

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

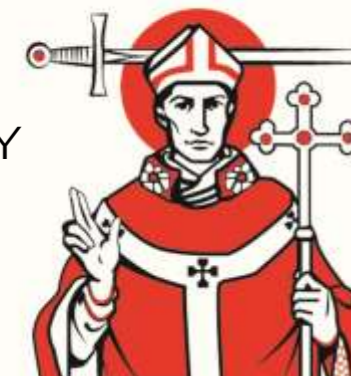
Tel: 01732 454177
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk
www.sevrcparish.org



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

17th November 2024



Dear Friends,

This weekend, as we reflect on the World Day of the Poor, we are invited to see the poor not merely as recipients of charity but as central to our understanding of the Gospel. The Scriptures repeatedly reveal God's special love for the poor and the marginalised. Today's readings remind us of the fragility of life and the fleeting nature of worldly things. The apocalyptic imagery in Mark's Gospel points to a deeper truth: in the face of cosmic upheaval, our true security lies in God alone.

The poor, both biblically and socially, are those who recognise their total dependence on God. In Scripture, the "anawim"—the poor of God—are those who, despite material poverty, find their strength and hope in God. They stand as models of humility, trust, and perseverance. Jesus Himself embraced poverty, identifying with the least and calling His followers to do the same: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:3). This beatitude challenges us to cultivate spiritual poverty, recognising our constant need for God's mercy and grace.

In our world today, poverty takes many forms. Material poverty is often the most visible, but there are also those who endure spiritual, emotional, and relational poverty—people who are isolated, anxious, or weighed down by a sense of worthlessness. The World Day of the Poor calls us to broaden our understanding of poverty and to respond with both compassion and action. Pope Francis reminds us that the poor "have much to teach us" and that "we are called to discover Christ in them, to lend our voice to their causes, but also to be their friends, to listen to them, to speak for them, and to embrace the mysterious wisdom which God wishes to share with us through them" (Evangelii Gaudium 198).

We are blessed in our parish to witness the remarkable dedication of our Parish SVP members, who serve those in need with unwavering commitment and compassion. Their mission goes far beyond addressing material needs; it is about restoring hope, rebuilding lives, and fostering a true sense of belonging within our community. Equally, the diocesan initiative of Southwark Caritas broadens our horizons, offering invaluable opportunities to extend our support and make a meaningful difference in the lives of those most vulnerable.

As we approach the Feast of Christ the King next week and prepare for Advent, today's readings challenge us to ready our hearts for His coming by deepening our solidarity with the poor. The Kingdom of God is one of justice, peace, and love—values we are called to embody now. In serving the poor, we encounter Christ Himself and participate in the renewal of the world.

With every blessing,

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
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



Contacts & organisations

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Website: www.sevrparish.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 (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 (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: sevenoakshc@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 Harnett

Catenians (social club for Catholic men)

Mark O'Prey

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 (please contact the Parish Office if you can help)

More Notices

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Saturday 14 December (10.15am to 5.15pm). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. Further information at www.adaywithmary.org

THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 30 November 2024 from 1:30-4:30pm at St Scholastica 17 Kenninghall Road, Clapton, London E5 8BS. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All are welcome. For details call Millie on 07957594646.

SING AT THE STATION. Choir church members in Sevenoaks have sung carols at Sevenoaks Railway Station for the last 10 years in order to bring Christmas cheer to commuters and to raise funds for Christian Aid. This year, we are welcoming singers to increase our numbers. Those interested in singing an hour at Sevenoaks Railway Station on Tuesday 17th December, between 5pm and 8pm, should call Peter Ashwell on 01732 461087 or email peter.ashwell@btinternet.com to inform the preferred availability across the three hour-long slots. Each choir will be led by a conductor and song sheets will be provided. No need for a rehearsal.

PREPARE FOR ADVENT



Advent reminds us that the Lord comes into our lives in various ways—through His Word, the sacraments, and the love we share with one another. It is a time to step back from the busyness of life, to slow down, and to make space for Christ to enter more fully into our hearts and homes.

As part of our Advent journey, we will once again offer several opportunities to help us prepare spiritually for the coming of Christ. These will include a reflective Taizé evening, regular Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and more opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. One of the highlights will be a special Rorate Candle Mass, celebrated by candlelight and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, who brought the Light of the World into our darkness. These activities are designed to help us pause, reflect, and draw closer to Christ during this sacred season. They offer us moments of quiet prayer, opportunities for reconciliation, and communal worship to strengthen our faith and unity as a parish family.

We warmly invite everyone to take part in these special times of prayer and reflection. Together, let us embrace this holy season with open hearts, preparing ourselves to celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas, the moment when God became one of us to bring salvation to the world.

Parish and other NOTICES

THANK YOU for your incredible donation of £1,213.50 for the Missio Collection and an outstanding £4,336.30 to support the mission of the Spiritans.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING and National Youth Sunday next weekend. **SECOND COLLECTION** for the Southwark Catholic Youth Service.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR this weekend. Let us lift our prayers for all who are struggling—not only with material poverty but also those burdened by anxiety, self-doubt, and low confidence. Let us also remember those who tirelessly care for the poor and needy, especially our amazing Parish SVP and Southwark Caritas.

MASS FOR DECEASED PARISHIONERS. 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.

PARISH MORNING OF REFLECTION AND TRAINING FOR READERS. We warmly invite all parish readers to this a special meeting on Saturday, 7th December. We aim to offer a dedicated time to deepen our appreciation and understanding of the ministry of reading the Word of God at Mass and other services.

