

NEWSLETTER

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

01732 454177

Today's Mass: First Sunday of Lent

The **Gospel** on the First Sunday of Lent is always the story of Jesus fasting in the desert for 40 days and being tempted by the devil. In this Year of Matthew (Year A) we hear St Matthew's account. The first temptation – to turn stones into bread – is tempting Jesus to rely on His own power rather than trusting in God to provide. The second temptation is to put God to the test. The third temptation is to idolatry.

As we begin our 40 days of penitence and preparation for Easter, are we tempted to rely on ourselves rather than God? Are we tempted to complain if God doesn't arrange things as we would like? Are we tempted not to worship and serve God as fully as we ought?

The **First Reading** gives the story in *Genesis* of the origin of our sin and selfishness. If we are being honest, do we not accept that although we try to be good we sometimes give in to temptation? Our disobedience to God results in a break with our intimate relationship with him. We acknowledge our sin in the well-known words of the **Psalms** (Psalm 50).

In the **Second Reading** St Paul reminds us that the result of our sin is the ultimate rupture of our relationship with God - death – and tells us that this situation has been undone by Christ's obedience, by His lack of sin.

Fr David

CAFOD Family Fast Day

There will be a speaker at Mass today, to inform us of the work done by CAFOD and to remind us of the Family Fast Day on Friday. This is your chance this Lent to give generously to those of our brothers and sisters in the poorer parts of the world and so help them achieve a dignified way of life. With your help and prayers CAFOD can give them instruction and provide simple tools, seeds and farm animals so that they can feed their families all the year round. Fast on Friday, bring the money you save to Mass next Sunday, and put it in the Second Collection; we will send it on to CAFOD.

Young Disciples - now also for School Years 7 - 9

All young people in school years 4 - 6 and 7 - 9 are invited to join this group, which meets after the 9:15am Mass in the Big Angels' Room upstairs.

Stations of the Cross

At Holy Trinity, Otford on Thursday, at 7:30pm.
 At St Bernadette's, West Kingsdown on Friday, at 7:30pm.
 At St Thomas's on Friday, at 8:00pm.

First Penance

The children on this year's course, along with their parents, will be making their Confessions on Saturday, in St Thomas's, 10:00am and 11.15am onwards. There will be three visiting priests in addition to Frs David and Paul.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Confessions will be heard on Saturday in St Thomas's, from 5:15 – 5:45pm.

Adult Confirmation - Parish Preparation Course

"Every baptized person not yet confirmed can and should receive the sacrament of Confirmation for without Confirmation and Eucharist, Baptism is certainly valid and efficacious, but Christian initiation remains incomplete" (Catechism of the Catholic Church §1306).

Confirmation is, according to the law of the Church, required to be Married in Church, to act as a Baptism godparent, and so on. Any adults who have not been Confirmed please contact Fr David (email is best). There will be a very short preparation course prior to Confirmation at Easter.

BAPTISM

Welcome to:

**Harley-Rose Marie
 SAMMULLER
 &
 Jonathan Andrew
 COOKE**

who were baptised last weekend at St Thomas's

DEPARTED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of

Helen Moon

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

Eugenie Hopkins, Freda Mead, John Cooney, Rev. Noel Lewenz, Christopher Spellacy, Anthony Aftergutt, Ann Mullan, Frances Davies, Pauline Vavasour, Alfred Lawrence, Bill Keating, James Gannon, Kathleen Mitchell, Anne Jenkins, Maureen Kenny, Jacqueline Turpin, Ellen Clark, Peter Galvin, Becky Simmonds, Mary Oram, Margaret Coghlan, Edith Withers, Germaine Davies, John Phillips, Clarissa Orchard, Edith Wearer

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS - NEWSLETTER

Parish Lent Course:

"Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues"

A discussion group based on the DVD by Bishop Robert Barron, on Tuesdays in Lent starting this Tuesday. In the Parish Centre, a light Supper will be served at 7:30pm; an extract from the DVD will be at 8:00pm, followed by a discussion, ending at 9:00pm. Come and find out about the sins which inhibit our relationship with God and the virtues which counteract these sins and lead us on the right path to healing and happiness.

Weekday Mass times at St Thomas's

I wish to consult about a couple of small changes.

The proposal is for Mass to be at 8:00am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and to be at 9:30am on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. This will entail slight changes to Adoration and Confession times.

The reasons for this are

- to remove the confusion the present varying times cause;
- to make it easier for St Thomas' School to attend Mass;
- to enable more people to be able to attend weekday Mass;
- to remove the difficulties the priests currently have in offering Mass at 12:00 noon.

Please contact me by the end of the month if there any good reasons not to make this change.

Fr David

Parish Handbook

This can be found on the Parish website, under the Parish tab. Please do look at it; if there are any additions or corrections email Esther Beugeling. We thank her for her efforts in producing the Handbook.

Friends of Kent Churches - thank you

Many thanks to Gail Coombe for her 14 years as parish organiser for Friends of Kent Churches. She has decided it is time to step down. If you would like to take this on (including organising Ride & Stride) please do let Ingrid in the Parish Office know.

Please see the noticeboards at St Thomas's -

- Reform: Learning from Luther after 500 years
- Mothers Prayers of the Solace Community
- Proposed Parish 0-6 Parenting Programme
- Christian Aid Frugal Lunch
- Mystics - a Lenten meditation exploring music & silence
- St Gregory's School Newsletter

The SVP Lenten Copper Collection

In aid of the SVP work in Sudan and S. Sudan. The SVP is operating in the camp for displaced people in Mahat which is home to 9,000 people. It also implements vocational training initiatives and runs baby feeding centres for the severely malnourished children. Please save your small change during Lent and bring it in to the Masses on Palm Sunday 9th April. Many thanks.

Otford Children's Liturgy

We need volunteers to both run and assist with Children's Liturgy at Otford. The more the merrier, it's so rewarding and really isn't much commitment...one Sunday every 6 weeks or so. Please note leaders must complete a Parish Registration form and complete a DBS check before they can help with this important ministry. Please speak to Alex Wilson-Beales (07789 776602) if you are able to help.

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.

North West Fellowship Lent Lunches: can you help?

St Thomas's hosts a Lent Lunch 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 Or Sarah Gough: 01732463714, sarah@goughs.eu

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

Petition

Please see the Petition in the Porch re the Kent Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

Easter Triduum Retreat for Young Adults: 13th-16th April

Worth Abbey & the Wellspring Community invite young adults (ages 18-35) to celebrate Easter Triduum in prayer, community and reflection with a retreat at Worth. Contact fcarbhone@wellspringbrighton.org.uk for further information

FOR YOUR DIARY:

YOUNG DISCIPLES: Next meeting: 5 March: Two groups of informal catechesis for school years 4-6 and 7-9, Sundays after 9.15am Mass in the TV Room upstairs (starting with refreshments). Term time only. New members always very welcome. Contact: Enia Adeleye at youngdisciples@sevrparish.org.uk for further information.

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

RCIA: Monday 6th March, 8pm upstairs room of Parish Centre.

SVP: Monday 6th March, Marjorie Hennessy Room, 7.30pm

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: Next Children's session Thursday 9th March, 4-5pm St Thomas's.

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

Offertory

St Thomas's	2,950.41
Otford	223.60
B Green	145.10
W Kingsdown	106.33

TOTAL £3,425.44

2nd Collection
(Poor parishes) £286.19

January Standing
Orders £3,445.67

Thank you for your
generosity.