

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



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



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING OF THE UNIVERSE

24th November 2024



Dear Friends,

This Sunday, as the Church celebrates the Solemnity of Christ the King, we are invited to contemplate the truth Jesus reveals in His conversation with Pilate. What is this truth that closes the Church's liturgical year? It is the truth that in Jesus, God fulfils His promise to David—an eternal kingdom ruled by a Son who is “the firstborn, highest of the kings of the earth” (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Psalm 89:27–38). The Second Reading from the Book of Revelation declares Jesus as “the faithful witness,” echoing Isaiah’s prophecy of a Messiah who would testify to God’s everlasting covenant with David (Isaiah 55:3–5). Yet, as Jesus tells Pilate, His kingdom is far more than a temporal monarchy. In calling Himself “the Alpha and the Omega,” Jesus identifies with the divine title found in the Old Testament: the first and the last, the Creator and Sustainer of all generations (Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12). The Psalm today celebrates His dominion over all creation: “He has made the world, and it shall not be moved” (Psalm 93:1–2). The vision of Daniel reveals Him coming on the clouds of heaven, a mark of divinity, to receive everlasting glory and kingship over all peoples.

Christ is King, and His kingdom is present in this world through the Church. We, as His people, share in His royal and priestly mission. Loved by Him, freed by His blood, and transformed into “a kingdom, priests for His God and Father” (Revelation 1:5–6), we are called to witness to His truth and listen to His voice as we await His return.

In the 2012 film *For Greater Glory*, I was deeply moved by the story of José Sánchez del Río, a young boy who lived out his faith with extraordinary courage during the Cristero War in Mexico. When faced with unspeakable persecution, José was asked to deny Christ. Yet, even as his life was threatened, he cried out with unshakable conviction, “¡Viva Cristo Rey!”—“Long live Christ the King!” Those words, shouted with pride and love, echoed through the hearts of everyone around him. This young boy’s faith and his willingness to give everything for Christ remind us that Jesus desires to be not just the King of the universe but the King of our hearts. José’s martyrdom speaks to the totality of commitment that our King deserves—a love so complete, so fierce, that even the face of death cannot extinguish it. Watching José’s story unfold made me reflect on my own life and the areas where I struggle to let Christ truly reign. His courage calls each of us to let Christ rule fully in our hearts, in every decision, in every moment of our lives.

Let José’s witness inspire us this Advent as we prepare our hearts for Jesus. May this season be one of transformation, where we allow Christ to take His rightful place as our King and guide.

With every blessing,

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 (piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk)
Assistant Priest: Fr John Eyike (johneyike@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 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: kate.travers521@hotmail.com

St Thomas's Repository

Esther Ford: sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk

Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

More Notices

REPOSITORY OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK:

Sunday 24th Nov: after 11.15am Mass

Thursday 28th Nov: 10.15 - 12noon during Coffee Morning

Saturday 30th Nov: after 6pm Mass

Sunday 1st Dec: after 6pm Mass

Advent calendars and Christmas cards are available, as well as other items, including copies of the new CTS New Sunday Missal, People's Ed. Any queries, please email Esther Ford at sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk. Thank you for your support.

BEREAVEMENT. There will be no Bereavement Support on the third Monday in December but if you would really like someone to listen to you, please contact the Parish Office and we will be happy to arrange a mutually convenient time. The next date will be on Monday, 20th January in the Parish Room from 10.30 to midday.

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. For details see the poster on the noticeboard, pick up an invitation leaflet at the back of church or email southwarkrenewal@gmail.com.

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.

UKRAINIAN CANDLE APPEAL. Last year we had a wonderful response to our request for candles for Ukraine. The candles, whether unused or used, were melted down and reconstituted in tins to be sent to the Ukrainian front-line troops to heat their food during winter. Candles are still urgently needed. Any contributions will be gratefully received. There will be a box in each church.

Advent – A Season of Joyful Preparation



Advent begins in two weeks, a sacred time of anticipation for Christ's coming. It invites us to reflect on His Second Coming and, from 17th December, prepare our hearts for the Nativity. As Blessed John Henry Newman said, "Advent is a time of waiting, a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but also a time of commitment."

This Advent, let us embrace opportunities to pause, pray, and reflect. We warmly invite you to our parish's special events:

⇒ **Taizé Prayer Evening** – Saturday, 7th December, at 7:15 pm.

