

## NEWSLETTER

**PARISH OFFICE:** Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693  
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12pm  
 Parish Office email: parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk  
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PARISH PRIEST  
 Fr. David Gibbons  
 frdavid@  
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 ASSISTANT  
 Fr. Paul Okora  
 01732 454177

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

**First Reading:** even if God's people ("Zion") feel abandoned by God, in fact God will never forget us.

The **Psalm** is a song of confidence and trust in God. Perhaps when our faith is weak or we are beset by trials, this would be a good psalm to recite.

**Second Reading:** in a reversal of our trust in God highlighted in the other *Readings*, St Paul says that God shows trust in us. He has made us stewards of his mysteries; will we be found worthy or wanting of this trust?

After some very difficult and demanding words in previous weeks, and a warning about money, Our Lord in today's **Gospel** tells us not to worry but to trust in God. These words are among the most powerful and popular in all of scripture. It is demanding being a disciple of Christ, but God generously gives good gifts to his children, so we should not fret ourselves.

Today is a day of special prayer for the **Unemployed**; please pray for them and for agencies which seek to help them.

The second collection today is a diocesan collection for **Poor Parishes**. This collection enables the Archbishop to make grants to some of the smaller parishes in the Diocese.

*Fr David*

**Lent**

Lent begins on Wednesday, which is **Ash Wednesday**. The *Readings* focus on almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. In the **Psalm** we recognise that we are sinners, in need of God's mercy.

Ash Wednesday is a day of **fasting and abstinence** for those aged 14 to 59 (but those outside this age range can still observe this rule). Fasting means cutting out one meal a day. Abstinence means abstaining from eating meat. Although alcohol does not break the fast or abstinence its consumption would seem to be contrary to the spirit of penance.

Mass with the imposition of ashes on Wednesday:

St Thomas's 8:00am, 12:00noon, 1:45pm (attended by St Thomas' School), 8:00pm

Holy Trinity, Otford 10:00am

St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown 11:00am

Lent is the season in which catechumens prepare for their Baptism. In Lent the rest of us prepare for the celebration of Easter, by almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. During Lent, the vestments are violet or purple, the *Gloria* is not recited except on Feasts and Solemnities, and the *Alleluia* is never sung. There are no flowers in church, and use of the organ is only allowed to support singing.

Please take a **Lent 2017** leaflet, and plan your prayer, almsgiving, fasting and Lenten discipline NOW. Just as a mountain needs a valley so we can appreciate it, so the meaning of Easter is muted if we do not fully observe Lent.

**Hilary McNabb RIP**

The Funeral Mass of Hilary McNabb is on Thursday (2<sup>nd</sup>) at 2:30pm at Holy Trinity, Otford followed by Interment in Otford Cemetery.

**Marina Phillips RIP**

A Mass of Requiem for Marina Phillips will take place at 10:30am in St Thomas's on Saturday (4<sup>th</sup>).

**BAPTISM**

Welcome to:

**George Patrick  
BAKER**

**Joseph James  
HINCHEY**

**Lokie David  
ROBERTS**

**Patrick Jacob  
WEBB**

who were baptised last weekend at St Thomas's

**DEPARTED**

Please pray for the repose of the souls of

**Marina Phillips &  
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**

Johanna Kenward, Leslie Stuart, Richard Curtis, Madeleine Raison, Julie Pert, Kathleen Gaunt, Peter Gray, Anne Villemus, Mary Colton, John Winzinger, Patrick Connolly, Harold Batty, Michael Molloy, Eldon Wright, Arthur Knowles, Frances Brooks, Evie Bell, Michael Neville, Amy Wilkins, Mary Porteous, Carmela Galuszka

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

### **Easter precept**

The Church teaches (Canon 920) that *“each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year”*, and that this precept *“must be fulfilled during the Easter season”*. In England & Wales the period for this Easter Communion runs from Ash Wednesday to Trinity Sunday. Note that it applies only to those who have made their first Holy Communion and who *may* receive Holy Communion under the church’s rules.

### **Friday Penance**

The Archbishop wishes to remind us that every Friday (as the day of Our Lord’s suffering and death) is a special day of penitence. The Bishops of England & Wales have decided that for us this penance means abstaining from meat (or some other luxury if you are a vegetarian) and by an act of prayer on a Friday. They wish the faithful to be *“united in a common, identifiable act of Friday penance”*.

### **Fr David’s party - Thank you**

Photographs are now on the Parish website. On behalf of Fr David, many thanks to those who were able to attend at such short notice. Thank you too for Fr David’s wonderful birthday cakes, they were much appreciated by all. Most went home with a container of delicious Jellof Rice, donated by the Camberwell parishioners who attended. Fr PAUL

### **Loaves and Fishes Food Bank**

The next collection is 11/12 March. Non-Perishable foods and toiletries only please. No baked beans, pasta, soup or tea this time please. Extended list of items in St Thomas’s porch. Thank you. Enquiries: 07487 652846

### **Reform: Learning from Luther after 500 years**

A day run by the Southwark Archdiocese’s Christian Unity Commission on Saturday 8th April, 10:30 - 3pm at the Amigo Hall, St George’s Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Rd, SE17HY. Anyone with a heart for Christian Unity welcome. Please see poster in porch or email [gwen@chiosso.com](mailto:gwen@chiosso.com) for further information.

### **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
- Proposed Parish 0-6 Parenting Programme
- Retreat on Art and Inspiration of Sieger Koder

### **The Celtic Collection, a CD by Margaret Rizza**

A new CD 'The Celtic Collection' has just been released by the Royal School of Church Music. It is a collection of 18 very beautiful Celtic Prayers set to music by Margaret Rizza. The retail price is £10. However, our parishioners are able to purchase these from the Repository for £8 each. £3 from each sale will go to support the work of CAFOD.

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

*Pat and Jackie have had little response to their appeal. This is not a regular commitment, and a ministry, please do contact them if you have anything to offer.*

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)

### **North West Fellowship Lent Lunches: can you help?**

You’re warmly invited to attend Lent lunches taking place throughout Lent (details in Lent Leaflet). Services begin at 12.30, followed at 13.00 by a light lunch. All donations go to this year’s chosen charity, Friends Of The Holy Land.

*St Thomas’s hosts on Wednesday 22 March* and we would greatly appreciate any offers of help with setting up tables, making sandwiches, cakes etc. and washing up afterwards. If you’d consider reading or acting as a welcomer we’d also like to hear from you please.

Please contact

Aidan Kiely: 07960751324, [aidan.kiely@cantab.net](mailto:aidan.kiely@cantab.net)

Or Sarah Gough: 01732463714, [sarah@goughs.eu](mailto:sarah@goughs.eu)



### **Offertory**

St Thomas’s	2,074.54
Otford	157.43
B Green	118.00
W Kingsdown*	285.61

TOTAL £2635.58

\*2 weeks

These figures do not include offerings made by Standing Order.

### **Racial Justice -**

West Kingsdown 34.00

Thank you for your generosity.

### **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](mailto:youngdisciples@sevrcparish.org.uk)

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

**RCIA:** Monday 27th 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 [ai: dan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:dan.omahony@btinternet.com) or 07834 259 229

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Next Children’s session Thursday 2nd March, 4-5pm St Thomas’s.

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