

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:

Fr Vipin: **Monday**
Fr Piotr: **Tuesday**



Granville Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri.
8:30am - 12:15pm
Tuesday closed
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
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

1st September 2024



As September arrives, we find ourselves in a season of new beginnings. The children are returning to school, routines are being re-established, and the summer holidays are coming to an end—at least for most of us! In line with these new beginnings, our sacramental programmes are also restarting. The second part of our Confirmation preparation will soon resume, offering our young people the opportunity to deepen their understanding of the faith and to fully embrace the commitment they are about to make. Similarly, our First Communion programme will begin, as our youngest members take their first steps toward full participation in the Eucharist. For those exploring the faith through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), this is a time of profound learning and growth, leading to the possibility of joining the Church at Easter.

This week's readings invite us to consider the deeper meaning of our actions and the true purpose of the law that God has given us. The Gospel, in particular, challenges us to move beyond the mere external observance of rules and rituals, urging us instead to focus on the transformation of our hearts. Jesus, quoting the prophet Isaiah, reminds us that it is possible to follow the law outwardly while missing its true intent. The law, as given to Israel, was never meant to be a checklist of "dos" and "don'ts". Rather, it was designed to shape us into a people capable of living in God's presence, reflecting His wisdom and justice to the world. The readings from Deuteronomy and the Epistle of James echo this theme, calling us to be "doers" of the Word and not just hearers. Our faith should be active, manifesting in how we treat others and live out the truths we profess.

This Weekend is an opportune time to examine our own relationship with God's law. Are we simply going through the motions, or are we allowing the Word to take root in our hearts, guiding our actions and shaping our lives? Jesus' words in the Gospel challenge us to look inward, to ensure that our faith is not just about outward appearances, but about genuine transformation and commitment to living by God's truth.

Let us use this time of new beginnings to renew our commitment to living out the Gospel in our daily lives. May we be examples of God's love and wisdom to those around us, not just in what we say, but in how we live.

Wishing you all a blessed and reflective week ahead—whether you are returning from holiday or, like me, just about to start one!

Fr Peter

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

Website: www.sevrparish.org.uk **Tel:** 01732 454177

Parish Priest: Fr Piotr Kucharski piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Vipin James, vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr John Eyike, johneyike@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Deacon: Rev'd Neil Philipson neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Magdalena Wiacek sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Office hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am - 12:15pm, **Tuesday - closed**

Safeguarding Rep: Ken Baines sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

Adoration

Barry Authers: sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk

Altar Servers (St Thomas's)

Catherine Ingram: ingramfamily15@yahoo.com

Catenians

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony: aidan.omahony@btinternet.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass

Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:

Mark O'Prey: sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Oxford, 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 Hurlll chris.hurll@outlook.com

Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)

James McSharry: jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com

Church Flowers (St Thomas's)

Kate Travers: katetravers521@hotmail.com

Confirmation Programme

Gabrielle Ellis: sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk

Parish Finance Committee

Secretary: Mary Scott - 3maryscott@gmail.com

First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme

Catherine Tan: sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk

Gift Aid:

Sean Corrigan: sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk

Holy Trinity Committee

Secretary: Barry Authers - sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk

Lectio Divina

Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

Listening to you (Bereavement Support)

Third Monday, 10:30am in Parish Room

Ronnie Campbell, Sarah Harrison and Kate Travers

sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

Loaves and Fishes Foodbank

Isabelle Mercer: h.imercer@btopenworld.com

Mothers' Prayers

Mondays, 11:30am at Star House, Star Hill Road

01959 532505

Parent & Toddlers Group

Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00noon, Parish Centre

Mary Hunt 07890 229794

RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust)

MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)

Andrew Pembroke: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

Repository

Open after Mass on Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:15am

RCIA

For adults becoming Catholic:

Andrew Wilkinson: sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk

Retreats

Catherine Roger: c.rodger@btinternet.com

St Bernadette's Committee

Secretary: Jill Gobel - jill.gobel@btinternet.com

St Joseph's Committee

Secretary: John Foley - johnandmariefoley@gmail.com

The Pilgrims

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke 01732 450197

Scripture Fellowship

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson: andrewwilkos@gmail.com

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)

Can help financially, practically, and through visits to the

isolated or housebound. Contact Paul Boyle 07796564018 or

Kathie Gonzalez sevenoakssvp@gmail.com

Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)

Ann Vallins: annvallins@yahoo.com

Webmaster

Barry Authers: sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk

PARISH SECRETARY VACANCY

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks, Kent

We are looking for a new Parish Secretary starting towards end of September. This will be a part time role 9.00am-12.15pm Monday-Friday. The role is to provide comprehensive support to the Parish Priest and Clergy in all administrative matters within the Parish and will cover secretarial and office management work. Previous secretarial/administrative experience is essential. You will need to build strong working relationships across the Parish team and greeting all colleagues, clergy and visitors in a pleasant, compassionate and professional manner. You will be the first point of contact within the Parish office and therefore an integral member of the team. The successful candidate will have similar experience of working as a Secretary.

