

## 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

### Clergy day off:

Fr Peter: **Tuesday**  
Fr John: **Monday**  
Fr Biju: to follow



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

**THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

12th January 2025



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



Dear Friends,

With the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we officially conclude the Christmas season and step into Ordinary Time, a period in the Church's liturgical calendar that is anything but "ordinary." This time bridges the major celebrations of Christ's birth and Passion, inviting us to deepen our faith and renew our spiritual routines. It is a season marked by reflection and preparation, leading us towards the penitential season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday (5th March 2025). Ordinary Time provides an opportunity to reflect on our everyday journey of faith. Just as Jesus began His public ministry after His baptism in the Jordan, we too are called to embrace our mission as followers of Christ. This is a perfect time to examine and refresh our spiritual habits. Consider how you might renew your commitment to personal prayer. Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with God, and regular dialogue with Him brings clarity and peace to our lives. If you have not already established a daily prayer routine, now is the time to do so. Even a few moments each day spent in quiet reflection or conversation with God can transform your outlook and deepen your faith. The Rosary is another powerful way to enrich your spiritual life, by looking into the mysteries of Christ's life; offering us a moment of peace amidst the busyness of our days. If praying the Rosary has not been a habit, why not start by praying a single decade each day? It is a beautiful way to centre your heart on God's love and to seek the intercession of Our Lady. Finally, take some time to rediscover the Word of God in the Bible. Scripture is a living source of inspiration and guidance for our daily lives. Even a few verses read prayerfully each day can open our hearts to God's will and prepare us for the challenges we face.

As we journey through Ordinary Time, let us embrace this season as a gift, not as a pause between great feasts, but as an essential time of growth and renewal. By building strong spiritual routines now, we prepare ourselves to enter Lent with hearts that are ready to encounter the Lord in a deeper and more meaningful way.

*Fr Peter*

# 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 Priests:** Fr John Eyike (john.eyike@rcaos.org.uk)  
Fr Biju John (biju.john@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 (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:** Gilly Fenner - gf58b@icloud.com

### 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 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

### 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.

# Nurturing Faith Together



When parents bring their children to be baptised, they make a solemn promise to raise them in the Catholic faith, nurturing them to grow in their relationship with God and the Church. This sacred commitment includes preparing them to receive the sacraments of initiation, one of which is the Eucharist. The First Holy Communion preparation is a pivotal step in fulfilling this promise, as it deepens the children's understanding of God's love and draws them closer to Christ.

This year, as part of their preparation, the children have created *Jesse Trees*—a symbol of the story of salvation, tracing God's loving plan from creation, through the fall, to the promise of the Messiah fulfilled in Jesus Christ. These trees represent not only their understanding of the Bible's story but also their personal growth in recognising God's love and presence in their lives.

The preparation for First Holy Communion is about much more than learning prayers or fulfilling a requirement. It is about forming a deep and lasting relationship with Jesus, who comes to us in the Eucharist—the source and summit of our faith. This journey also opens the children's hearts to understand the mercy of God, especially through the Sacrament of

Reconciliation, which they will receive for the first time during Lent.

This is a vital time not only for the children but also for their families, as they are encouraged to grow together in faith and deepen their love for the Church and the sacraments. It is also a wonderful opportunity for the whole parish to reflect on the importance of the sacraments in our own lives. Witnessing the children's excitement and wonder can renew our appreciation for the gift of the Eucharist and God's ongoing invitation to encounter Him in the sacraments.

The support of the entire parish community is essential. These young ones are the future of the Church, and our prayers, encouragement, and example of living faith can and should inspire and guide them. Please continue to pray for our First Holy Communion children and their families, asking the Holy Spirit to bless them with a deeper understanding of God's love and a joyful anticipation of meeting Jesus in the Eucharist.

*Please, take a moment to enjoy some of the Jesse Trees they have lovingly created as part of their preparation journey.*



Alex Grabowski



Joseph Hinchey



Isabella Doyle

## Parish and other NOTICES

**NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST.** This weekend, we warmly welcome Fr Biju John to our parish. He joins Fr Peter and Fr John as an Assistant Priest and will share more about himself with us in due course.

**THURSDAY TALK by the SEMINARIAN.** We continue to pray for Seminarian James Somerville-Meikle, who is with us until the end of January, gaining pastoral experience in our parish. This Thursday, at the Coffee Morning around 10:30am, James will share his experience of the Valladolid seminary and his vocation story. All are warmly invited to attend.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK** is for Peace Sunday. The work of Pax Christi (International Catholic Movement for Peace) is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Pax Christi relies solely on our support.

**QUIZ NIGHT:** Saturday 22nd February at 7:30pm at St Joseph's, Borough Green. Teams of 6. £10 each to include a ploughman's supper and tea/coffee. Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Contact Jenny 07591301186 or Margaret 01732885295 for booking.

**Our TRUTH SEEKERS** youth programme will be hosting an introductory session for teenagers who have completed their confirmation and their parents on Saturday 18th January at 7:00pm in the Parish Centre. TRUTH SEEKERS programme helps reinforce faith development and knowledge of Christ, while also creating a supportive community for our teenagers. Please consider joining this session to find out more. To register your interest, email the Parish Office at [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk).

**BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT.** On the third Monday of each month, two parishioners from the Bereavement Support team will be in the parish room next to St Thomas's church from 10:30am until 12noon for anyone who would welcome the opportunity to talk in confidence about a bereavement or other loss such as job, health, family pet. This month this will be on Monday 20th January.

**MASS INTENTIONS – A BEAUTIFUL WAY TO PRAY**  
We have available spaces for Mass intentions in the coming weeks. Offering a Mass for a loved one, whether living or deceased, is a profound act of love and faith. Please contact the parish office to reserve a date. Let us continue to pray for one another through the powerful gift of the Eucharist.

**HELP YOUR MARRIAGE** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped because it only makes it worse? **Retrouvaille** has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about the programme which will be presented on Zoom 27th February to 2nd March 2025, email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk) or call/text 07887296983. Also see: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**A YEAR OF HOPE:** an Introduction to the Jubilee Year with CAFOD: 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will be hosting Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) and more for a lively start to the Jubilee. With a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. Saturday 18th January, 10:30am-midday, online. All welcome. Register at [cafod.org.uk/jubilee](http://cafod.org.uk/jubilee)

**PARISH PILGRIMAGE 2025.** Following the successful pilgrimage to Medjugorje last May, we now have a reservation for 2nd June 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.

**REPOSITORY OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK**  
These are the Repository opening times for the coming week. Do come and have a browse.  
**Saturday 11th January:** after 6:00pm Mass  
**Sunday 12th January:** after 11:15am Mass  
**Tuesday 14th January:** after 9:30am Mass  
**Saturday 18th January:** after 6:00pm Mass  
**Sunday 19th January:** after 9:15am Mass and before 11:15am Mass

New cards (birthday, get well, mass intention, etc) and other items are available, and further copies of the new CTS Sunday Missal, People's Edition, should have arrived by the weekend. We also stock prayer and devotional books, a wide variety of rosaries, Holy water bottles and other gifts. Any queries, please contact Esther Ford at [sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk).

## MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

### SUNDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)  
9:15am  
11:15am (Trad. Choir)  
6:00pm  
9:30am Otford  
9:30am Borough Green  
11:00am West Kingsdown

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Bernadette Butterworth RIP  
People of the Parish  
Charles Haggarty RIP  
Kathleen O'Neil RIP  
Agnes Laura Horsten RIP  
Father Dunstan Harrington  
Josephine Bell RIP  
Patrick and Josephine Coakley RIP

### Monday 13<sup>th</sup>

8:00am John Bolland RIP

### Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP

### Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

8:00am Sight savers all over the world  
10:00am Otford Deceased family & friends and souls in purgatory

### Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>

10:00am Borough Green Fr Eric Spencer  
12:00noon Bronwen Strinati RIP

### Friday 17<sup>th</sup>

### St Anthony, Abbot

8:00am Private intention  
10:00am West Kingsdown Marion & Bill - blessings on new home  
11:00am **Funeral Mass:** Norma Ann Dalton RIP

### Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>

9:30am Bernadette Butterworth RIP

### SUNDAY 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY

6:00pm (Sat)  
8:00am (Latin)  
9:15am  
11:15am  
6:00pm  
9:30am Otford For the intentions of the donor's mother.  
9:30am Borough Green Norma Dalton RIP  
11:00am West Kingsdown Patrick O'Grady RIP

### SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Peace Sunday)

Stefania & Jan Ociepa and Stanislaw Czaja RIP  
People of the Parish  
Celia & Patrick Kinnell RIP  
Bernadette Butterworth RIP  
Bill Owen RIP

### 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

Maria Bowditch, Mary Salt, Margaret Ashdown, Jim Coles, Gerald Caruana, Sara Gallagher, Helen Cheshire, Claire Lund, Mary Blake, Monica Casey, Mary McCoy, Genevieve O'Donovan, Agnes Goodman, Vicky Parker, Joseph Doris, Margaret Reid, Patricia Winkley, David Crook, Jane Regan, Mary Brasher, J. Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Gomar, Alan Frederick Peters, Daniel Hassett, Patrick McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson, Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John O'Leavy, Albert Munden, Thomas Salt, Cyril Gouldstone, Maria Glenister

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

### Recently died

#### Francis Easterbrook

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

*May he rest in peace*

**RECOLLECTION for women and girls.** All are welcome on Friday 31st January from 3:30pm to 5:30pm for an opportunity of quiet prayer and reflection guided by a priest from the Prelature of Opus Dei. Confessions available. At the same time, a girls group (ages 7 to 11) will take place in the Parish Centre.

### Latin Antiphons

#### AD INTROITUM:

Baptizato Dómino, aperti sunt caeli, et sicut columba super eum Spíritus mansit, et vox Patris intónuit: Hic est Fílius meus diléctus, in quo mihi bene complácuí.

#### AD COMMUNIONEM:

Ecce de quo dicébat loánnes: Ego vidi et testimónium perhibui, quia hic est Fílius Dei.