

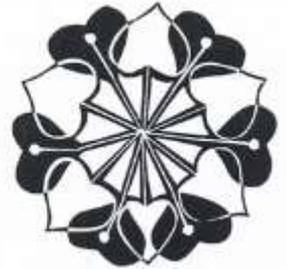
## NEWSLETTER

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

PARISH PRIEST  
 Fr. David Gibbons  
 frdavid@  
 sevrparish.org.uk

ASSISTANTS  
 Fr. Gregory Ackron  
 Fr. Paul Okora

01732 454177



**Today's Mass: Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**First Reading:** we have free will, but God does not want us to sin. We can choose to keep the commandments faithfully. If we regularly committing a sin, we cannot argue that we are stuck in the situation and are unable to stop.

**Psalm:** following God's law is the only thing which can bring happiness, but to do that requires God's help.

**Second Reading:** Paul is here cleverly using the Corinthian's own philosophical vocabulary against them: they are claiming to be 'spiritual' but in fact are not. The true wisdom of the Spirit is quite beyond ordinary human knowledge and language.

The sayings in today's **Gospel** are only found in Matthew, although Jesus' claim to be fulfilling the law and the prophets rather than abolishing them and His criticism of the scribes and Pharisees are common enough.

The first point is that we cannot reject the Old Testament: it is part of our salvation history, and Christ does not make sense without it. So the Ten Commandments for example are still in force; we cannot replace them with a vague, hippy-style appeal to love.

Secondly, Jesus has some hard things to say about anger, lust, divorce, and oaths. There will few of us who can measure our own lives against these commandments and not be provoked to go to Confession, to acknowledge our shortfalls!

*Fr David*

**Diocesan Second Collection for Racial Justice**

The second collection today is taken to support the work of the Catholic Church in promoting racial justice in our schools, parishes, and in wider society.

**Half-term**

It being half-term Ingrid will only be in the Parish Office on Friday this week. If you call in or telephone it will be pot luck whether or not a priest is in to answer you.

Young Disciples does not meet during the half-term. Next meeting 26th Feb after 9.15am Mass.

**For your prayers**

Please pray on Tuesday - the Feast of SS Cyril & Methodius, Patrons of Europe – for Europe and for wise decisions concerning Brexit. Please also pray on Tuesday for our Auxiliary Bishops, Rt Rev'd Patrick Lynch, ss.cc, and Paul Hendricks, on the date of their Episcopal Ordination in 2006.

**Fr Gregory**

We can announce that Fr Gregory will finally be leaving us this week. Because of the illness of the present Parish Priest at Hayes Fr Gregory is still not able to move there. Instead he will be moving to be Priest in Charge at S Agatha's, Kingston upon Thames, where there is an interregnum between the previous Parish Priest retiring and the new one being able to start. As soon as there is an available Sunday slot we shall have a second collection for Fr Gregory and invite him back to receive it and to express our thanks for his apostolate over 6 years in Sevenoaks.

**Safeguarding**

Please see important notice overleaf.

**DEPARTED**

Please pray for the  
 repose of the soul of

**Hilary McNabb**

who died recently.

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

Thomas Healy, Maureen  
 Way, Hazel Pilorz,  
 Rosemary Remnant, Ana  
 Pilar Santos, Peggy  
 Spiers

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Mary Barrett, Annie  
 Curtis, Martin Wood,  
 James Lunn, Julia Brooks,  
 William Pragnell, Agnes  
 Duncan, Betty Crawley,  
 Sheila Nettleingham,  
 Charles Hatfield,  
 Reginald Palmer, John &  
 Donald McCarthy, James  
 Daly, Caroline Doran,  
 James Ratchford, Frank  
 Conroy, Elenor  
 Middleton, Joan  
 Edbrooke, Patricia  
 Crosland, Albert Barnes,  
 Nora Kelleher, Patricia  
 Nash, Emily Thorpe,  
 Mary Connolly, Baby  
 Christopher Glanville

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS - NEWSLETTER

### **Safeguarding**

We need to have the safety of our parish children at the centre of what we do at church. And we need to demonstrate to the wider world that we are following safe procedures.

Therefore, **could all those who are involved with Children's Liturgy of the Word, either as leaders or regular assistants, at St Thomas's or Holy Trinity**, please complete and return the Catechist Registration Form and the Volunteer Application form if you have not yet done so. There are several outstanding who are on the rota as leaders.

