

NEWSLETTER

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday 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
 ASSISTANT
 Fr. Paul Okora
 01732 454177

Today's Mass: Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is part of what is known as the Holiness Code in *Leviticus*. At God's command, Moses gives some practical implications of what it means to be holy.

The **Psalms** is a song of praise to God, who is perfectly holy, forgiving, compassionate and loving.

Second Reading: St Paul underlines the countercultural character of Christianity: Godly wisdom seems foolish to the world, and vice versa.

Gospel: Jesus continues on from last Sunday's Gospel, this week with hard sayings about non-violent resistance and love of enemies. If this all seems a bit impossible, Jesus' last command seems totally impossible: "*you therefore must be perfect*". If we remember that we are made in God's image, then although we know we will fail we can at least strive to be perfect like God.

Fr David

Tuesday

Year 6 of St Thomas' School will attend the 9:15am Mass. Parents and other family members are especially welcome to attend this Mass.

First Holy Communion Course

Parents are reminded of the important meeting for them on Tuesday at 8:00pm in St Thomas's church, about their child's First Penance.

Next Sunday

there will be a diocesan second collection, to support Poor Parishes. This enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

Parish Finance Committee

As required by Canon Law a Parish Finance Committee has been established, and it met for the first time last week. The members are Bill Farren (Chair), Terry d'Avrincourt (Minutes Secretary), John Everingham, Gina Hartnett, Frank Quinn, Ben Andradi, Frances Sylvester, Warren O'Leary, and Mary Scott. Fr David and Fr Paul attend all meetings, in compliance with diocesan guidelines.

The Finance Committee plans to meet six times a year, every other month. If you wish to contact the Committee, you can email Terry, the Secretary: her email is tdavrinc@hotmail.com.

As well as electing its Chair and Secretary, amongst other things the Committee discussed
 future plans for IT upgrades, works to the Presbytery, inspections of our buildings, and proper budgeting;
 the draft 2016 Financial Returns;
 the latest situation at St Joseph's, Borough Green;
 reviewing our Utilities contracts.

Offertory counters

Following our recent appeal, we have established three teams of counters: John & Janet Frith, Chris Bell, Peter Marchal, Mary Ringham, and Andy Hicks. We thank them for volunteering.

However, the Finance Committee would prefer to have four teams, to cater for holidays, illnesses, etc, so we need two more volunteers. Are you free on a Monday morning and can count? Please contact Fr David if you can help.

By the way, the weekly Offertory figure given in this *Newsletter* doesn't include Standing Orders, which usually equate to around £500 per week. We do give the exact monthly Standing Order figure as soon as it is available.



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

Constance Dumaresq,
 Norman Woodhead,
 Daisy Mooney, Jean
 Carolin, James Doherty,
 Lynn Rayner, Joseph
 Connor, John Stewart,
 James Grigg, Auriol
 Wheating, Joseph
 McAdam, Patricia Hills,
 John Gordon, Edmund
 Eccles, Teresa Pragnell,
 Geoffrey Hickey,
 Florence Roberts, Mon-
 ica Knox, Mrs C Edwards,
 Mr J Walsh, Mary
 O'Driscoll

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@sevrcparish.org.uk.

Thank you. *Isabelle Parsons*

Parish 0-6's Parenting Programme - are you interested?

St. Thomas's Parish has previously run parenting courses to help any parent struggling with any issues regarding their children, in a small, informal group environment. We would like to see if there is any interest in our "0-6's Parenting Programme", aimed at parents with younger children, in the coming months.

- **When:** usually run over 6 or 7 weeks, for two hours on a weekday morning,
- **Where:** at St. Thomas' Church in Sevenoaks,
- **How:** by trained facilitators who are parents themselves.

A creche for babies and toddlers may be available if we can staff this through volunteers.

Please let us know if this is something that might interest you or your friends by contacting Ann O'Sullivan (07826 527568 or email annosullivan7oaks@gmail.com).

Please see the noticeboards -

- Fr Gregory's new address
- Marriage course - 'A lifetime of loving'
- Forthcoming Catenian Social Events
- Women's World Day of Prayer
- Catholic Singles Evening for the over 50s
- Information on Pilgrimages to Medjugorje, Lourdes, Holy Land, Fatima & Knock Shrine, Ireland
- Catholic Medical Association - Lenten evening

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.

Our next meeting is this Monday, 20th February, in the Marjorie Hennessy Room at 7.30pm.

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.jbpbembroke@gmail.com

Pat: 01732 453902 bobandpat.harman@gmail.com

'How can we welcome the refugee?'

St Luke's Church, Eardley Rd, Sevenoaks on Friday 24th Feb, 7.30pm (light supper) for 8pm start. More information at www.stlukes-evenoaks.org.uk & on noticeboard.

Women's World Day of Prayer - All welcome

'Am I being unfair to you' - praying for the PHILIPPINES

- **Sevenoaks**

Friday 3rd March, 11.15am St Luke's, Eardley Rd, Sevenoaks. All are welcome, Children's area provided and substantial refreshments. Queries to Lesley Hardaker 01732 454499

- **Otford**

Friday 3rd March, 2pm 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.

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@sevrcparish.org.uk

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

SVP: Monday 20th February, Marjorie Hennessy Room, 7.30pm

RCIA: 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 or 07834 259 229

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Parents' Session: 21 February, St Thomas Church, 8-9.30pm
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	650.93
Otford	160.76
B Green	176.76
W Kingsdown	
TOTAL	£988.45

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

Racial Justice £154.14

Thank you for your generosity.