

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

Adoration:

Monday 8:30am - 9:30am
Tuesday 6:00pm - 7:00pm

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



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

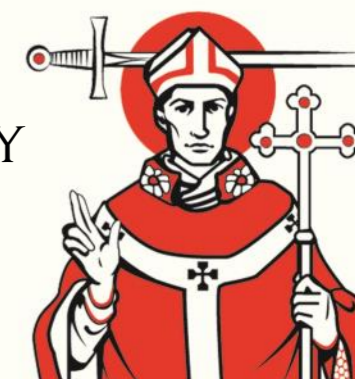
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

11th August 2024



Sometimes we feel like Elijah in today's First Reading. We want to lie down and die, keenly aware of our failures—that we seem to be getting no better at doing what God wants of us. We can be tempted to despair, as the prophet was on his forty-day journey in the desert. We can be tempted to complain against God, as the Israelites did during their forty years in the desert (see Exodus 16:2,7,8; 1 Corinthians 10:10). The Gospel today uses the same word to describe the crowds, who reenact Israel's hardheartedness in the desert. The Greek term ἐγόγγυζον (egongyzon) often translated as "complained", more accurately means "murmured." It reflects a low-voiced grumbling, indicating subtle dissatisfaction and scepticism, rather than just overt complaining. This nuance helps us understand the deeper discontent and resistance among the listeners to Jesus' message about being the "bread that came down from heaven." Jesus tells them that prophecies are being fulfilled in Him, that they are being taught by God. But they can't believe it. They can only see His flesh, that He is the "son" of Joseph and Mary.

Yet if we believe, if we seek Him in our distress, He will deliver us from our fears, as we sing in today's Psalm. At the altar in every Eucharist, the angel of the Lord, the Lord himself (see Exodus 3:1-2), touches us. He commands us to take and eat His Flesh given for the life of the world (see Matthew 26:26). This taste of the heavenly gift (see Hebrews 6:4-5) comes to us with a renewed command—to get up and continue on the journey we began in Baptism to the mountain of God, the kingdom of heaven. He will give us the bread of life, the strength and grace we need—as He fed our spiritual ancestors in the wilderness and Elijah in the desert.

So let us stop grieving the Spirit of God, as Paul says in today's Epistle, in another reference to Israel in the desert (see Isaiah 63:10). Let us say to God as Elijah did, "Take my life." Not in the sense of wanting to die but in giving ourselves as a sacrificial offering—loving Him as He has loved us, on the Cross and in the Eucharist.

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

Assistant Priest: Fr John Eyike, johneyike@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 Hurlll chris.hurll@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

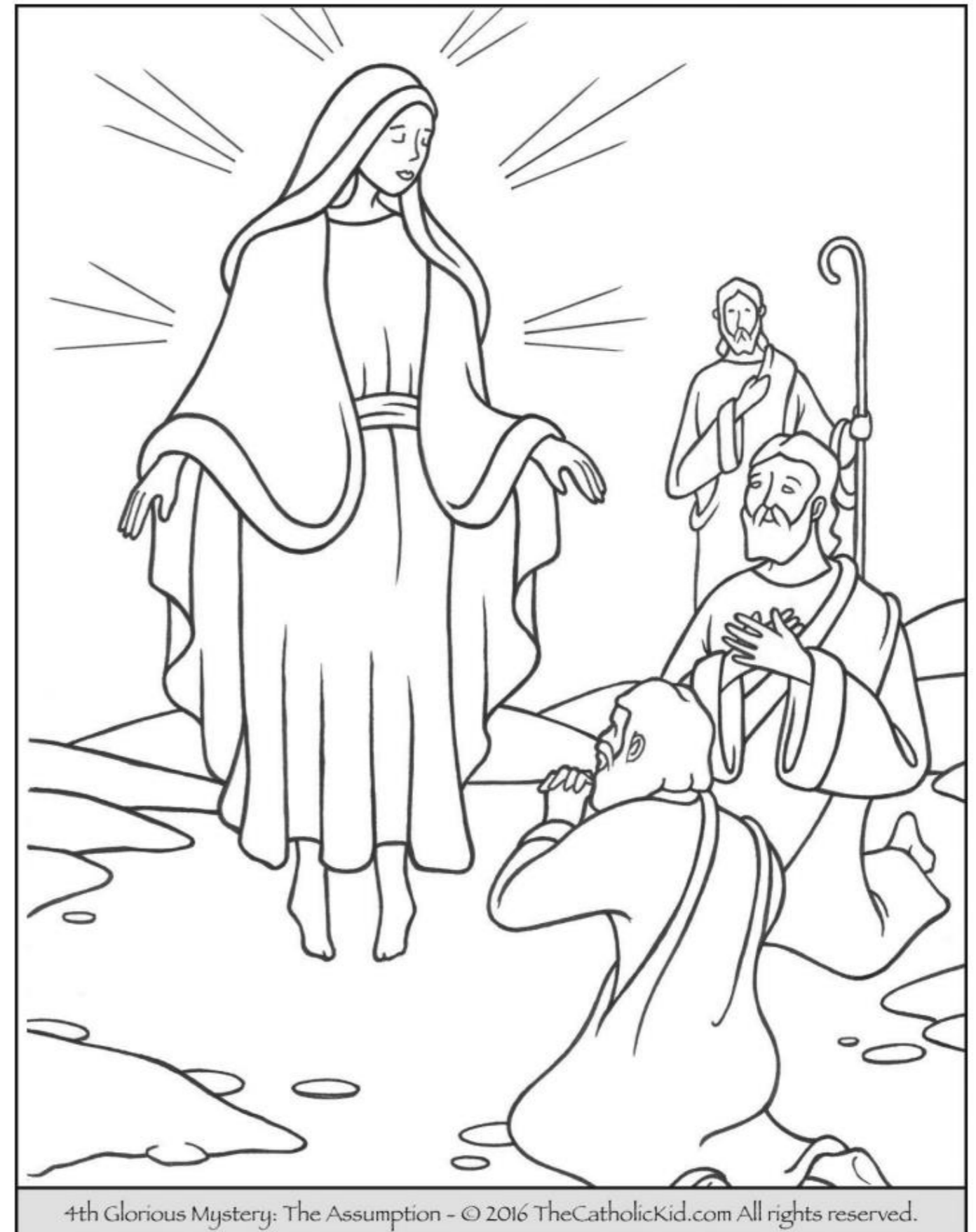
Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)

