

NEWSLETTER

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693
 Monday, Wednesday and Friday 9am - 12pm
 Parish Office email: parish.office@sevrccparish.org.uk
 Website: www.sevrccparish.org.uk

PARISH PRIEST
 Fr. David Gibbons
 01732 454177
 frdavid@sevrccparish.org.uk
 ASSISTANT
 Fr. Gregory Ackron
 01732 454177

**Baptism**

Welcome to:

Emily Lucila
 OWEN-BREWER
 and
 Miles Thomas
 OWEN-BREWER

who were baptised last
 Saturday at St Thomas's

and

Estelle Therese Marie
 PARKIN
 who was baptised last
 Sunday at St Thomas's.

**Please remember the
 sick who have been
 commended to our
 prayers**

Hazel Pilorz,
 Ana Pilar Santos

Anniversaries

Mary Brasher, J.C. Galvin, Basil Davies, Sidney Goman, Daniel Hassett, Patrick McCarthy, Nora Mackie, James Kitson, Stanislaw Wach, Josephine Britton, John O'Leary, Thomas Salt, Cyril Gouldstone, Maria Glenister, Rosemary Creagh, Liberato Siuiglia, James Regan, Celia Kinnell, Patricia Rudden, David Cole, Simon Emmerson, Terence Lyons, Bob Kossowski, Eileen Bass, Ethel Whiddett, Oswald Brown, Dorothy Claydon, Marguerite Ogden.

Today's Mass: Second Sunday of Ordinary Time

First Reading: Isaiah is himself a prefiguring of Jesus Christ, as the servant of God who will restore the people of God (the "tribes of Jacob") and be the light of the nations.

Psalms: the earliest Christians understood this psalm as a prophecy about the coming of the Messiah, which foreshadows the self-offering of Jesus Christ.

Second Reading: this is the beginning of a sequence of *Second Readings* taken from St Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth. The greeting, used many times by St Paul, is the basis for the second form of the greeting said by the Priest at the beginning of Mass, *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ*.

Gospel: John the Baptist testifies to Jesus as the Lamb of God and as the Messiah, who has been anointed by the Spirit. The Invitation to Communion at Mass ("*Behold the Lamb of God ...*") directly quotes these words of the Baptist. These are familiar words and images, but one could spend a long time pondering their meaning.

Today is a day of prayer for Peace on Earth.

Fr David

Peace Sunday Today is a day of prayer for Peace on Earth. Pax Christi is the Catholic Movement for Peace, in England & Wales. Rooted in Catholic Christianity they work with all who share our values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. You can make a donation to Pax Christi by using the envelopes available with the newsletters. Hand the envelope in, our counters will count the money, and we will send one cheque to Pax Christi. If you Gift Aid your offerings, write your number on the envelope.

Christian Unity Service, Today 3:30pm The annual Unity Service for Sevenoaks this year is at St Thomas's. The theme is '*Crossing Barriers: Reconciliation – the love of Christ compels us*'. It will last about an hour, and be followed by tea. Please make a special effort to come and welcome our guests and to pray for Christian Unity.

Church Unity Octave From Wednesday (18th) to Wednesday 25th is the Octave of prayer for Christian Unity, when we observe eight days' prayer for unity. Tomorrow (Monday) there will be Unity Prayers in St Thomas's from 8:00 – 9:00pm.

RCIA - Monday 8pm Thank you to those who attended last Monday's introductory Meeting. The course is designed for adults who wish to be Baptised in the Catholic Church or (if already Baptised) Received into full communion with the Catholic Church. **If you are interested in becoming a Catholic please come along to the meeting. If you know somebody who is interested in becoming a Catholic please pass on a personal invitation to them to attend.** Please contact Fr David or Andrew La Trobe (andrew.latrobe@gmail.com; 07775 738485) if you have any questions.

St Thomas' School Year 3 will attend the 9:15am Mass on Tuesday.

First Confession/Holy Communion course Parents are reminded of the children's session on Thursday, 4:00 – 5:00pm in church.

Diocesan Catechetical Certificate A number of parishioners wanting to sign up for this were unable to attend the initial session. The day is being run again on Saturday 4th February. If you would like to join them please see <https://www.ccftootingbec.org.uk/centre-for-catholic-formation/catechesis> for further details, and let Ingrid know in the Parish Office.

Holy Trinity, Otford

Next Sunday (22nd) there will be a short meeting after the 9:30am Mass for the Holy Trinity congregation with Fr David, to discuss the possibility of tea/coffee after Mass and catechesis for the children. All those who attend Sunday Mass there are asked to attend.

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS - NEWSLETTER

Volunteers wanted

Please read the following carefully, and see whether YOU could volunteer to help the parish in one of the following ways. Remember, Fr David may be the person given responsibility for oversight of the parish, but it is your parish. We rely on lay members playing a full part in the good running of the parish, to further its mission of praising God and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ.

