## St Thomas of Canterbury

**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 9:30am Tuesday 8:00am Wednesday Thursday 12:00noon

8:00am Friday Saturday 9:30am

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** 

Saturday

10:00am - 10:30am 5:15pm - 5:45pm

Fathers' day off:

Assistant Priests: Monday Parish Priest: Tuesday



Granville Road, Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office:

Temporary on Mon. & Wed. 9:00am-12:00noon

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



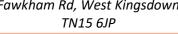
Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown TN15 6JP

St Bernadette's

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

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South Park, Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk

Headteacher: Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM





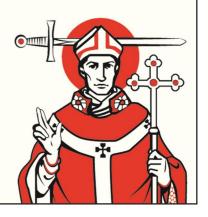


#### **PARISH OF**

# ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

**SEVENOAKS** 

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,



Parish Newsletter

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

27th/28th October 2024

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's readings invite us to reflect deeply on faith, trust, and God's unexpected callings in our lives. In the Gospel, we meet Bartimaeus, a blind man who becomes the first person outside of the Apostles to truly recognise Jesus as the Messiah. Even in his blindness, Bartimaeus sees with the



eves of faith, calling out to Jesus and receiving not just physical sight but a new direction for his life.

This scene mirrors the prophecy in Jeremiah, where God promises to lead His people back from exile, restoring them, even the blind and the lame, to a place of wholeness. Bartimaeus is a powerful image of the people of Israel—and of us reminding us that God often guides us in ways we don't expect, asking us to trust in His plan, even when the future seems uncertain.

In our lives, we are frequently led down unexpected paths, called to new roles or responsibilities we hadn't anticipated. Just as Bartimaeus responded in faith, we are invited to trust that God's purpose for us is greater than we can imagine.

This brings us to an important moment in our parish life. After over a year of service for our community, Fr Vipin has been called to a new mission. Archbishop John has appointed him as the new Parish Priest of Edenbridge following the unexpected death of Fr Jake Dicto. Though it is hard for us to say goodbye, we recognise that this is part of God's plan for Fr Vipin. Like Bartimaeus, who received new sight and direction, Fr Vipin is stepping into a new chapter where his gifts and ministry will bless others. Fr Vipin will begin his ministry in Edenbridge on the first weekend of November, but he will return for a farewell gathering with us soon. Next Sunday, 3rd November, we will hold a special collection for Fr Vipin as a token of our gratitude. Donations can also be made at the Parish Office, clearly marked "Fr Vipin's Farewell."

As we prepare our hearts for this transition, let's remember the example of Bartimaeus: trusting in God's call, even when it leads us somewhere unexpected. God always has a purpose, and when we respond in faith, we find that His plans bring life and renewal. Please join me in praying for Fr Vipin as he embarks on this new journey, and let us trust that God's hand is guiding us all towards His greater good.

With every blessing,

Fr Peter

# Contacts & organisations

## Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

Website: www.sevrcparish.org.uk Tel: 01732 454177

Parish Priest: Fr Piotr Kucharski (piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk)

Assistant Priests: Fr Vipin James, (vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk); Fr John Eyike (johneyike@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson (neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office hours: Temporary office hours Monday and Wednesday 9am-12noon only

Webmaster: Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines (sevenoakssg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk) **Safeguarding DBS**: Sally Kelly (sevenoakssg2@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

## **PASTORAL ® FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott - 3maryscott@gmail.com

#### **Holy Trinity, Otford**

Secretary: Barry Authers - sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

#### St Jospeh's, Borough Green

Secretary: John Foley - johnandmariefoley@gmail.com

#### St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown

Secretary: Jill Gobel - jill.gobel@btinternet.com

Gift Aid: Sean Corrigan: sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk

#### Parish Lead for Formation:

**Adrian Pinington** 

#### **Parish Lead for Catechesis:**

**Trish Pinington** 

#### Parishs Lead for Evangelisation:

Andrew La Trobe & Sue Sylvester

#### **LITURGY**

#### **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament Coordinator**

Barry Authers: sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk

#### Altar Servers (St Thomas's)

Catherine Ingram: ingramfamily15@yahoo.com

#### Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass

- ⇒ Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:
  - Mark O'Prey: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
- ⇒ Otford, 9:30am Mass:
  - Catherine Bennett: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
- ⇒ Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:

Fiona Newton: fionanewton321@btinternet.com

#### Choir

Music Group: Lonnie Christophers lonniechr@hotmail.com Traditional Choir: Barbara Page 01732 454729 Borough Green: Chris Hurll chris.hurll@outlook.com

**Music Rota and Volunteers:** 

Kathleen Bouverie: kcbouverie@yahoo.com

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)

Andrew Pembroke: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

#### SACRAMENTS & CATECHESIS

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis: sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk

#### First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme

Catherine Tan: sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk

**RCIA** (for adults becoming Catholic):

Andrew Wilkinson: sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk

## PRAYER & WELLBEING

#### Mothers' Prayers

- ⇒ Mondays at 11:30am at Star House, Star Hill Road 01959 532505
- ⇒ Thursday after the 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre

#### Parent & Toddlers Group

Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00noon MH Room

Mary Hunt 07890 229794

#### **Lectio Divina**

Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

#### Listening to you (Bereavement Support)

Third Monday, 10:30am until midday in Parish Room Sarah Harrison, Kate Travers, Ann Livingston, Sally Haggarty.