⇒ **Rorate Candle Mass** – Wednesday, 18th December, at 7:30 pm (candlelit, honouring the Blessed Virgin Mary).

⇒ **Take time to prepare your heart through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.** Confessions are available every Saturday at 10:00–10:30 am and 5:15–5:50 pm.

Together, let us embrace this holy season, preparing to celebrate the joy and hope of Christmas with renewed faith and open hearts.

Parish and other NOTICES

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

ADVENT BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY. As we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ this Advent, why not make time for quiet prayer and reflection before the Lord in Eucharistic Adoration?

Here are the Adoration times across our churches:

St. Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks:

Mondays, 8:30–9:30am & Tuesday, 6:00–7:00pm

St. Bernadette's, West Kingsdown:

Wednesdays, 12:00–1:00pm

Most Holy Trinity, Otford

Thursdays, 7:30–8:30pm & Fridays 11:00am–12:00pm

We are also delighted to announce a new Adoration time at St. Joseph's, Borough Green which will start from 5th December on Thursdays 10:30–11:00am (following the 10:00 am Mass).

Let this Advent be a season of grace and renewal as we prepare to welcome the Christ Child. All are welcome!

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE will meet on Thursday 28th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Centre.

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.

AUTUMN QUIET DAY. You are invited to an Advent Quiet Day of Reflection on Saturday 30th November 2024 at The Barn, Poul 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.

ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA. Volunteers will be selling tickets for our Christmas hamper raffle after Mass for the next three weekends. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 13th December. We will be raffling some fantastic hampers, each with a different theme. Money raised by the PTA is greatly appreciated by our parish school and supports the children's learning experience.

ST THOMAS'S CHURCH PRE-CHRISTMAS CLEAN. Christmas is fast approaching and it would be wonderful to give our church a deep pre-Christmas Clean! Do you have just one hour to spare on Thursday 12th December 10:00 am to 11:00 am? No experience required just enthusiasm to present Our Lord's House at its best for this most holy feast. Just turn up on the day (side door opposite the Presbytery) and if you have any questions beforehand don't hesitate to contact James at jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com or call 07917032024.

THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP, a missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land, will visit us on the weekend 30th November - 1st December to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood to help and support the poor Christian families, any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated (when you help the poor you help our Lord).

SCAM EMAILS targeting parishioners are on the rise, with fraudsters impersonating parish priests, often requesting gift cards. Legitimate parish emails always come from addresses ending in @rcaos.org.uk. If you receive a suspicious email, do not respond. Report it as spam and contact the parish office to verify. Stay alert to protect our community!

MASS INTENTIONS

All masses are at St Thomas' CHURCH unless otherwise stated

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 Otford Father Colin Murphy RIP
 9:30am Borough Green Jayde Kerrigan
 11:00am West Kingsdown People of the Parish

Monday 25th

8:00am Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Tuesday 26th

9:30am Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Wednesday 27th

8:00am Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)
 10:00am Otford Walter RIP

Thursday 28th

10:00am Borough Green Walter RIP
 12:00noon Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Friday 29th

8:00am Rachel Alexander RIP
 10:00am West Kingsdown Zofia Konieczny RIP (greg.)

Saturday 30th

Feast of Saint Andrew, Apostle (Patron of Scotland)

9:30am Zofia Konieczny RIP (last greg.)

SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

6:00pm (Sat) People of the Parish
 8:00am (Latin) Lorna Currie RIP and comfort for the family
 9:15am Ursula McGloughlin
 11:15am Thomas Giblin RIP
 6:00pm Paddy Stack RIP and all the Stack family
 9:30am Otford John Harrington RIP
 9:30am Borough Green Recovery and wellbeing of Father Patrick Zammit
 11:00am West Kingsdown Hilary Fernandez - Happy 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 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.

RECENTLY DIED

Bernadette Frances Butterworth

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

Jane Franklin

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

Jo Bell

funeral on Wednesday 18th December (12.30pm) at Bluebell Crematorium

May they rest in peace

LATIN ANTIPHONS

AD INTROITUM:

Dignus est Agnus, qui occisus est, accipere virtutem et divinitatem et sapientiam et fortitudinem et honorem. Ipsi gloria et imperium in saecula saeculorum.

AD COMMUNIONEM:

Sedebit Dominus Rex in aeternum;
 Dominus benedicet populo suo in pace.