

## NEWSLETTER

**PARISH OFFICE:** Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693  
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12 noon  
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PARISH PRIEST  
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**Today's Mass: Second Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)**

**First Reading:** this tells of the characteristics of the early Church, which was "faithful to the teaching of the apostles", to "the breaking of bread" (that is, the Eucharist) and to prayer. Notice how attractive this was to others. Is our parish and our worship likewise appealing and enticing?

**Responsorial Psalm:** we sing our thanksgiving in more verses from Easter Sunday's psalm.

**Second Reading:** on most of the Easter Sundays in Year A extracts from 7 Peter are read. Some scholars think that this letter is based on an Easter homily of St Peter. As sharers in the life of the risen Christ the Baptized are to worship God with joy and to proclaim the good news of Christ.

**Gospel:** John records the first appearance of the risen Jesus to the disciples – through closed doors on Easter Sunday itself – and then His second appearance "eight days later" (which, in the way the ancients counted, means a week later, that is today) to them, who this time include Thomas. Doubting Thomas he may have been, but now Thomas is an example of faith and belief in Christ.

Fr David



**Visiting Priests**

This Sunday we welcome Monsignor Matthew Dickens at Borough Green and then at the 11.15am Mass.

**St George, Martyr, Patron of England**

Monday is the Solemnity of St George, our national Patron Saint and of course the patron of the Cathedral of our Archdiocese.

**St Thomas' School**

Year 3 will attend the 9:15am Mass on Tuesday. Parents and other family members are most welcome to attend.

**First Holy Communion Course**

ALL parents of children on this year's programme are reminded of the important meeting for them on Tuesday, 8:00pm in church. Meanwhile the programme resumes on Thursday, 4:00pm as usual.

**Next weekend's Second Collection**

is for the maintenance of St George's Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese.

**Confirmation 2017**

His Grace the Archbishop will be coming to St Thomas's on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November for the annual Confirmation Mass. The church teaches us that "the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1285). Confirmation is the third and final stage of Christian initiation, and so "the faithful are obliged to receive this sacrament at the appropriate time, for without Confirmation ... Christian initiation remains incomplete" (Catechism 1306).

All those currently in Year 9 or above who have not yet been Confirmed should apply to complete the preparation programme. There will be a Confirmation Sign-up meeting on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May at 8:00pm in St Thomas's** for parents and candidates. There will then be two further evenings for candidates on Thursday 15th June and Thursday 29th June. The programme will then continue in earnest in September.

If you are unable to attend this meeting please email Fr David - frdavid@sevrccparish.org.uk.

**BAPTISM**

Welcome to:

**Sandra DOYLE  
 Tanya FLEET  
 Christopher GANNON**

who were baptized at  
 the Easter Vigil at St  
 Thomas's

**CONFIRMATION**

Welcome to:

**Stephanie BELL  
 Sandra DOYLE  
 Tanya FLEET  
 Christopher GANNON  
 Ronnie GUNSON  
 Tracy McCANN**

who were confirmed at  
 the Easter Vigil at St  
 Thomas's

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

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

**ANNIVERSARIES**

John Evans, Kate Turner,  
 Lucien Benard, Malcolm  
 Chapman, Stanley Dine,  
 Janet Brett, Bob Clifford,  
 Amy Player, Annie Hearn,  
 Matilda Dwyer, Robert  
 Dwyer, Charles Hopkins,  
 Pamela Clifton, Edmund  
 Player, Brandon Gough,  
 Frank Emmerson, Marian  
 Dzierla, Peter Player, Mary  
 Tobin, Thomas Barnes,  
 Caroline Muir, Sheila  
 Nicholls, Mayzell Dunstan,  
 Miriam Pemberton, Frank  
 Monkietis, Elizabeth  
 Horgan, Samuel Krempasky

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

### **Foundations in the Faith for the New Evangelisation**

Please can you keep the following Parish Catechists in your prayers: Enia Adeleye, Gabrielle Ellis, Gina Hartnett, Andrew La Trobe, Ingrid La Trobe, Maxine Nelson, Adrian Pinington, Trish Pinington, Barnabas Varga

They have embarked on this 18-month catechetical course so that they can know and appreciate the faith of the Church more deeply and be better equipped to defend it and pass it on in their work for the Parish. One of the catechists writes:

*'I started the course with a feeling of trepidation, particularly when it was explained we would need to find 4-5 hours a week to fulfil the reading requirements! Tasks have to be prepared every few weeks; it has been taxing in that it involves the synthesis of a vast array of thoughts and sources, including the Catechism of the Catholic Church, but the output is intended to be short and pithy - exactly how one needs to be equipped to get messages of catechesis across in this age of social media. I am finding myself considering many things I took for granted with fresh eyes.'*

### **"The Holy Spirit"**

Five post Easter talks at the Amigo Hall (next to the Cathedral, SE1 6HR) on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Those who work in London can attend these talks and then catch a train back from Waterloo East. Refreshments provided; there is no charge, although donations will be welcomed.