Contact via sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

#### Retreats

Catherine Roger: c.rodger@btinternet.com

## Scripture Fellowship

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson: andrewwilkos@gmail.com

#### **SOCIAL ACTION**

Caritas Representative: Gina Harnett

Catenians (social club for Catholic men)

Aiden O'Mahony: aidan.omahony@btinternet.com

## Knights of St Columba

Br David Havard: action.youth@kscsouthwark.org

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: h.imercer@btopenworld.com

#### St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Contact Paul Boyle 07407 041922 or Kathie Gonzalez sevenoakssvp@gmail.com

#### St Thomas' Coffee Morning

Thursdays 10:15-11:45am in our Parish Centre. Contact Frances Smith at francesrsmith@hotmail.com

#### Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)

Ann Vallins: annvallins@yahoo.com

#### OTHER MINISTRIES

## Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)

James McSharry: jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

## Church Flowers (St Thomas's)

Kate Travers: katetravers521@hotmail.com

**Repository** - currently in need of volunteers to help manage and oversee its operations. At present, it is not fully functional, but with your support, we can bring it back to life. Please contact Fr Peter if you can help.

## **URGENT APPEALS**

✓ OPPOSE THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL! There have been increasing reports in the news that the Government will support a Bill in Parliament to legalise assisted suicide. This threat to the sanctity of life requires action on our part to show we will not stand by as such an extreme law is rushed through.

Archbishop John Wilson said in a Pastoral Letter on the subject in March 2024, that as "baptised followers of the Lord Jesus we must do all within our power to support the most vulnerable in our society, especially those who have no voice to speak for themselves. (...) The Catholic Church believes and teaches that every life is valuable, regardless of one's physical or mental state or ability. We are called to care for those who are suffering, not to bring about their death. We cannot approve of any form of euthanasia and assisted suicide."

To help you lodge your opposition to the Bill, the charity Right to Life has set up a simple action on their website which enables you to write to your MP and

urge them to oppose this extreme Bill. The more people who show their opposition to this Bill, the more chance we have in stopping the ending of many lives through assisted suicide. So please take action to support this campaign and urge your friends and family to join you:

www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/

#### ✓ MUSIC AT MASS - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Pianists, organists, instrumentalists, singers - your help is needed! As we look towards the Music Rota for the coming Autumn and Advent seasons, the gaps are more noticeable than ever. Please consider sharing your gifts to help us enhance the Liturgy of our 6:00pm Vigil, 9:15am Children's and 11:15am Sunday Masses at St Thomas. There are no fixed expectations and full guidance and support is available.

If you are musical and can help us, please get in touch with Kathleen Bouverie kcbouverie@yahoo.com

# November



#### PRAYER FOR THE DECEASED

Praying for the dead is a long-standing Christian tradition deeply rooted in Scripture. Especially in November, we take time to remember each deceased person by name, bringing them before the Lord's mercy. It is important that we make the effort every year to recall their names in prayer and offer Masses for their souls.

This year, Holy Souls envelopes are available, and we encourage you to write the names of your deceased loved ones, friends, and parishioners for whom you wish us to pray in November. Instead of our traditional Books of Remembrance, there will be a special box near the Altar where these names will be placed. You can hand the envelopes to a priest after Mass. Any donations in the envelopes will go toward offering Holy Souls Masses throughout the year, whether in our parish or in parishes with fewer Mass intentions. In this way, we not only remember their names before the Lord but also assist them on their journey to eternal life.

#### **PLENARY INDULGENCE**

A Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Holy Souls, can be obtained once per day in any church or cemetery between 1st and 8th November, under the usual conditions: recitation of the Our Father and Creed, sacramental Confession, Holy Communion, and prayer for the Holy Father's intention.

ALL SAINTS' DAY on Friday, 1st November, a Holyday of Obligation, which means all Catholics should attend a Holy Mass. Services as follows:

Sevenoaks: 8:00am, 12:00noon, 8:00pm;
Otford: 10:00am; West Kingsdown: 11:00am; Borough
Green: 6:00pm.

**ALL SOULS** (Memorial of all the faithful departed) on Saturday, 2nd November. Mass at St Thomas' at 9.30am with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the Litany for the Souls of the Faithful Departed.

