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 6:00pm - 7:00pm Tuesday



Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am - 10:30am

Clergy day off: Fr Peter: Tuesday Fr John: Monday Fr Biju: to follow



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH

Western Rd, Borough Green

TN15 8AG

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown

TN15 6JP



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

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

St Ber nadette'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

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.sevrcparish.org

Church contact:

Barry Authers

Tel: 01959 524362

sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

Church contact:

Antoni Offert

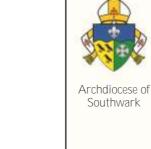
Tel: 07513 041075

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM





PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD, BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN

Parish Newsletter

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



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.

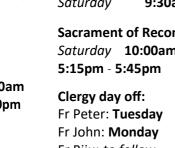
Fr Peter

St Thomas' catholic primary school

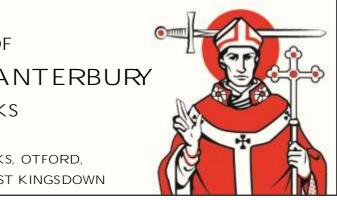
South Park, Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH www.saintthomas.co.uk

Ms Geraldine Leahy Tel: 01732 453921

8







12th January 2025

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 (piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk) Assistant Priests: Fr John Eyike (johneyike@rcaos.org.uk) Fr Biju John (bijujohn@rcaos.org.uk) Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson (neilphilipson@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 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 \Rightarrow Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:

→ Otford, 9:30am Mass: → 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: Yathloon Bouveria: kchouveria@vahaa.com

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 **Q** WELLBEING

Mothers' Prayers

 \Rightarrow Mondays at 11:30am at Star House, Star Hill Road 01959 532505 \Rightarrow 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 Reconciliation, which they will receive for the baptised, they make a solemn promise to first time during Lent. raise them in the Catholic faith, nurturing This is a vital time not only for the children them to grow in their relationship with God but also for their families, as they are and the Church. This sacred commitment encouraged to grow together in faith and includes preparing them to receive the deepen their love for the Church and the sacraments of initiation, one of which is the sacraments. It is also a wonderful opportunity Eucharist. The First Holy Communion for the whole parish to reflect on the preparation is a pivotal step in fulfilling this importance of the sacraments in our own promise, as it deepens the children's lives. Witnessing the children's excitement understanding of God's love and draws them and wonder can renew our appreciation for closer to Christ. the gift of the Eucharist and God's ongoing invitation to encounter Him in the sacraments.

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





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.

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.

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 rogramme which will be presented on Zoom 27th February to 2nd March 2025, email info@retrouvaille.org.uk or call/text 07887296983. Also see: 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

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.

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

SUNDAY 12 th JANUARY	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD
6:00pm (Sat)	Bernadette Butterworth RIP
8:00am <i>(Latin)</i>	People of the Parish
9:15am	Charles Haggarty RIP
11:15am (Trad. Choir)	Kathleen O'Neil RIP
6:00pm	Agnes Laura Horsten RIP
9:30am Otford	Father Dunstan Harrington
9:30am Borough Green	Josephine Bell RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	Patrick and Josephine Coakley RIP
Monday 13 th	
8:00am	John Bolland RIP
Tuesday 14 th	
9:30am	Timothy and Cleta Andradi RIP
Wednesday 15 th	
8:00am	Sight savers all over the world
10:00am Otford	Deceased family & friends and sou
Thursday 16 th	
10:00am Borough Green	Fr Eric Spencer
12:00noon	Bronwen Strinati RIP
Friday 17 th St Anthony, Abbot	
8:00am	Private intention
10:00am West Kingsdown	Marion & Bill - blessings on new h
11.00am	Funeral Mass: Norma Ann Dalton
Saturday 18 th	
9:30am	Bernadette Butterworth RIP
SUNDAY 19 th JANUARY	SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIN
6:00pm <i>(Sat)</i>	Stefania & Jan Ociepa and Stanisla
8:00am <i>(Latin)</i>	People of the Parish
9:15am	Celia & Patrick Kinnell RIP
11:15am	Bernadette Butterworth RIP
6:00pm	Bill Owen RIP
9:30am Otford	For the intentions of the donor's n
9:30am Borough Green 11:00am West Kingsdown	Norma Dalton RIP Patrick O'Grady RIP
11.00am West KingsuOWII	I attick O Oracy NIF

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

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
ls in purgatory	Ashdown, Jim Coles, Gerald Caruana,
	Sara Gallagher, Helen Cheshire, Claire
	Lund, Mary Blake, Monica Casey, Mary
	McCoy, Genevieve O'Donovan, Agnes
10,	Goodman, Vicky Parker, Joseph Doris,
	Margaret Reid, Patricia Winkley, David Crook, Jane Regan, Mary Brasher, J.
l	Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Gomar, Alan
	Frederick Peters, Daniel Hassett, Patrick
	McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson,
	Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John
ome	O'Leavy, Albert Munden, Thomas Salt,
RIP	Cyril Gouldstone, Maria Glenister
	Eternal rest grant unto them
ME (Peace Sunday) aw Czaja RIP	O Lord, and let perpetual light
	shine upon them.
aw Czaja Nir	May they rest in peace. Amen.
	l L

mother.

recently died

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

May he rest in peace

Latin Antiphons

AD INTROITUM:

Baptizáto Dómino, apérti sunt cæli, et sicut colúmba super eum Spíritus mansit, et vox Patris intónuit: Hic est Fílius meus diléctus, in quo mihi bene complácui.

AD COMMUNIONEM:

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