1. Parish Finance Committee

Church law requires there to be a Finance Committee in every parish, to assist the Parish Priest. Canon 537 of the Code of Canon Law says: *"in each parish there is to be a finance council which is governed, in addition to universal law, by norms issued by the diocesan bishop and in which the Christian faithful, selected according to these same norms, are to assist the pastor in the administration of the goods of the parish"*. I therefore propose to create such a Finance Committee.

Members must be active parishioners in good standing. If you have previously served on such a committee, or have any of the following skills, please email or phone me directly by the end of the month:

- knowledge of banking (accounts etc)
- accountancy
- financial management or utilities brokering
- fundraising or Gift Aid
- professional IT systems
- project management or building maintenance
- charity or finance law.

It is planned to hold meetings about six times a year, and the Committee needs to represent all four churches in the parish. The diocesan guidelines can be found in *Parish Financial Administration for Parish Priests*, which can be viewed at www.rcsouthwark.co.uk/finance.html.

Fr David

2. Parish collection counters

Diocesan procedures require at least two counters to check and bag the Sunday collection each time, and that there should be a rota of counters. Having a rota protects the parish from individuals pilfering money and also protects the counters from false allegations of theft.

Accordingly we need to establish four teams – of two or three people each – to come to the Presbytery on a Monday once a month, to count the collections and prepare them for banking. This would suit those who are retired and looking for something to do, and who can count!

Please contact Fr David if you can volunteer in this way.

3. Sacristans at St Thomas's

Sacristans are those who prepare for Mass (by putting out the correct number of chalices, for example) and clear away afterwards. Although often the priests do this, because we rely on visiting priests and because our priests may be busy with other duties we need lay people to take responsibility for this.

We require

1. one or more Co-ordinating Sacristans, to supervise rotas, to maintain the Sacristy, and to liaise with the Parish Secretary in ordering sacristy supplies;
2. volunteers to be the regular duty sacristan(s) at the 9:15am Mass on Sundays and Saturday 6:00pm Mass.

Training will be given.

Please contact Fr David or Ingrid in the Parish Office for more information or to offer your help. Thank you.

Loaves and Fishes Food Bank - This weekend

We are collecting non-perishable foods and toiletries only, please. No baked beans, soups, pasta or tea this time please. Queries: 07487 652846. Thank you.

SVP. Collection 28/29th January -

Support for Refugees in and around Dunkirk

There will be a collection in the parish the weekend of 28/29th January of clothes to support "Seeking Sanctuary" which is organising basic human assistance for refugees through faith communities. Around 1,000 refugees remain in the camp near Dunkirk, more are hidden in the countryside nearby and there are scores of new arrivals weekly.

The recipients of assistance are mainly young men so please bring in any of the following items and place them in the SVP basket in the porch at St Thomas': new men's socks, men's toiletries, men's warm waterproof coats and hoodies (size medium and small), T shirts and sleeping bags. All in very good condition please. Thank you.

Apprenticeship in Discipleship: From Programme to Proclamation - Saturday 20th January at Ealing Abbey

A course focused on kick-starting parish Evangelisation teams based on Sherry Weddell's book *Forming Intentional Disciples* led by Fr Jon Bielawski, Episcopal Vicar for Evangelisation and Michele Thompson, Fieldworker for Evangelisation for the Diocese of Plymouth. Please see This Week's noticeboard for further details and contact Ingrid in the Parish Office if you are interested in attending.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

This year's service will take place on Sunday 22 January at the Methodist's Church, High Street, Otford at 6.30pm. All

FOR YOUR DIARY:

MOTHERS' PRAYERS: Mondays, 11.00am at Star House, Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532505

RCIA: Monday 16th January, 8pm upstairs room of Parish Centre.

PARENTS & TODDLERS: Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre (Contacts: Emma McGovern 07786 219742, Lourdes Marinetto-Travers 07900 591527)

SEVENOAKS CATENIAN CIRCLE: The Catenians are a social club for Catholic men and we welcome visitors to our meetings at Sevenoaks Bowls Centre, Hollybush. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm followed by dinner at 8.30pm. For further information, pls contact aidan.omahony@btinternet.com or 07834 259 229

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Children's session Thursday 19th January, 4-5pm St Thomas's.

BOROUGH GREEN UCM : First Thursday of each month, 7.30pm, St. Joseph's Borough Green

WEST KINGSDOWN UCM: Third Thursday of each month, 7.30pm at St Bernadette's West Kingsdown

YOUNG DISCIPLES: Informal catechesis school years 4-6, Sundays after 9.15am Mass, Big Angels' Room upstairs. Term time only. Contact: youngdisciples@sevrparish.org.uk

Offerings

Standing Orders in December: £3,298.67.

Thank you