THE BLESSING OF GRAVES at Greatness Cemetery will take place on Sunday 3rd November at 3:00pm. We will gather outside behind the Cemetery chapel for a communal prayer followed by individual blessing of graves.

MASS for DECEASED PARISHINERS. We would like to invite you for a special Mass offered for the deceased parishioners and members of our families who have passed to the Lord this last year. Those who have been bereaved, whether recently or years ago, are especially invited to this Mass on Saturday 23rd November 2024 at 9.30am followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. The families are encouraged to bring the Funeral booklet or a photo of the loved one.

You may also support The Drive Methodist Church Sevenoaks and their Light a Candle Service to remember those who were special for us on Sunday 3rd November at 4pm (Followed by Refreshments). All are welcome. For more details please see:

www.thedrivemethodistchurch.org.uk

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## Parish and other NOTICES

- ✓ MISSION APPEAL SECOND COLLECTION. This weekend, we warmly welcome the Spiritan Fathers with a Mission Appeal. Please support their ministry generously.
- ✓ MOTHER'S PRAYERS every Thursday after the 12noon Mass in the Parish Centre. It is a special time for mothers to unite in faith and offer prayers for their families and the broader community. All are welcome.
- ✓ **ST THOMAS' COFFEE MORNING.** Everyone is welcome to our weekly coffee mornings to be held every Thursday morning 10:15-11:45am in our Parish Centre.
- ✓ ST PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP. This is a prayer group for those discerning and practicing discipleship in our parish led by Deacon Neil which meets in the Parish Centre from 7:30pm on the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month, and includes time of fellowship over tea and coffee, praise & worship led by musicians, consideration of Church teaching and prayer. For more information please contact Deacon Neil.
- ✓AN EVENING WITH BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI Archbishop John invites young adults (18-40) to join him at St George's Cathedral for "An Evening with Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati" on Thursday 31st October at 6:30pm. The evening will include praise and worship led by One Hope Project, a talk by Archbishop John, and a social afterwards. No tickets necessary, just turn up. For further details, visit www.tinyurl.com/frassatieve.
- ✓ ENHANCED LISTENING SKILLS COURSE to enhance skills you already have. It is an interactive course which could help you both in your daily life, and in a range of settings from ministry in visiting people or supporting people to working as a mentor at school or work. The course will be held over 2 dates: 29th November and 6th December from 7-9pm. It will be led by Sue Buddin who is a very experienced former Relate counsellor and trainer. She has kindly agreed to run this course for us in our parish on a voluntary basis in our Parish Centre. Tea and coffee will be provided. There is a limit on numbers attending so please book with either Catherine Rodger at c.rodger@btinternet.com or Gina Hartnett at aina.hartnett@hotmail.com.
- ✓ SOME DEFINITE SERVICE PARISH PLANS. The Archbishop has requested for parishes in the diocese to prepare plans for catechesis, evangelisation and formation as part of the Some Definite Service initiative. Our Parish Leads for Catechesis, Evangelisation & Formation and their respective teams have worked with Fr Peter to prepare the first set of such plans, which are available for viewing on the parish website (www.sevrcparish.org) in the Parish Life section under "Some Definite Service". These plans are intended to be regularly updated and amended based on their impact in the parish and through feedback and suggestions from parishioners.

✓ HELP FOR FR JOHN APPEAL. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has responded so generously to the appeal for Fr John. Your kindness and willingness to help with both a car and driving lessons are truly appreciated. It's wonderful to see how quickly you have come forward, offering your time, resources, and assistance. With your support, Fr John will soon be able to confidently navigate our Parish and reach all three Mass centres with ease. Thank you for making Fr John feel so welcome and supported as he settles into our parish. We would also like to extend a special thanks to all of you who have been taking both Fr John and Fr Boniface to our

outstation churches since the beginning of the summer.

- ✓ BECOMING A CATHOLIC MORNING GROUP. The process through which an adult is received into full communion with the Catholic Church involves a journey of Christian fellowship & instruction in the Faith, which culminates with reception into the Church at Easter. Entry into this year's process, known as the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults - or RCIA for short, is open until Wednesday 6th November 2024. There is now also a morning group (Wednesdays 10am-11.30am) at the Sevenoaks Parish Centre, in addition to the previously advertised evening group. If you are interested, or know anyone who might be, please notify me: Andrew Wilkinson (RCIA Coordinator), tel. 07487652846 or sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk
- ✓ PARTY OF LIGHT FOR CHILDREN IN THE PROPERTY OF LIGHT FOR CHILDREN to celebrate All Hallows Eve the Catholic way! Families are warmly invited to join 3 the Party of Light at Holy Innocents Catholic Church in Orpington on Thursday, 31st October from 4-6pm. This



event is for children aged 4-11 years and offers a joyful and Catholic way to celebrate All Hallows Eve. Children can come dressed as their favourite saint or in something light/white (no Halloween costumes, please). Food and refreshments will be provided, and there will be plenty of fun activities for everyone to enjoy. Tickets are £5 per child, and you can easily book your place by scanning the QR code on the flyer. We hope this will be a wonderful opportunity for families to enjoy this special evening in a way that aligns with our faith.