27<sup>th</sup> April: Kerri Lenartowick on *Prayer and the Holy Spirit*

4<sup>th</sup> May: Fr Andrew Pinsent on *Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit*

11<sup>th</sup> May: Fr Benedict Bedingfield CSJ on *Our Lady and the Holy Spirit*

18<sup>th</sup> May: Piero Finaldi on *The Spirit in Art*

25<sup>th</sup> May: Sebastian Morello on *Father, Son, and Holy Spirit*.

**Spiritual Accompaniment** - an opportunity to discover and explore the presence of God as you journey in everyday life.

Would you like to:

- know God more and in doing so discover your true self,
- learn how to pray, to pray better and perhaps experience new ways of praying,
- be able to discern and make good choices, or perhaps
- share with someone your life's journey with its struggles, joys, hopes, fears and losses?

The Southwark Diocesan Spirituality Commission can put you in touch with a list of trained Spiritual Directors.

Contact Margaret Palladino at St George's RC Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Rd, London SE17HY or email her at palladinomargaretssc@gmail.com.

### **Your Voice Matters - Mega Youth Poll**

In 2018, Pope Francis will invite Bishops and others to Rome to talk about Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment. At this gathering they will discuss how the Catholic Church can accompany young people in their faith and help them to hear God's call.



**If you are aged between 13-29 years old, the Catholic Church in England and Wales would like to hear from you,** we want to hear what life is like, your thoughts on faith and how you connect with the Catholic Church. To help you tell us we have created a Youth Poll that you can access using this link

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/parish-youth-poll> or by scanning this QR code with your phone. If you're not in this age group but would like to help, please encourage the young people you know to respond to this poll by giving them the link or QR code. For queries about the Youth Poll please email: [synod2018@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:synod2018@cbcew.org.uk).

### **Brightlights - Catholic Festival for Young Adults 23-26 June**

An annual event for Catholic young adults (ages 16-30) on 23-26 June in the beautiful grounds of Alton Castle in Staffordshire. Come and join us for a weekend of live music, to journey together in Faith through liturgy and worship and to hear stimulating input on the possibilities of living life: UNLIMITED. To find out more information or book tickets, visit our website: [brightlights.org.uk](http://brightlights.org.uk)

### **Mass in Celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage**

If you are celebrating your 1st, 10th, 25th, 40th, 50th or 60th+ wedding anniversary this year, and would like to attend this Mass at St George's Cathedral on 17th June 2017, please register with Ingrid in the office by 30th April at the latest.

### **The Loving Wisdom of our God - discerning God's message within the cycle of the Christian Year**

**by Msgr. Matthew Dickens**

A new book by Msgr. Dickens with a set of homilies to encourage readers to enlarge their knowledge of Sacred Scripture. Available in due course for £16 per copy from [tyler@fisher-press.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:tyler@fisher-press.fsnet.co.uk). Telephone: 01732 761830.

### **Please see the noticeboards at St Thomas's -**

- Centre for Catholic Formation - Summer Events and Courses
- Ecumenical Visit to Rochester Cathedral - 16th May
- Jesuit Missions - Volunteering opportunities
- Sevenoaks Counselling - Non Violent Resistance Course

### **FOR YOUR DIARY:**

**YOUNG DISCIPLES:** 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@sevrccparish.org.uk](mailto:Enia Adeleye at youngdisciples@sevrccparish.org.uk) for further information.

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

**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 Knole Park Golf Club on Seal Hollow Road. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm followed by dinner at 8.30pm.

For further information, please contact [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com) or 07834 259 229.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Parents' Session: Tuesday 25th April, 8:00-9:30pm  
Next Children's session Thursday 27th April, 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**

Easter Offering

**TOTAL £10,925.41**

Good Friday Holy Places  
£434.22

W. Kingsdown (9/4)  
£132.94

**Thank you for your generosity.**