For more details please see our website: <https://www.sevrparish.org>

COMPETENCIES

- Confident use of Microsoft Office, including Publisher and Excel
- A general understanding of the workings of a Roman Catholic Parish, and the ability to quickly develop an in-depth knowledge of the systems, structures and practices employed in a Roman Catholic Parish, Deanery, Episcopal Area and Diocese
- Methodical and detailed approach to processing information and filing
- Ability to prioritise tasks and manage time effectively
- Excellent spoken and written English
- Good telephone manner
- Ability to understand and apply relevant GDPR procedures
- Ability to disseminate information quickly and effectively

PERSONAL QUALITIES

- Excellent interpersonal skills informed by public role working for the Church
- Good judgement, honesty, integrity, discretion, maintenance of confidentiality, discernment, sensitivity and good humour
- Willingness and flexibility to learn and adopt new skills
- Willingness and ability to generously help and work co-operatively with others
- Friendly and relaxed manner in dealing tactfully with all visitors and callers
- Treating everyone with respect and courtesy
- Clarity of expression and good communicator
- Willingness to take on and, where appropriate, delegate responsibilities

The Archdiocese of Southwark welcomes applications from those with a Catholic faith, those of other faiths, or none. What we require above all else is that you respect the values we share to help others and support decent and dignified work for all without prejudice. Please note that you will need to be eligible to work in the UK to apply for this position. You must provide proof of Right to Work in the UK. This post is also subject to DBS clearance. In return for your hard work and commitment to us, you will receive a competitive reward package which will include:

- Paid at £16 per hour
- The probationary period is 6 months.
- Company Pension plan with NEST
- Employee assistance programme— free, independent 24/7 help and advice for work-related issues as well as problems affecting home life

Please send a cover note indicating why you would be a suitable candidate and a CV to ben.andradi@gmail.com (Chair, Finance committee) by 15th September 2024

PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEK. Catholic Education Service (CES) acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on matters affecting all aspects of Catholic education, and it also provides financial assistance for school transport in total areas.

THE PILGRIMS GROUP TOUR TO MINSTER ABBEY & ST AUGUSTINE'S SHRINE AND CHURCH, RAMSGATE

A coach outing on Wednesday, 11th September 2024. The visit starts at Minster Abbey. Founded less than a 100 years after the arrival of St Augustine in 597AD to Christianise England, the Abbey is still home to 12 Catholic Benedictine nuns and in our short time there, we can enjoy the tranquility of their gardens and prayer-filled space. Refreshments and a simple lunch is available. We then continue to the Shrine and church of St Augustine. Designed by A.W.N Pugin as his personal church, it is an example of exquisite Gothic Revival by one of main architects of the Houses of Parliament. Price: £37pp excluding refreshments & lunch. More details are in a flyer. Please ask Felicia, nfe.17205@gmail.com, 07719 606 970 if your interest has been piqued.

RIDE AND STRIDE Saturday 14 September. Margaret Briggs is hoping to walk from Borough Green to East Malling, calling in at ten churches along the way. If you would like to sponsor her, please telephone her on 01732 885295. Half of the proceeds will come back to St Joseph's, the remaining amount going to Friends of Kent Churches to help maintain churches in the county. Thanks in advance for your support.

AUTUMN QUIET DAY

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on **Saturday 14th September 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 concerning the Eucharist and how they resonate for us today.

The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 21 years. **Please 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 EDITH DEVOTIONS - PILGRIMAGE TO KEMSING

We are looking forward to celebrating the memorial of our local saint, St Edith of Kemsing, at 3:30pm on 15th September at the Well in Kemsing. Please join St Thomas' walking group on the day.

The plan for the walk is as follows:

- We will meet at St Thomas' at 10:45, for an 11:00am start
 - Please bring a packed lunch - we will have time to take our lunch/have a cuppa at Holy Trinity Otford
 - Departure from Holy Trinity Otford will be 1:30pm
- Arrival at St Edith's Well in time for: Devotion at 3:30pm, Vespers at St Mary's Church at 4pm, and Afternoon Tea at The Bell at 5pm.

Some print outs of walking directions will be left in the Porch if you are interested; if you have any questions about the route or would like a copy of the walking directions, please let Gina know (gina.hartnett@hotmail.com). If you would like to join us from Holy Trinity Otford, the second half of the Pilgrimage will be suitable for younger children of the Parish.

