksgiving for safe delivery of the grandson and Mother's good health  
People of the Parish  
In thanksgiving

Eileen Pritchard RIP (birthday)

Fr Joe Andradi

G. D'Souza RIP  
Dec'd members of Travers & Law families

Congratulations Becs & Keith on your wedding  
Wellbeing of Andy Costello

Lockyer & Malyon families  
Fr Nicholas McCormack RIP

Good intentions of the donor's family

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Lilian Spragg RIP  
People of the Parish  
In thanksgiving  
Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP  
Canon Luke Smith  
Good estate of Jill Wightman  
Edward Etheridge RIP (anniversary)  
Good estate of the People of St Bernadette's

## 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, Ann Steven, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

Henry Glyde, Mary Howes, Maire Collins, Joan Brooks, Frederick Triggs, Sheila Beattie, Jeanne Hart, Robert Hemmings, Alice Pearson, James Coles, Louise Ducruet, Mark Landless, Eileen Eastwood, Tom Scarisbrick, Kathleen Benn, Mollie Farrell, Rita Quick, Nora Fisher, Joyce Course, Roma Stuart, Ellen Colburn, Thomas Barnes, Arthur Stubbs, Joseph McGrath, Stephen Gill, Denis Leigh, Ingrid Kolli.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

lubilate Deo, omnis terra, psalmum dicite nomini eius, date gloriam laudi eius, alleluia.

### Communion:

Cognoverunt discipuli Dominum Iesum in fractione panis, alleluia.