

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

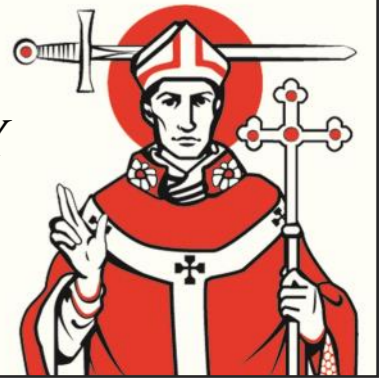
GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

22nd December 2024

Dear Friends,

This Fourth Sunday of Advent draws us close to the mystery and wonder of Bethlehem. After centuries of waiting, God's promise is about to be fulfilled. In a quiet corner of the world, Mary carries within her the long-awaited Saviour—our Emmanuel. Before He even takes His first breath, His presence is felt: John the Baptist stirs with joy in Elizabeth's womb, and Mary is honoured as "the mother of my Lord." In these simple, human encounters, we glimpse the greatness of the God who chooses to come to us in love and humility.

As we prepare for Christmas, let us keep our hearts open. In these final days before the Nativity, consider how Christ comes to each of us, not in grand displays, but in gentle whispers—in a quiet prayer, a kind word, a helping hand. He comes to lift us from our burdens and guide us into a deeper understanding of hope and mercy. As St Augustine once said: "God became man so that man might become God." In Jesus, heaven bends to earth, and we are invited to draw nearer to God's own life of compassion and goodness.

This Christmas, I encourage you to welcome Christ anew into your daily moments. May His birth bring you comfort where there is struggle, understanding where there is confusion, and tenderness where there is pain. Let His love become the guiding light in your homes, the promise of new beginnings for your families, and the strength that helps us care for one another, especially those in need.

**Dear Parishioners and Visitors over this Christmas period,
May the peace of the Holy Child fill your hearts this Christmas and carry you gently into the New Year. May His presence inspire you to love more openly, give more willingly, and trust more deeply in the goodness God offers us all.**

May you find true peace in His coming and share in the everlasting joy He brings.

Have a blessed, hope-filled, and joyful Christmas!

Fr Peter and Fr John



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 (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 (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.

HEALTH & SAFETY DURING THE CHURCH SERVICES



As we gather for our Christmas services and celebrations, we want to ensure that everyone remains safe and secure. Please take note of the following fire safety and emergency procedures, which apply to all our churches during this special season:

- ⇒ **Awareness of Exits:** On arrival, take a moment to familiarise yourself with the nearest exit routes. In the unlikely event of a fire or emergency, our church wardens, clear signposting and guidance will help direct you to safety.
- ⇒ **Emergency Evacuation Procedure:** In the event of a fire or if the lights should fail, please remain calm and follow the directions given by parish volunteers and staff. They are trained to assist in evacuation, to use torches, and to guide everyone to the exits. Do not attempt to re-enter the church until it is confirmed safe to do so.
- ⇒ **Use of Candles:** Only permitted candle types can be used, and wherever possible we will opt for battery-operated candles rather than open flames. If you are carrying a candle, please keep it upright and away from clothing, children, and decorations, following any instructions given by stewards or volunteers.
- ⇒ **Children's Safety:** At any time in church please supervise your children and do not let them wander around, especially near the votive candle stands, toilets, or emergency exits. Please remember that children under any circumstance are not allowed to light votive candles without an adult present right next to them. During nativity plays or carol services with children participating, there will be designated supervisors who will guide them. If an evacuation is necessary, please follow the stewards' instructions and remember that children will be led to the assembly point outside, where they can safely be reunited with their families.
- ⇒ **No Overloading of Electrical Equipment:** For everyone's safety, please do not tamper with any lighting or electrical cables. Overloading sockets or using damaged cables can cause overheating and spark a fire. Our team will ensure all lighting and sound equipment is used safely.
- ⇒ **Personal Belongings and Mobility Aids:** Keep aisles and exit routes clear of personal belongings, prams, or mobility aids. If you require additional assistance, please inform a steward upon arrival.

By cooperating with these guidelines, you help us ensure a joyful, prayerful, and safe environment for all. Thank you for your understanding and vigilance during our Christmas celebrations.



**We cannot all do great things.
But we can do small things with great love.**

St. Teresa of Calcutta

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve (Tuesday, 24th December)

5:00pm (Sevenoaks) - Family Mass with children's Nativity
7:30pm (Otford) - 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 (Otford) - 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 support.