Ann Vallins: annvallins@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

CHILDREN'S LITURGY



4th Glorious Mystery: The Assumption - © 2016 TheCatholicKid.com All rights reserved.

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

THIS WEEK SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION of the Blessed Virgin Mary., that is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses as on page 3. Please note there is no Mass at 9:30am in St Thomas’.

THE PILGRIMS GROUP TOUR TO MINSTER ABBEY & ST AUGUSTINE’S SHRINE AND CHURCH, RAMSGATE

A coach outing on Wednesday, 11th September 2024. The visit starts at Minster Abbey. Founded less than a 100 years after the arrival of St Augustine in 597AD to Christianise England, the Abbey is still home to 12 Catholic Benedictine nuns and in our short time there, we can enjoy the tranquility of their gardens and prayer-filled space. Refreshments and a simple lunch is available. We then continue to the Shrine and church of St Augustine. Designed by A.W.N Pugin as his personal church, it is an example of exquisite Gothic Revival by one of main architects of the Houses of Parliament. Price: £37pp excluding refreshments & lunch. More details are in a flyer. Please ask Felicia, nfe.17205@gmail.com, 07719 606 970 if your interest has been piqued.

MEN’S PARISH RETREAT: Aylesford 1st to 3rd Nov 2024

“To be a pilgrim” A weekend to explore the next steps on our path led by Chris Chapman. Christopher Chapman is an experienced spiritual director and retreat leader. He is a guest director at St. Beuno’s Jesuit Spirituality Centre. He is the author of *Seeing in the Dark*, *Earthed in God* and *Send my Roots Rain*. His next book, *Doorways to Hope* is due to be published in January 2025 by Canterbury Pres. The hymn *Guide me O thou great Redeemer* expresses the fears and hopes of the pilgrim’s journey: conscious of weakness and inadequacy, yet held safe by a mighty hand; lost in a wilderness, yet led by fire and cloud; hesitant in moving forward, yet drawn to cross the river. This weekend will help us explore how we can cooperate with God’s invitation to travel further into God’s life .

The cost for the retreat for full board, lodging and the retreat facilitator is £240. 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.sevrcparish.org.uk (just click on the news and masses tab and this opens up a tab for retreats and the registration form). 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 16th September. Lift shares to Aylesford will be organised. Any queries please contact Catherine Rodger by email at c.rodger@btinternet.com or by ph:01732 458852

2024/2025 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME REGISTRATION

Registration for the next First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Programme is now open. If your child is entering Year 3 in September 2024 (or is older) you can register them on the link below. We will be introducing a new programme in which Fr Peter will meet with parents while catechists teach the children. It will also require parents to complete sessions with their children at home. Our initial parents’ meeting is on Friday 4th October at 7pm and the sessions will begin in November. A full list of programme dates are listed at the end of the registration form. All sessions will take place at St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Sevenoaks. <https://forms.office.com/e/wXt1HVKc1L>

VACANCY: The Parish Archives

The Parish Archives remain in a fairly haphazard state because ever since St. Thomas’ Church was built in the 1880s all items of record have simply been deposited in one or other of a couple of large packets and with little attempt ever made to keep them in some sort of date order. They have not been touched since they were examined and used for the publication of the Centenary History in 1996.

