

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



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

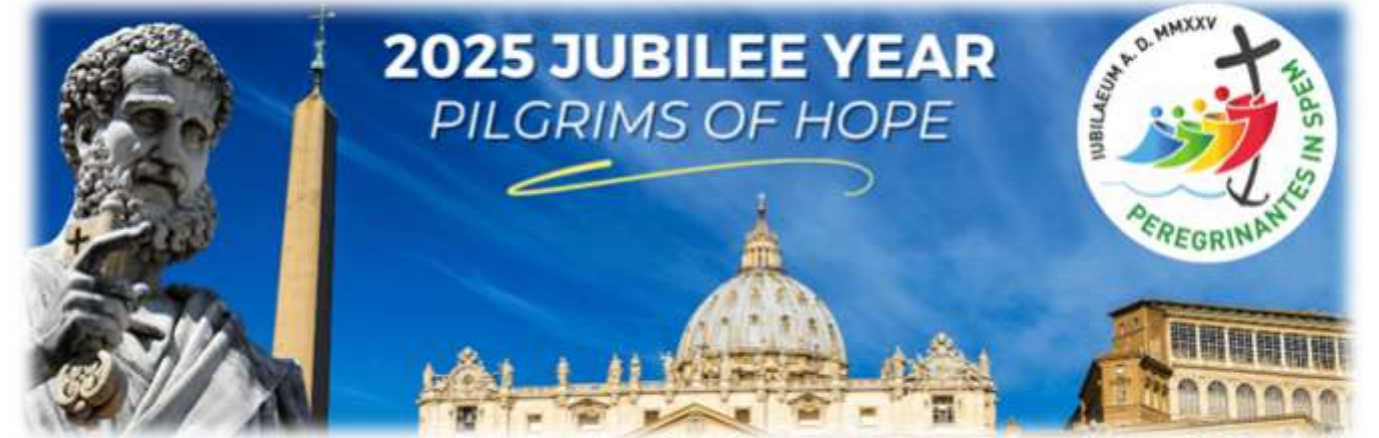
CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

15th December 2024



2025 JUBILEE YEAR
PILGRIMS OF HOPE



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

Headteacher:
Ms Geraldine Leahy
Tel: 01732 453921

GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



As we journey deeper into Advent, today's Gospel invites us to stand alongside the crowds who, filled with expectation, ask John the Baptist, "What then should we do?" (Luke 3:10). John's call to repentance, rooted in the Greek word *metanoia*, challenges us to a radical turning away from sin and toward God. This isn't just an adjustment of attitudes but a transformative way of living—bearing good fruits in charity, honesty, and justice. This Third **Gaudete** Sunday reminds us that repentance is not born from fear but from joy. The Lord is near, and His coming is our cause for celebration. Like Mary, the Daughter of Zion, we are called to rejoice in the nearness of our Saviour. Her "yes" to God changed the world, and so can ours, if we turn our hearts fully to Him. As we prepare for Christmas, let us ask ourselves sincerely, "What should we do?" and open our hearts to the good news of His mercy.

This Advent is especially meaningful as it coincides with the beginning of the Jubilee Year 2025, a time for renewal and rediscovery of God's love and mercy. The Holy Door has been flung open in Rome and designated Jubilee churches around the world, inviting us to become *Pilgrims of Hope*. This Jubilee offers us the chance to receive a plenary indulgence, a profound expression of God's mercy, by meeting the following conditions: 1) Participation in Mass, the Liturgy of the Hours, or devout prayer, including the Rosary or Eucharistic Adoration; 2) The Sacrament of Penance and reception of Holy Communion; 3) Prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father. For those unable to participate in person due to illness, age, or confinement, indulgences can still be obtained by uniting in prayer and offering their sufferings to God.

In our own Archdiocese, several churches have been designated as Jubilee sites. These include: Cathedral of St George (Southwark), St Ann's (Kingston Hill), St Mary's (West Croydon), St Boniface (Tooting), St Elizabeth of Portugal (Richmond), Sacred Heart (Wimbledon), St Saviour's (Lewisham), Our Lady of Sorrows (Peckham), St Edmund of Canterbury (Beckenham), St Thomas More (Dulwich), St Stephen (Welling), St John Fisher (Bexley), and closer to us in Kent: St Thomas's (Canterbury), Our Lady of Hartley (Hartley), The Friars (Aylesford), St Augustine's Shrine (Ramsgate), St Jude's Shrine (Faversham). These sacred spaces invite us to pause, reflect, and draw near to God through prayer and sacramental life.