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

CHRISTMAS CAKES FOR THE FOODBANK can be left in the boxes in Church porch. Thank you for your generosity.

ADORATION. There will be no Holy Hour at St Thomas' on 24th December and at Most Holy Trinity, Otford, on 26th and 27th December.

REPOSITORY OPENING TIMES THIS WEEK:

Do come and have a browse.

Saturday 21st Dec: after 6:00pm mass

Sunday 22nd Dec: after 9:15am mass

Saturday 28th Dec: after 6:00pm mass

Sunday 29th Dec: after 11:15am mass

Cards and copies of the new CTS Sunday Missal are on order. We also stock prayer and devotional books, rosaries, Holy water bottles and other gifts. Any queries, contact Esther Ford: sevenoaksrepository@rcaos.org.uk.

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

TRUTH SEEKERS will resume on Saturday 11th January 2025 at 7:00pm at St Thomas' Parish Centre. TRUTH SEEKERS is a program for teenagers who have completed their confirmation to reinforce the awareness and knowledge of Christ and to help them sustain lifelong love of God and His Church. The program aims to encourage learning, debate and discussion on fundamental Catholic faith matters, whilst establishing a safe and supportive community, where teenagers feel comfortable exploring their faith. The program is run in blocks on Saturdays evening, and ideally it is encouraged that participants also attend the 6:00pm mass at St Thomas'. A session runs for about an hour, starting with a light meal (typically pizza) followed by a video & discussion. We encourage all those who participated before as well as any other teenagers who have completed their confirmation to consider joining. For queries and to register your child, email the Parish office at sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk.

SECOND COLLECTION for the **Catholic Youth Service** was £ 532.11. Thank you for your support.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AT ST THOMAS' CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

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 Otford	Katherine Lester RIP (2 nd anniversary)
9:30am Borough Green	Jim Mitchell RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	Hilary Fernandez (90 th birthday)

Monday 23rd

8:00am	Father Edward Corbould OSB RIP
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Tuesday 24th

5:00pm	Holy Souls
8:00pm Otford	Mary & Matt Scott RIP
10:00pm Borough Green	Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP
11:00pm	Stanley Waghorne (62 nd anniversary) RIP

Wednesday 25th

8:00am (ENG)	People of the Parish
9:00am	Deceased members of Rodrigues and D'Souza families
11:15am	Lilian Spragg & her deceased family members
9:30am Otford	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP
9:30am Borough Green	Deceased members of Andradi-Brown family
11:00am West Kingsdown	Father Joe Andradi RIP

Thursday 26th

<i>No mass in Borough Green</i>	
12:00noon	Frank Haggarty RIP
	Lesbirel Lamerton Family

Friday 27th

8:00am	Lancy Rodrigues (anniversary)
	Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP

No mass in West Kingsdown

Saturday 28th

9:30am	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP
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SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

6:00pm (Sat)	People of the Parish
8:00am (Latin)	Lucy Balaam RIP
9:15am	Deceased members of Andradi Brown family
11:15am	Father Joe Andradi RIP
6:00pm	Timothy and Clea Andradi RIP
9:30am Otford	Joseph and Josephine Brown RIP (with baptism)
9:30am Borough Green	Hong Ling Chang Kit RIP
11:00am West Kingsdown	Good estate of Peggie Foley

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 DECEMBER

Anne Hardman, Winifred Chinnery, Kathleen Lambert, John Mullens, Katherine Lester, Desmond Cadley, Maggie Darcy, Derek Lewton-Brain, Joan Meredith, Honora Wingett, Marina Phillips, Helena Hassett, Nuala O'Loughlin, Ruth Stewart, Ethel Askew, Alice Stewart, Peter Baynes, Tim Bamford, Elizabeth Clark, Eric Doggett, Fr Freddie Broomfield, Edwin Still, Cedric Edwards, Sarah McGrath, Patrick Donoghue, Fiona Knight

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

LATIN ANTIPHONS

AD INTROITUM:
Rorate, caeli, desuper, et nubes pluant iustum; aperiatur terra et germinet Salvatorem.

AD COMMUNIONEM:
Ecce Virgo concipiet, et pariet filium; et vocabitur nomen eius Emmmanuel.

RECENTLY DIED

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

Frank Easterbrook funeral arrangements to be confirmed

May they rest in peace