The area of the Presbytery where they are currently held is now going to be needed for further improvements so the opportunity is being taken for the records to be examined, sorted, and placed in an accessible area where they can be easily available to any current or future parishioners with an interest in the subject.

Ideally, for thus to be done, we require an Archivist or, at least, someone with experience of dealing with and sorting historical records. There is no reason why this operation should not be undertaken by two or more parishioners working together. Please seriously consider whether you could take on this interesting service to the Parish and, if so, contact ben.andradi@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you.

REPOSITORY AT ST THOMAS’

We are seeking a volunteer to manage the Church repository at St Thomas’. Responsibilities include coordinating with the Parish Office on purchases, monitoring stock levels, and organising a weekend sales team rota. For more information or to sign up, please contact Fr Peter or Magda in the Parish Office. Magda is available from Monday to Friday (except Tuesdays), between 8:30am and 12:15pm.

MASS INTENTIONS

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

SUNDAY 11th AUGUST

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

Monday 12th

8:00am Holy Souls

Tuesday 13th Saints Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyr

9:30am Mary Hughes

Wednesday 14th Saint Maximilian Kolbe, Priest, Martyr

8:00am Elsa Olson-Jones
10:00am *Oxford* Good estate of Rachel Read

THURSDAY 15th

8:00am People of the Parish
10:00am *Oxford* Fr Bryan’s Intention
11:00am *West Kingsdown* The Finn Family RIP
12:00noon

6:30pm *Borough Green* Holy Souls
8:00pm Maria & Stanislaw Kowalczyk (65th wedding anniversary)

Friday 16th

8:00am All dec’d members of the donor’s family
10:00am *West Kingsdown* Helena Kendrick

Saturday 17th

9:30am Anne D’Souza RIP (anniversary)

SUNDAY 18th AUGUST

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY (B)

Fr Michael Coles RIP
Private Intention
Chloë Daries
Helena Kendrick
John Travers RIP
James Healy RIP
People of the Parish
Vyvyan Webb RIP

Holy Souls

Mary Hughes

Elsa Olson-Jones

Good estate of Rachel Read

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION

People of the Parish
Fr Bryan’s Intention
The Finn Family RIP

Holy Souls

Maria & Stanislaw Kowalczyk (65th wedding anniversary)

All dec’d members of the donor’s family

Helena Kendrick

Anne D’Souza RIP (anniversary)

TWENTIETH SUNDAY (B)

Helena Kendrick
People of the Parish
Bjorn Chambless RIP
Diana Latter RIP
John Travers RIP
Laurence Joseph Murphy RIP
Marie & John Foley (wedding anniversary)
Patrick Bunton RIP

ST THOMAS’ COFFEE MORNING - Can you help?

St Thomas is keen to set up a coffee morning for people in our church and local community. The aim is to provide a simple drop-in coffee/tea and biscuits every Thursday morning from 10.15 to 11.45 in our new church parish room. To run this successfully, we estimate we need a minimum of 20 male and female volunteers. This will mean people only have to help out once in every 5 or 6 weeks. Can YOU spare a couple hours to help in this fun, social venture for the parish?

If you are interested, or, if you have any questions, please contact one of us: Frances Smith: francesrsmith@hotmail.com/ Catherine Rodger: c.rodger@btinternet.com/ Fiona Newton: fionanewton321@btinternet.com

THE SICK

Helena Kendrick, Milena Currall, 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 AUGUST

Ted Jones, Nancy Pethybridge, Friederike Greene, Jude West, Archibald Brett, George Hazelwood, Gordon Lumsden, Vicki Spokes, Sam Smart, Minnie Winzinger, Jeanne Marshall Boyle, John Catlin, Catherine Clemens, Stanley Bearchell, Sidney Mabe, Susan Livingstone, Ruth Salt, Annistia Moore, Jason Levett, Mary McHugh, Eileen Bourquin, Douglas Griggs, Olive Crusswell, Richard Knight, Christina Coleman, Ann McInerney.

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Réspice, Dómine, in testaméntum tuum, et ánimas páuperum tuórum ne derelínquas in finem. Exsúrge, Dómine, et iúdica causam tuam, et ne obliviscáris voces quæréntium te.

Communion:

Lauda, Ierúsalem, Dóminum, qui ádipe fruménti sátiat te.