

## 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:

Assistant Priests: **Monday**  
Parish Priest: **Tuesday**



12 Granville Road,  
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Secretary: **Silvana Wuttke**

Parish Office: **Monday-Friday**  
9.00am-12:00noon

Tel: 01732 454177  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk  
[www.sevrccparish.org](http://www.sevrccparish.org)



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

**HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY**

29th December 2024



Dear Friends,

As we gather on this final weekend of the year to celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family, we look back with gratitude for the many blessings and graces we have received, and we look ahead with renewed hope for the year to come. In the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we are reminded of the truth, that God chose to be born and raised within the loving embrace of parents, to grow within the everyday rhythms of family life. This mystery speaks directly to our own lives: it reminds us that every home can become a haven of holiness, a sanctuary for love, and a place where faith in God can blossom.

We call the Holy Family "holy" because it was centred on God in every circumstance. Their life was not one of wealth or worldly success: they lived in humble surroundings, often facing uncertainty and even danger. Yet, through it all, they never lost sight of God's presence or His plan. Mary offered a perfect "yes" at the Annunciation and continued to surrender her will to God. Joseph listened faithfully to God's guidance in his dreams and protected his family against all odds. And Jesus, although divine, was obedient to His parents and later gave Himself entirely for our salvation.

In your own families, you might also experience various trials—health worries, financial difficulties, misunderstandings, or the pain of distance and separation. Some of you may carry sorrowful memories or burdens from the past year. Know that the Holy Family understands and accompanies you in every struggle.

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year 2025, let us not be discouraged by the uncertainties or fears that may arise. Instead, let us resolve to model ourselves on the Holy Family's virtues: humility, patience, kindness, and above all, trust in God's unfailing love. May we see this New Year as an opportunity to deepen our relationships with one another—spouses cherishing each other more, parents nurturing the faith and joy of their children, and children learning to honour their parents with love and respect. Remember that God's grace is always sufficient for us to become instruments of His peace and love.

My prayer for each one of you is that the coming year will be filled with fresh beginnings and renewed strength for life's journey. May our parish community continue to be a place of warmth and friendship, supporting one another as members of God's household. Let us bring the spirit of the Holy Family into our homes, our workplaces, and all the places we find ourselves. In doing so, we become the face of Christ to those who most need compassion, mercy, and hope.

With heartfelt gratitude for all the ways you have shared your gifts in the life of our parish, and with prayerful wishes for a joyful, grace-filled New Year,

*Fr Peter*



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  
**Adoration:** Thursday 10.30am-11.00am  
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



# Contacts & organisations

**Presbytery and Parish Office:** 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER  
**Website:** www.sevrcparish.org.uk **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr Piotr Kucharski (piotr.kucharski@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Assistant Priest:** Fr John Eyike (john.eyike@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson (neil.philipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Silvana Wuttke (sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)  
**Parish Office Hours:** Monday to Friday 9:00am - 12:00noon  
**Webmaster:** Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines (sevenoaksg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
**Safeguarding DBS:** Sally Kelly (sevenoaksg2@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 Joseph'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

### Parishes 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

### Choirs

*Music Group:* Lonnie Christophers lonniechr@hotmail.com

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454729

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl chris.hurl@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

### Quiet Days

Gilly Ferner - gf58b@icloud.com

## SOCIAL ACTION

### Caritas Representative: Gina Hartnett

(gina.hartnett@hotmail.com)

### Catenians (social club for Catholic men)

Mark O'Prey (markoprey@googlemail.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 07918 808222

### 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

### St Thomas's Repository

Esther Ford: sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk

Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

## PASTORAL LETTER ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY FAMILY FOR THE OPENING OF THE JUBILEE YEAR OF HOPE



To be read at all Sunday Masses on Sat 28/Sun 29 December 2024

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

Peace and joy to you, and to your families and loved ones, in this holy season of Christmas.

Today's Feast of the Holy Family marks the opening of the Jubilee Year in our Archdiocese and across the Catholic Church worldwide. Its theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope.' As we launch this Year of renewal in faith, we seek to learn from the blessed household in Nazareth where the Lord Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, lived in simplicity, in love, and in faithfulness to the Father's will. Looking to the Holy Family, we too are called to be pilgrims of hope, just like Mary and Joseph. As they journeyed with faith and trust, so must we. So, how do you live hopefully in light of Christ? In a world yearning for the tender closeness of Christ, how are you his hopeful presence to others?

'See what kind of love the Father has given to us,' explains St John, 'that we should be called children of God.' (1 John 3:1) Our identity as beloved children of God is the foundation of our discipleship as the family of God. The Lord Jesus came into the world in the embrace of a family. Through him, we are drawn into the very life of God as brothers and sisters in Christ.