This Jubilee is a chance for all of us to ask, "What should we do?" and take concrete steps toward holiness. Whether through personal prayer, a pilgrimage, or acts of charity, let us embrace this time of grace with open hearts. May this Advent and Jubilee Year lead us, the pilgrims of hope, closer to the joy of Christ's presence in our lives and the world.

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 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: 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 francescsmith@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.



NEWS FROM OUR SCHOOL



Service: children sing and play for residents of the care home

ADMISSION FOR RECEPTION 2025 IS OPEN

Parents with a child born between 1st September 2020 and 31st August 2021 can apply for a place at St Thomas' School. For open days and to book a tour, visit our website: <https://st-thomas-catholic-primary-school-sevenoaks.secure-primariesite.net/>

WHERE LEARNING TAKES PLACE

St Thomas Catholic Primary had a busy term learning inside and outside the classroom. The class trips are an important part of the curriculum enrichment and the pupils took full advantage of them.

Nursery and Reception had a lovely time at Seal Farm, in Sevenoaks, while Y3 visited the Horniman Museum and Y4 and Y5 went to the British Museum, in London. The Y6s had two outings: a one week Residential, to Kingswood (Isle of Wight), and a day at Reculver beach, in north Kent. That was a unique opportunity to put into practice what they had learnt in science.



Art - St Thomas' welcomed for the 19th year the performance of the Young Shakespeare Company.

Their production is very distinctive because the students become part of the play that this year was *Twelfth Night*.



Forest School - Taking advantage of our green area, all classes had a full day of Forest School. That allows them to really get involved in the activities. Fires to cook on were very popular and the children enjoyed learning how to lay a fire and use bow saws and drills.

Maths - We could not be more proud of our pupils. Our older children attended the *Aim High Maths* at Radnor House and they far out-performed the children with their mathematical abilities and a respectful and calm manner.



In the curriculum, the goal is to teach them to understand the concepts of maths as well as the skills of computation. This means that they can solve problems, reason through their thinking and articulate what they have done.

Christmas - We have been preparing for Christmas too. While the little ones present the Nativity, Y4 recorders and the orchestra visited the Emily Jackson Care Home and Y5 and Y6 choir did service to the community by singing in the Blighs Meadow for Demelza charity.

Retirement - We say *goodbye* to Marie Hurst at the end of this term. She has been a member of staff at St Thomas' for 21 years. We will miss her, she has made a huge difference to the lives of many children. **Happy Retirement!**

Parish and other NOTICES

THIS WEEK SECOND COLLECTION is for the Christmas Flowers.

RORATE CANDLE MASS on Wednesday, 18th December at 7:30pm. Join us for this candlelit Mass in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary, offered for the protection of life from conception to natural death and in reparation for sins against life.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION. Prepare your heart for Christmas through Confession. Two priests available on Friday 20th December (7pm-8pm) with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Saturday 21st December (10am-11am).

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday, 24th December)

5:00pm (Sevenoaks) - Family Mass with children's Nativity
7:30pm (Oxford) - Carol Service and Mass (8pm)
9:30pm (Borough Green) - Carol Service & Mass (10pm)
10:30pm (Sevenoaks) - Carol Service & Night Mass (11pm)

Christmas Day (Wednesday, 25th December)

8.00am (Sevenoaks) - Simple Mass (ENG)
9.00am (Sevenoaks) - Family Mass
9.30am (Oxford) - Sung Mass
9.30am (Borough Green) - Sung Mass
11.00am (West Kingsdown) - Sung Mass
11.15am (Sevenoaks) - Solemn Mass

No Mass in the evening.

THE CHILDREN'S VIGIL MASS WITH NATIVITY PLAY will be held during the Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00pm. Children in Reception and above are invited to rehearse in the Church from 3.30pm. We are looking for readers in Y4 and above. Children are invited to attend the Mass dressed as angels and shepherds. Contact Catherine Bennett on 07712 702211.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING TO OUR PRIESTS. The Christmas collection, taken during the Christmas Masses and through the Christmas Offering envelopes, is your personal gift to the Parish clergy. Together with the Easter collection, it forms a significant part of the priests' annual income. This offering is a way of showing our gratitude for their dedicated ministry across our communities and churches. You may also donate by cheque, payable to RCAS Sevenoaks (please write "Christmas Offering" on the back), and drop it off at the Presbytery. Alternatively, you can donate via bank transfer to: **NatWest Bank**, Account Name: **RCAS Sevenoaks**. Sort Code: **60-19-02** Account Number: **25782002** Thank you for your generous support.

PARISH OFFICE CHRISTMAS BREAK. The Parish Office will be closed from 23rd December 2024 and will resume on 6th January 2025.