✓ PART TIME TEACHING ASSISTANT NEEDED (from 1st January 2025) St Thomas' Catholic Primary School are looking to appoint a part time teaching assistant, Monday to Wednesday, term time only. We are looking for a TA to replace a member of staff who is retiring after 21 years service at our school. The TA post will be as part of a very strong teaching team in a child-focused learning environment where our aim is for all our children 'to be the best that they can be right now'. We have a very supportive school community which includes our staff, children and parents with many links to the local area and our Parish. We are also proud to be a part of the Kent Catholic Schools Partnership. The children here love to learn and love to share their learning with each other. The job is part-time, three days a week, 8:30 to 15:30 Monday to

## MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas's CHURCH unless otherwise stated

## SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER THIRTIETH SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm (Sat) 1. Michael McSharry RIP (birthday)

2. Patrick & Shirley Rae RIP

Emily French & Angus Gould 8:00am (Latin)

on their wedding day 9:15am Walter Gutkowski RIP

11:15am Brendan Casey RIP and the comfort for the family

People of the Parish 6:00pm

9:30am Otford On 21st birthday in Thanksgiving

& return to full health

Walter Gutkowski RIP (greg.) 9:30am Borough Green

Ellen Price RIP 11:00am West Kingsdown

#### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Simon and St Jude, Apostles

8:00am Walter Gutkowski RIP (greg.)

Tuesday 29th

9:30am Walter Gutkowski RIP (greg.)

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Keith D'Souza RIP

10:00am Otford Walter Gutkowski RIP (greg.)

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>

10:00am Borough Green Walter Gutkowski RIP 12:00noon Mary Edith Hibling RIP

#### Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November All Saints (Holy Day of Obligation)

8:00am **Holy Souls** 

12:00noon Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

8:00pm **Holy Souls** 

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

11:00am West Kingsdown People of the Parish 6:00pm Borough Green Walter Gutkowski RIP

#### Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> All Faithful Departed (All Souls Day)

9:30am 1) Deceased members of the family & friends

2) Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

#### SUNDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY (B)

6:00pm (Sat) Jan & Stefania Ociepa RIP & Stanislaw Czaja RIP

8:00am (Latin) Walter Gutkowski RIP

9:15am Dec'd members Rodrigues & D'Souza families

11:15am Thomas Healy RIP Julia Mascarenhas RIP 6:00pm

9:30am Otford All members of the Parish prayer groups

9:30am Borough Green Peggy Spiers RIP

11:00am West Kingsdown Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

#### recently died

Bridie Tobin funeral on Monday 4th November (1:30pm) at St Joseph's

Eugene Bannon funeral on Wednesday 6th November (11:30am) at St Thomas'

Michael Clark funeral on Wednesday 6th November (2:00pm) at St Thomas'

May they rest in peace

#### PRAY FOR THE SICK

Micheal Bunton, 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 OCTOBER

Joan Wallis, Margaret Bryer, Yeminsi Ogunkola, Gerry Howard, Mary Henry, Mary Maguire, Sean Mullan, Genowefa Best, Olive Archard, Patrick O'Driscoll, Susan Oliver, Walter Crosland, Rosemary Spurling, May Chown, John Delaney, Anne Hickey, Mary Biggs, Ronald Mooney, Pier de Havilland, George Foucher, Kerry Holleran, Ann Wells, Edwina Playfair, Leontine Eagleton, Harry Smith, Lucy Parker, Dudley Glenister, Joseph Maverley, Kathleen Baxter, Gillian Turner, Peter Brett, Christopher Hogben, Barbara Man, Valerie Staples, Theresa Palmer, Eric Griffiths, Bernard Price, Margaret Clarke, Susan Vaziani, Giorgio Siuiglia, Jean Still, Eleonor Hammerson, Maria Galuszka, Mary Kay, Priscilla Cramer, Joan Microns, Denise Fabian, Angela Simmonds, Henry Halpin, Jack Jaquez, Baby Lacour, Mary Grabham, Jean Campbell, Mary Hibling, Desmond Hickey, Margaret Thackaberry.

> Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

## **LATIN ANTIPHONS**

## AD INTROITUM:

Lætétur cor quæréntium Dóminum. Quærite Dóminum. et confirmámini, quérite fáciem eius semper.

## AD COMMUNIONEM:

Lætábimur in salutári tuo, et in nómine Dei nostri magnificábimur.

Wednesday. Term time only. Salary Range: KR4.