

# NEWSLETTER

**PARISH OFFICE:** Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693  
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12pm  
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PARISH PRIEST  
 Fr. David Gibbons  
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 Fr. Paul Okora

01732 454177



## **Today's Mass: Second Sunday of Lent**

The **Gospel** on the Second Sunday is always the story of Jesus' transfiguration (and so in this Year A it is the Matthean version we hear), in which Jesus is revealed as the Messiah. In the context of the Gospel this incident serves to fortify the disciples as they are about to go up to Jerusalem, where Jesus will suffer and die. In the context of Lent it serves to fortify us in our Lenten self-denial, by reminding us that Jesus Christ is our Saviour, and that our proper destiny is to be like Him.

The **First Reading** tells of God's call to Abraham (at this stage called Abram) to leave his country, and his double promise to him. This reminds us of the precariousness of our own position in this life, but also reminds us that if we obey God's call to us the promise of the next life awaits us. To do this we must trust in God and "*place all our hope in him*" (**Psalm 32**).

**Second Reading:** we can bear any hardships our discipleship of Jesus Christ may entail, partly through God's grace and partly through Christ's death, which can bring us "*life and immortality*".

*Fr David*

## **Visiting Priest**

This Sunday we welcome Fr Blaise Amadi, CM, to say two of the Masses. He is a Vincentian priest currently studying at S Anselm's Institute in Cliftonville.

## **Sick & Retired Priests' Fund**

The Archbishop launched a special fund in 2015 to finance the increasing number of retired priests. Thanks to better healthcare and increasing life expectancy priests can look forward to a longer retirement, and there are fewer convents than formerly in which they can live and be cared for, so this is a major expense for the diocese. If you would like to hear more and learn how you can support the appeal a short film will be shown in the Parish Room after the Saturday 6:00pm, 8:00am, 11:15am and 6:00pm Masses at St Thomas's. We thank Sean Corrigan and his assistants for organising this in our parish.

## **Second Collection**

This is the annual Lent CAFOD appeal. Please put your donation to CAFOD in the second collection. Please use the CAFOD envelopes if you wish to Gift Aid your donation.

## **Loaves n' Fishes Food Collection**

Please place your donations of non-perishable foodstuffs and cleaning materials in the Thomas Quinn porch. If you have forgotten to bring them you can pop back sometime and leave the items in the porch or at the Presbytery if the church is closed.

## **Parish Lent Course: "Seven Deadly Sins, Seven Lively Virtues"**

In the Parish Centre on Tuesdays. A light Supper is served from 7:30pm; part of the Bishop Robert Barron DVD is shown at 8:00pm, followed by a discussion; ends at 9:00pm. This week: *Envy & Admiration*.

## **Stations of the Cross**

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

## **Pilgrims' Teas – Lenten Reflection and Lunch**

This Friday, especially for Senior Parishioners, 11:30am in the Parish Centre. Confessions will be available, and a light Lunch will be provided. To assist with catering please contact Jackie (ac.jpembroke@gmail.com) or Pat (01732 453902).

## **Sister Rosemary has a new email address**

should you wish to write to her at the Mount Oliver Convent, Dundalk: rosemarymac12@gmail.com

**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**

Dorothy Allen, Kenneth Blake, Jan Kuraszewicz, Michael Sullivan, Margaret Geer, Mona Foucher, William Welsh, William Querney, Nora Rigg, Patrick Rudden, James Boddy, Arthur Stapleton, Sam Quick, Yolande Brown, James D'arcy, John Marchant, John McGavin, Doreen Watts, Robert Withers, Peter Mulheron, Ken Wheatcroft, Hugh Viner, Giovanni Nagasi, Mrs O'Riorden, William James, Edward Kenny, Nancy Geer, Fr. St. Clare-Hill, John Kelly, Gustav Von Kemperer, Eileen Kidd

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

### **Lenten Retreat about Prayer**

All this week at Corpus Christi, Lyons Crescent, Tonbridge TN9 1EY there is a series of good talks on prayer, in the evening at 8:00pm, repeated the next morning at 10:30am. There is such an excellent list of speakers that we recommend this Retreat. Full details in the leaflets in the porch.

### **SVP Lenten Copper Collection**

Please save your coins during Lent, and bring them on Palm Sunday for the SVP collection, in aid of the people of Sudan and South Sudan.

### **Adult Confirmation**

*"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.

### **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

### **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
- Divine Mercy Retreat - 18th March
- Heaven's Road FM - Catholic Radio station

### **Volunteers wanted for Parish Social Committee**

I would like to re-establish the Parish Social Committee, to co-ordinate various social activities and events in the parish. Quite apart from fund raising it is good to have social events to bring people together, especially in such a widespread parish. If you can volunteer, please contact Ingrid in the Parish Office.

### **Oxford Children's Liturgy**

We need volunteers to both run and assist with Children's Liturgy at Oxford. 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.

### **Oxford - Palm Sunday at Holy Trinity**

Please note the Mass on Palm Sunday will begin at 9:15am to allow time to join the Ecumenical Procession through the village with palms and service on The Green. Meet at the Methodists Hall at 10.45am. Please do join the procession if you can. Many thanks.

### **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

### **St Thomas' Catholic Primary School - Auction of Promises**

To be held on 20th May at Valence School. The school is raising funds to upgrade the IT suite. Can you donate 'Promises' to be auctioned off on the night? Baking a cake, offering language lessons, tickets to events are just some ideas. Contact Ann O'Sullivan (PTA Chair) on 07826 527568 or stthomaspta@hotmail.com. Thanks for all your support!

### **Heaven's Road Catholic Online Radio**

www.heavensroadfm.com is an online radio, broadcasting features like prayers, interviews and music to appeal to a Catholic audience - they also broadcast over 40 daily live Masses from 15 churches in England and Ireland from their website too.

### **FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Next meeting: 12 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@sevrcparish.org.uk](mailto:youngdisciples@sevrcparish.org.uk) for further information.

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

**RCIA:** Monday 13th March, 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 16th 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	1,046.50
Oxford	195.23
B Green	73.00
W Kingsdown	121.20

**TOTAL**      **£1,435.93**

These figures do not include offerings made by Standing Order.

Thank you for your generosity.