MEN'S PARISH RETREAT: Aylesford 1st to 3rd Nov 2024

"To be a pilgrim" A weekend to explore the next steps on our path led by Chris Chapman. Christopher Chapman is an experienced spiritual director and retreat leader.

The cost for the retreat for full board, lodging and the retreat facilitator is £240. If you would like to attend please pick up a registration form from the back of your Church. The registration form and non refundable deposit of £20 made payable to 'RCAS Sevenoaks' must be returned to the Parish Office in an envelope marked PARISH RETREATS by the 16th September. Lift shares to Aylesford will be organised. Any queries please contact Catherine Rodger by email at c.rodger@btinternet.com or by ph:01732 458852

REPOSITORY AT ST THOMAS'

We are seeking a volunteer to manage the Church repository at St Thomas'. For more information or to sign up, please contact Fr Peter or Magda in the Parish Office. Magda is available from Monday to Friday (except Tuesdays), between 8:30am and 12:15pm.

2024/2025 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & FIRST RECONCILIATION PROGRAMME REGISTRATION

Registration for the next First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Programme is now open.

Our initial parents' meeting is on Friday 4th October at 7pm and the sessions will begin in November. A full list of programme dates are listed at the end of the registration form. All sessions will take place at St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Sevenoaks. <https://forms.office.com/e/wXt1HVKc1L>

FR PETER is away from 2nd to 14th September. Please see other Clergy for urgent enquirers.

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AT ST THOMAS'S CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am (Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

Monday 2nd

- 8:00am Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

Tuesday 3rd Saint Gregory the Great, Pope, Doctor

- 9:30am Holy Souls

Wednesday 4th

- 8:00am Stella Reilly RIP
- 10:00am Otford Helena Kendrick

Thursday 5th

- 10:00am Borough Green Donor's Intention
- 12:00noon Marilyn Reeve RIP

Friday 6th

- 8:00am Celia Costello (100th birthday)
- 10:00am West Kingsdown Donor's Intention

Saturday 7th

- 9:30am Fr Joe Andradi

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am (Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY (B)

- Debbie Seale (O'Keefe) RIP
- People of the Parish
- Pat Mathwick RIP
- Mullally Family
- Paul Edwards, Aileen & Victoria RIP
- Richard Knight RIP, Laura Knight RIP and Elizabeth Day RIP
- Wellbeing of Canon Luke Smith
- Helena Kendrick

- Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

- Holy Souls

- Stella Reilly RIP
- Helena Kendrick

- Donor's Intention
- Marilyn Reeve RIP

- Celia Costello (100th birthday)
- Donor's Intention

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY (B)

- Joseph Philip Ford RIP
- Holy Souls
- Peter John Cooper RIP
- John Essex RIP
- People of the Parish
- Clare Mackney RIP
- Helena Kendrick
- Donor's Intention

ST THOMAS' COFFEE MORNING - Can you help?

St Thomas is keen to set up a coffee morning for people in our church and local community. The aim is to provide a simple drop-in coffee/tea and biscuits every Thursday morning from 10.15 to 11.45 in our new church parish room. To run this successfully, we estimate we need a minimum of 20 male and female volunteers. This will mean people only have to help out once in every 5 or 6 weeks. Can YOU spare a couple hours to help in this fun, social venture for the parish?

If you are interested, or, if you have any questions, please contact one of us: Frances Smith: francesrsmith@hotmail.com / Catherine Rodger: c.rodger@btinternet.com / Fiona Newton: fionanewton321@btinternet.com

THE SICK

- 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 AUGUST

- Peter Boyle, Michael Dunphy, Doreen Barrett, Edward Marsland, Anne Monaghan, Harry Brabin, Pat Given, Jocelyn Loyd, Brian Hudson, Rachel Pilkington, Edward Pook, Tim Deadman, Leslie Dodd, Mrs Colton, Tadeusz Olszewski, Thomas Lowrie, Gwen Hardacker, Kenneth Bell, Paddy Heary, Cliff Biggs, Mary Molloy, Jonathan Jenkins, Eugenie Horgan

LATIN ANTIPHONS

Entrance:

Miserere mihi, Domine, quoniam ad te clamavi tota die: quia tu, Domine, suavis ac mitis es, et copiosus in misericordia omnibus invocantibus te.

Communion:

Quam magna multitudo dulcedinis tuae, Domine, quam abscondisti timentibus te.

Regular **MOTHER'S PRAYERS.** Please join us for Mothers' Prayers every Thursday from after the 12noon Mass in the Parish Room. It is a special time for mothers to unite in faith and offer prayers for their families and the broader community. All are welcome.