This Jubilee Year is a summons to live together as pilgrims of hope. This is not just about being optimistic, or trying to keep cheerful. Christian hope means living with the desire for the kingdom of heaven and eternal life. It means relying on Christ's promises and the help of the Holy Spirit. (cf. CCC 1817)

Our world needs witnesses to this hope. It needs disciples whose lives shine with the certainty that the Lord is near, even in times of darkness and suffering. Our hope grows stronger, not by avoiding difficulties, but by facing them with faith. God in Christ is Emmanuel - God with us always, no matter what. The famous words of Padre Pio, St Pio, encourage us all - 'Pray, hope and don't worry.' Or, at least, pray, hope and try not to worry. The Lord is with us, the Lord is with you. Trust him and draw closer to him, especially through prayer and the Scriptures, through confession in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, through the Holy Eucharist, and through adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. As pilgrims of hope, in this Jubilee year of grace, I invite you, dear brothers and sisters, to renew your spiritual life and your service to others. The Holy Family reminds us that evangelisation and mission begin in the heart and in the home. To parents I say 'thank you' for teaching your children to love the Lord Jesus, to pray, and to understand their faith; and, not least, to know the friendship of the saints. To our young people, I say 'do not be afraid to embrace your faith with courage.' The Lord Jesus is calling you to great things. Know, love and serve him, and he will guide your steps.

So many people today carry heavy burdens — whether of sickness, grief, or loneliness, or in others ways, sometimes hidden. Know that you are especially close to the heart of the Lord Jesus and his Church. You can be powerful missionaries of hope, showing the world that God in Christ is near to the broken-hearted and raises up those who are crushed in spirit. (Cf. Ps. 34:18) The Church is a family of families. There are no orphans in Christ. We all have a home in the Church. In Christ, we are united as brothers and sisters, called to bear one another's burdens and rejoice in one another's happiness. In this Jubilee year, I ask everyone in our Archdiocese to renew our commitment to building a culture of welcome and belonging within our parishes and schools. Let us seek out those on the margins — people who experience isolation, poverty, and despair. Let us be a Church where all feel at home, where the wounded find mercy, where the weary encounter rest, and where we all journey together in faith, hope and love.

As we begin our Jubilee pilgrimage, may our lives shine with the light of Christ, and, through him, may we bring his hope-filled joy to everyone we meet along the way.

With every blessing for this Christmas Season for the Jubilee Year,  
and with the assurance of my prayers and gratitude

Yours devotedly in Christ

**+ John Wilson**  
**Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark**



Archdiocese of Southwark

# Parish and other NOTICES

## THANK YOU FOR A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS!

As we continue to bask in the joy of the Christmas season, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who made our celebrations so truly memorable. From the talented flower arrangers who beautified our churches with stunning floral displays, to the devoted Catenians who prepared our Christmas Tree and brought the Nativity scene to life. We also wish to thank all those who worked tirelessly behind the scenes—volunteers who cleaned and decorated every corner of our churches, and all who prepared and served in our liturgies, ensuring each celebration was steeped in prayerful devotion. Thank you to our marvellous musicians and choirs who filled the air with joyous hymns and carols. We owe much to our altar servers, welcomers, and sacristans, whose readiness to help and guide ensured our services flowed smoothly. Nor can we forget our catechists, who led the children's Masses with creativity and warmth, helping our younger parishioners draw closer to the wonder of Christ's birth.

We are deeply grateful, too, for your generous contributions to the Christmas Collection for the priests, and for the thoughtful gifts, hampers, and beautiful cards. Through your kindness, we feel truly supported and valued as we serve the parish. Your generosity of spirit, hard work, and faith-filled commitment have left a lasting impression on everyone who joined us this Christmas. May the peace and joy of these holy days continue to bless and inspire you throughout the Christmas season and carry you gently into the New Year of 2025.

**CHRISTMAS BREAK.** The Parish Office is now closed and will resume on 6th January 2025.

**BANK HOLIDAY New Year's Day** on Wednesday 1st January - Mass at 9:30am in Sevenoaks only.

**SEVENOAKS FOODBANK** would like to thank parishioners for their generosity over the past year. Your help allowed us to care for about 160 clients. Considering that most support a family, your donations go a long way. Everyone of them is warmly welcomed, called by name, reassured and surrounded with respect and care. To break their loneliness, they can sit at our café and have coffee, tea, juice, biscuits while chatting with a volunteer or others. To improve their situation, we have visitors from other charities who help with mental issues, money management, access to financial support, simple health care, maths lessons, etc. We were able to also organise "specials" for Christmas, Easter, Mothers' Day, children's birthdays and school uniforms. It is only because of you that we can do all of this! Thank you once again.