This is now a matter of urgency, as the Children's Liturgy cannot lawfully continue unless the adults receive DBS Clearance. Please return to Isabelle Parsons at the parish office. If you have not got a form yet, please email Isabelle requesting one: [safeguarding@sevrparish.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@sevrparish.org.uk).

Thank you. *Isabelle Parsons*

### **Pastoral Meeting, Holy Trinity, Otford**

There will be a meeting following 10am Mass on Wednesday 15th February.

### **Women's World Day of Prayer, Otford - All welcome**

This year's meeting will take place on Friday 3rd March at 2pm at St Bartholomew's Church Centre, The Green, Otford. If you are able to be a reader, please let Anne Knight know on 01959 524488 or add your name and telephone number to the list in the porch. Thank you.

### **Can you help with the Repository - 6pm Mass on Sunday?**

We are fortunate at St Thomas's to have a Repository. We are looking for a parishioner who would be willing to man the Repository after the 6:00pm Mass on Sunday evening. The Ministry is a simple one: someone who would be willing to stay for a little time after Mass to open the Repository, and help any parishioner wishing to purchase a devotional item.

If anyone is able to help please contact Christine Landon on 01732 465346 or [christinedlandon@gmail.com](mailto:christinedlandon@gmail.com). Thank you.

### **Please see the noticeboards -**

- Thank you letter - Crib offering
- Forthcoming Catenian Social Events
- KS1/KS2 Teacher required – Bishop Challoner School
- Divine Mercy Retreat - 18 Feb, Tottenham, London
- 'How can we welcome the refugee' - 24 Feb, St Luke's

### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

The SVP is an international Catholic Society active in 150 countries. Befriending people in need is at the heart of what we do through person-to-person contact. We aim to tackle poverty in all its forms, not only through financial aid but particularly through visiting the lonely, the sick, the house-bound, the addicted or the imprisoned.

We have a small but active group in the parish and if anyone is in need of any kind, or if you would like to join us, please contact: Kathie at [ugonzalez@btinternet.com](mailto:ugonzalez@btinternet.com)

### **Pilgrims' Teas (previously Seniors' Teas) - can you help?**

Since the Mission at St Thomas's a few years ago a small group have tried to reach out to retired and older parishioners and bring them together for a variety of activities. These include quarterly teas with musical interludes, occasional lunches, visits, special Masses and recently a very successful Parish Pilgrimage which drew in more active older parishioners.

Can you help to keep this important work going by

- offering lifts so parishioners can attend an event,
- helping to set up and then clear away after an event,
- playing a musical instrument at our afternoon teas, or
- joining the small team of bakers contributing to our teas?

Ideas and suggestions for further activities are also welcome.

Please contact either

Jackie: 01732 450197 [ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com](mailto:ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com)

Pat: 01732 453902 [bobandpat.harman@gmail.com](mailto:bobandpat.harman@gmail.com)

### **'A lifetime of loving'**

#### **Saturday 4th March 2017 at St Teresa's, Ashford**

Happy St Valentine's day! Dear husband and wife! You can give each other a wonderful Valentine's gift by spending a day exploring your relationship more deeply to gain valuable insights into your communication and the call of the Church to the married. Couples who have attended the course noted the positive changes it made to their marriage. Please note there is no group sharing and this is not marriage counselling or guidance but a chance to make your marriage even better.

Contact: Carole on 07983 524727 or [mflkent@gmail.com](mailto:mflkent@gmail.com).

Or, application forms available from the Parish Office.

### **Loaves & Fishes Food Bank**

Thank you for your donations last month. The next collection is on March 11/12th. Queries: 07487 652846.

### **FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Next meeting: 26th February: Informal catechesis school years 4-6, Sundays after 9.15am Mass, Big Angels' Room upstairs. Term time only. Contact: [youngdisciples@sevrparish.org.uk](mailto:youngdisciples@sevrparish.org.uk)

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

**RCIA:** Next meeting is on Monday 20th February, 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 [dan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:dan.omahony@btinternet.com) or 07834 259 229

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Next Children's session Thursday 23rd Feb, 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

### **Offertory**

St Thomas's	1,191.06
Otford	252.58
B Green	194.30
W Kingsdown*	251.99
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,889.93</b>

\*Two weeks.

These figures do not include offerings made by Standing Order. These will be reported once a month.

Thank you for your generosity.