FOOD BANK. As it is becoming traditional, Sevenoaks Foodbank is relying on St Thomas' Parishioners to provide Christmas Cakes for his clients. Cakes can be left in the Foodbank boxes.

REPOSITORY OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK:

Saturday 14th Dec: after 6pm mass; **Sunday 15th Dec:** after 6pm mass; **Tuesday 17th Dec:** before and after 9.30am mass; **Saturday 21st Dec:** after 6pm mass; **Sunday 22nd Dec:** after 9.15am mass. We stock cards, prayer and devotional books, rosaries and other gifts. You may contact Esther Ford at sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk for queries.

COFFEE MORNING. We are having mince pies and Christmas carols led by Kathleen Bouverie at our last coffee morning of the year, on Thursday Dec 19th at 10am in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

UKRAINIAN CANDLE APPEAL. Donated candles, unused or used, are melted down and reconstituted in tins to be sent to the troops to heat food during winter. Candles are still urgently needed. There is a box in each church.

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP. Thank you for your generosity in the sale of the olive wood religious articles, which raised £4,839. Your help is a great support for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

ENHANCED LISTENING SKILLS COURSE. We had excellent sessions led by Sue Buddin and here is a review from a participant: "I think most of us are aware, whether vaguely or otherwise, that if we want to know or help someone, we need to listen as well as speak. The course was all about the value of doing that and specifically, how to listen. We think we can listen sympathetically, but the sessions showed us how to be much more aware of others and our inherent assumptions and prejudices. It is very beneficial for those who work or volunteer in caring situations as well encounters in daily life." The course will be held again in the Summer. If interested, e-mail c.rodger@btinternet.com.

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH FERTILITYCARE will be this Monday Dec 16th at 8pm, in the Fisher Hall Corpus Christi Church (Tonbridge, TN9 1EY). The free talk introduces the faith-based approach to fertility and upholds the Church teachings in a practical way. Info and RSVP: www.bit.ly/FCtalk.

MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

SUNDAY 15th DECEMBER THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Wellbeing of John Smoker
8:00am (Latin) People of the Parish
9:15am Edward Reilly RIP
11:15am Deacon Neil on the 15th Anniversary of Ordination
6:00pm Good Health and conversion of Phillip R. J. Smith
9:30am *Oxford* Sister Eithne Donoghue
9:30am *Borough Green* Margaret Havard RIP
11:00am *West Kingsdown* The people of Kemsing

Monday 16th

8:00am Keith Mercer RIP

Tuesday 17th

9:30am God's guidance with purchase of property

Wednesday 18th

8:00am Peter David RIP
10:00am *Oxford* Bishop John Hine RIP

Thursday 19th

10:00am *Borough Green* Veronica Macmenamin RIP
12:00noon Mary Cronin RIP

Friday 20th

8:00am Aileen E. Edwards RIP (1st anniversary)
10:00am *West Kingsdown* Good health and well being of Steve Vallins

Saturday 21st

9:30am Michael Castelli RIP

SUNDAY 22nd DECEMBER FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

6:00pm (Sat) Beverley Russell RIP
8:00am (Latin) In thanksgiving
9:15am In thanksgiving - Mercado Family
11:15am People of the Parish
6:00pm Alfred Micallef RIP
9:30am *Oxford* Katherine Lester RIP (2nd anniversary)
9:30am *Borough Green* Jim Mitchell RIP
11:00am *West Kingsdown* Hilary Fernandez (90th birthday)

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, Maureen Beadle and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

Stanley Suwala, Kenneth Shore, Catherine Spice, Lucia Boreose, Margaret Welman, Anne O'Grady, Christopher Ashton, Canon Charles Tritschler, Joan Stanley, Elizabeth Dean, Stanley Waghorne, Dick Doherty, Patricia Player, John Vaughan, Piotr Oscilowski, Michael Self, David Joyce, Albinia Lunn, Geoffrey Gass, Julia Carey Stephen Hessey, John Grandi, Mary Walshe, Teresa Leigh, Joan Angibault, Percy Best, Josephine Harris, Simon Emmerson, Agnes Eccles, Katherine Lester

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

RECENTLY DIED

Jane Franklin

funeral on Tuesday 17th December (11:30pm) at St Thomas'

Josephine Bell

funeral on Wednesday 18th December (12:30pm) at Bluebell Crematorium

Norma Ann Dalton

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

May they rest in peace

LATIN ANTIPHONS

AD INTROITUM:

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

AD COMMUNIONEM:

Dicite: Pusillanimes, confortamini et nolite timere: ecce Deus noster veniet et salvabit nos.