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025.** Following the successful pilgrimage to Medjugorje last May, we now have a reservation for June 2nd 2025, for up to 15 people for 7 nights. Medjugorje is an inspirational place when you will feel the presence of Our Lady leading you closer to Our Lord. Price is £756 and includes flights, transfers, a local guide, and half board hotel accommodation. If one pays a deposit of £150 before the end of January, a discount of £30 will be applied. It is expected that you will share, otherwise a supplement of £150 is required. If anyone is put off by the price, we may be able to help? Contact Barry Authers by text or phone 07773 658469.

**TRUTH SEEKERS** will resume on Saturday 11th January 2025 at 7:00pm at St Thomas' Parish Centre. TRUTH SEEKERS is a program for teenagers who have completed their confirmation to reinforce the awareness and knowledge of Christ and to help them sustain lifelong love of God and His Church. The program aims to encourage learning, debate and discussion on fundamental Catholic faith matters, whilst establishing a safe and supportive community, where teenagers feel comfortable exploring their faith. The program is run in blocks on Saturdays evening, and ideally it is encouraged that participants also attend the 6:00pm mass at St Thomas'. A session runs for about an hour, starting with a light meal (typically pizza) followed by a video & discussion. We encourage all those who participated before as well as any other teenagers who have completed their confirmation to consider joining. For queries and to register your child, email the Parish office at [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk).

### REPOSITORY OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK:

Do come and have a browse.

**Saturday 28th Dec:** after 6:00pm Mass

**Sunday 29th Dec:** after 11:15am Mass

**Tuesday 31st Dec:** after 9:30am Mass

**Saturday 4th Jan:** after 6pm Mass

**Sunday 5th Jan:** after 9:15am Mass

Cards and copies of the new CTS Sunday Missal are on order. We also stock prayer and devotional books, rosaries, Holy water bottles and other gifts. Any queries, contact Esther Ford: [sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk).

**SOUTHWARK ARCHDIOCESE ROSARY PRAYER PROJECT.** Everyone is warmly invited to join this Archdiocese-wide prayer initiative, praying a decade of the Rosary each day for priests and parishes in their deanery.

# MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

## SUNDAY 29<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

6:00pm (Sat) People of the Parish  
 8:00am (Latin) Lucy Balaam RIP  
 9:15am Deceased members of Andradi Brown family  
 11:15am Father Joe Andradi RIP  
 6:00pm Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP  
 9:30am Otford Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP  
 9:30am Borough Green Hong Ling Chang Kit RIP  
 11:00am West Kingsdown Good estate of Peggie Foley

## Monday 30<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Deceased members of Andradi Brown family

## Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>

9:30am Father Joe Andradi RIP

## Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY

9:30am **MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD**  
 Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP  
*No Mass in Otford*

## Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00am Borough Green Donor's children and grandchildren  
 12:00noon Barbara Hinjenston Randolph RIP

## Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>

8:00am Bridie Curran (get well)  
 10:00am West Kingsdown Dilip Pereira RIP and comfort of the family

## Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>

9:30am In thanksgiving for T's recovery

## SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6:00pm (Sat) People of the Parish  
 8:00am (Latin) Kathleen O'Neil RIP  
 9:15am John Rodrigues RIP  
 11:15am Josephine Bell RIP  
 6:00pm Happy Birthday Angela Micallef (in thanksgiving)  
 9:30am Otford Deceased members of the Mernock & Waite families  
 9:30am Borough Green Brian Relfe RIP and comfort of Janet & family  
 11:00am West Kingsdown For Norman and Peggy Good

## 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, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Ann Steven, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren, Maureen Beadle and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Piotr Oscolowski, Miguel Mico, William Allen, Margaret Allen, Daniel McCarron, Eric Curtis, Sister Curtis, Philip Acton-Bostock, William Moore, Elizabeth Kiggins, Margaret Lee, Cyril Norwood, Anthony Boswell, Kathleen Mortlock, Stephen McCoy, Helen Wiseman, Sister Mary Elizabeth, Ron Henry, Martha Frizelle, Joyce Crossman, Frank Quick, Mary Power, Emma Still, Clifford Sayers, Patrick O'Callaghan, Baby Patrick Melville-Jones, Clementina Leonard, Barry Boxall, Mary Beasley, A. Taylor, Gertrude Penny, Benjamin Rees, Margaret Piper, Richard Gaunt

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

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

**AD INTROITUM:**  
 Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. Dominus enim prope est.

**AD COMMUNIONEM:**  
 Dícite: Pusillánimes, confortámini et nolíte timére: ecce Deus noster véniet et salvábit nos.

## Recently died

**Norma Ann Dalton**

funeral on Friday 17th January 2025 (11:00am) at St Thomas'

**Frank Easterbrook**

funeral on Tuesday 21st January 2025 (12:00noon) in Otford

*May they rest in peace*