- 9:30am** Holy Mass with the blessing for readers
- 10:15am** Instruction and reflection in the Parish Centre, on the new lectionary translation
- 11:45am** some practical advice
- 12:00pm** closing prayer with the Angelus.

This is a wonderful opportunity to grow in this vital ministry, ensuring we serve the Word with greater clarity and reverence. We look forward to welcoming you for this time of enrichment and prayer.

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 gina.hartnett@hotmail.com.

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 18th November.

AUTUMN QUIET DAY. You are invited to an Advent Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 30th November 2024 at The Barn, Poult Farm, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10.00 to 16.00. Through the use of poetry, prayer, music, scripture and nature, the day will be an opportunity for quiet contemplation of Gospel stories in preparation for Christmas and how these stories resonate for us today. The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 21 years. Bring a bible, a packed lunch and a change of shoes as part of the day can be spent outside. Suggested contribution for the day is £5. If you would like to attend please email Gilly at gf58b@icloud.com.

HOLY SOULS MASSES

Thank you to all who donated towards the November Holy Souls Masses using the special November envelopes. All the names that were included are presented at the altars at our parish churches and are collectively included in the Masses for the Holy Souls will be offered when possible in our parish and beyond.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDI, the thirty young parishioners who received the Sacrament of Confirmation at St George's Cathedral on Saturday. It was a joyful moment as Bishop Paul invoked the Holy Spirit, strengthening them as Christ's disciples. We encourage our confirmandi to get involved in parish life through youth ministry, music, altar serving, or volunteering.

Thank you to our catechists and volunteers for your dedication in preparing them, and all who helped in making the celebration so beautiful.

ST THOMAS'S REPOSITORY (in the Tom Quinn porch) will be open after the 11.15am Mass on Sunday 24 November. A big thank you to Esther Ford for taking on the responsibility of managing the Repository. Future opening times will be published in next week's newsletter. A selection of cards, including Advent calendars and Christmas cards, and other items will be available. Please come and browse.

MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

SUNDAY 17th NOVEMBER THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY (B)

- 6:00pm (Sat) Nicholas Power RIP and Power & Barron families
- 8:00am (Latin) Neil D' Souza RIP
- 9:15am People of the Parish
- 11:15am Departed members Jones & Sawsman families
- 6:00pm Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)
- 9:30am *Oxford* Maria and Stanislaw Kowalczyk RIP
- 9:30am *Borough Green* Patricia & Norman Wright RIP
- 11:00am *West Kingsdown* Pattie Pluck & Placid Bennett RIP

Monday 18th

- 8:00am Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Tuesday 19th

- 9:30am 1) Angela Murphy RIP (anniversary)
- 2) Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Wednesday 20th

- 8:00am Thimoty and Clea Andradi RIP
- 10:00am *Oxford* Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Thursday 21st

- 10:00am *Borough Green* **Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)
- 12:00noon Walter RIP

Friday 22nd

- 8:00am **St Cecilia, Virgin and Martyr** Melroy Dudley Dezilva
- 10:00am *West Kingsdown* Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Saturday 23th

- 9:30am 1) For all the parishioners who passed away in the last year, for family members and friends.
- 2) Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (B)

- 6:00pm (Sat) Walter RIP
- 8:00am (Latin) Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)
- 9:15am Walter RIP
- 11:15am Julie Carvalho RIP
- 6:00pm Stuart and Patricia Sexton RIP
- 9:30am *Oxford* Father Colin Murphy RIP
- 9:30am *Borough Green* Jayde Kerrigan RIP
- 11:00am *West Kingsdown* People of the Parish

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 NOVEMBER

Margaret Trousdell, James Cairney, Terence Oung, Thomas Brady, Jeannine Greene, Dorothy Schnorr, Patricia Wright, Leo Monaghan, James Currin, John Staples, Winifred Lyons, Jean French, Monique Brittan, Baby Mercer, Susan Hatfield, David Murphy, Catherine Moran, Fr John Jeffries, Johanna Smith, Patrick O'Driscoll, Wilhelmina Jaques, Anne Hennessy, Bishop John Jukes, Monique Brittan, Christina Hill, George Detrick, Frank Farrell, Kathleen Howard, John Meredith, Sharon Hardy, Rosamunde Montagu, Peter Davis, Patricia Wallis, Lawrence Fairman, Leo Cadley, Richard Latter, Richard Morel, Paddy Murphy, Gladys Cross, Msg John Moran, Joe Grochala, Thomas Cadley, Eleanor Keating, Cecilia Evans, Maria Dubiel-Emery, Molly Long, George Kavanagh, Paul Emmelkamp, Dudley Levey, Una McKeever, Alice Still, Evelyn Smith, Winifred de Birbal, Eamon Cullen, Nelly Bankes, Alexander Morel, Michael Flanagan, James Kyte, Lilly Davis, Diana Osborne, Fr John Hennessey, Victor Johnson.

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

LATIN ANTIPHONS

AD INTROITUM:
Dicit Dominus: Ego cogito cogitationes pacis et non afflictionis; invocabitis me, et ego exaudiam vos, et reducam captivitatem vestram de cunctis locis.

AD COMMUNIONEM:
Mihi autem adhaerere Deo bonum est, ponere in Domino Deo spem meam.

Recently died

Bernadette Frances Butterworth

funeral on Wednesday 4th December (1:30pm) at St Thomas'

May she rest in peace