

NEWSLETTER

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12 noon
 Parish Office email: parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk
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PARISH PRIEST
 Fr. David Gibbons
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Today's Mass: Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year A)
 Traditionally, although not officially, today is known as Good Shepherd Sunday, because of the theme of the readings. It is also as a result a World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

First Reading: this continues St Peter's Pentecost homily, in which he stresses the need for repentance and Baptism. And some 3,000 did as he urged. Imagine if we had 3,000 people to be Baptized at the Easter Vigil!

Psalm: the famous and very popular Psalm 22 is recited, with its theme of Christ as our shepherd: He leads us to the waters (Baptism), anoints our heads with oil (Confirmation), guards us in life, and brings us to eternal life "*in the Lord's own house*" (in heaven).

Second Reading: in today's passage from his First Letter Peter, referring to *Isaiah 53*, speaks of Christ as the shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep.

Gospel: in a slightly confusing image, Christ is both the shepherd – the gatekeeper – and the gate. It is only by following Christ, the Redeemer, the Mediator between man and God, that we can be saved.

Fr David

This Week

Visiting Priest

This Sunday we welcome Fr Mark Odion, MSP at Oxted and at the 11:15am Mass.

Second Collection

Today's Second Collection is for the **Ecclesiastical Education**. This collection helps to meet the costs of training students for the Sacred Priesthood and the Permanent Diaconate, as well as the ongoing formation of the Clergy.

Holy Trinity, Oxted

Do come and meet your fellow parishioners at tea and coffee after Mass today if you can.

Presbytery re-wiring

The Presbytery electrical system has been condemned as potentially life threatening, and so we have no choice (if we want to keep Frs David and Paul alive and if we want our insurance to be valid) but to have a major re-wiring. This will take place from Monday to Friday. During this time the priests will have to move out and Ingrid will not be able to be in her office. There will be considerable disruption to communications as well, as we are taking the opportunity to upgrade our telephone system to make it fit for purpose.

If from Monday to Friday you require a priest in an emergency (for example if someone needs the Last Rites) and you can't contact Fr David or Fr Paul please ring Fr Ivan Aquilina on 01959 563226 or 07947 139263.

We are trying to set up a 'field HQ' in the Library, so you may be able to contact the priests or Ingrid by email if we can get the IT rigged up. If you have a routine matter you are advised to leave it until next week. The electrical work, incidentally, is expected to cost over £5,600. There is a set-up cost for the telephony, but running costs will be similar to the current costs.

Monday

- **Parish Finance Committee** at 8:00pm, wherever there is electricity, probably in the Upper Room.
- **R.C.I.A. Course** Those recently Baptized or Received and those attending this programme are reminded that it re-starts at 8:00pm in the Church.
- **Adoration** No adoration at 8:00pm.
- **SVP** will meet in the Parish Centre at 7:30pm.

Tuesday 9:15am Mass Year 4 from St Thomas' School will attend this Mass. Parents and other family members are especially invited to attend as well.

BAPTISM
 Welcome to:
**Mia Marlene
 ANDERSON
 &
 William Michael
 RADFORD**

who were baptized last weekend at St Thomas's

DEPARTED
 Please pray for the repose of the souls of **Ellen Jacqueline Belton,
 Lily Rudenko &
 Martin Rudenko**
 who have died recently.

Please remember the sick who have been commended to our prayers
 Thomas Healy, Maureen Way, Hazel Pilor, Rosemary Remnant, Ana Pilar Santos

ANNIVERSARIES
 Edward Munnely, Louis Libhert, Honora Denyer, Ruth Lett, Maria Semmens, Nora Saunderson, Dick Meakins, Edward Olliffe, Maria Elliot, Silvia Pragnell, Ernest Unwin, Grace Curtis, Ralph Toomey, Germaine Tallents, Julia Edwards, Eileen Sharman, Joyce Donoghue, John Wyer, Fred Tester, Ellen Galligan, Theresa Staples, Raymond Roberts, Patrick O'Keefe, Philomena Campbell

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS - NEWSLETTER

This Week (cont.)

Confirmation Sign-up Meeting this Wednesday

His Grace the Archbishop will be coming to St Thomas's on Saturday 25th 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 this **Wednesday 10th 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.

Sevenoaks Ordinariate Mass

On Thursday in St Thomas's church at 7:30pm, using the Ordinariate Rite of Mass, followed by a talk explaining the Ordinariate, by Fr Ed Tomlinson. All parishioners as well as members of the Ordinariate are invited to attend.

Next Sunday - 14th May

- The 11:15am Mass will include the **Confirmation of Adults**.
- The **annual May Procession, Rosary & Benediction at Holy Trinity, Otford** will start at 3:30pm. Children will enjoy this as much as adults! Please join us for refreshments afterwards.

Weekday Mass times

Following consultation, there will be a couple of slight changes to the weekday Mass times in St Thomas's, from the beginning of June:

- *from Saturday 3rd June, Saturday Masses will be at 9:30am.* Confessions will be from 10:00am to 10:30am; Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will run from 8:30am to 9:20am.
- *from Tuesday 6th June, Tuesday Masses will be at 9:30am.* Adoration will commence at the end of Mass or once the children have left if it is a school Mass.
- *The Mass at 12:00 noon on Thursdays will remain as it is.* This may have to be reviewed at a later date, although the difficulties the priests have in being available at that time may be alleviated by having a Thursday morning Mass at St Joseph's, Borough Green.

Life and SPUC petition

Please sign this joint petition in St Thomas's porch, to strip Marie Stopes of its licence to carry out abortions. Further information with the petition.

Loaves and Fishes Food Bank

The next collection is on the weekend of 13/14 May. Non-perishable goods only please, e.g. breakfast cereals, UHT milk, sugar, coffee. Also rice, sauces and tins of meats, veg or fruit. Toiletries are also welcome (but no other non-foods). Allow for several weeks storage (see 'use-by dates'). No baked beans, pasta, soup or tea this time please (a surplus has built up). Thank you. Queries: 07487 652846

Parish Retreats at Aylesford Priory

Women's Retreat: 8th - 10th September 2017

Becoming mirrors of God: living a reflective life

Led by Alice Keenleyside, a lay person with a lifetime's experience of working with the Mill Hill missionaries. She is a former member of the retreat team at the Jesuit Centre at St Bueno's and offers spiritual direction as well as retreats.

Men's Retreat: 27th - 29th October 2017

The call of the Father

Led by Mgr Matthew Dickens who is the Vicar General and Chancellor for the Southwark Diocese and of course well known to people in the Parish.

The COST for full board, lodging and a retreat facilitator is £170 which is the same as last year. A maximum of 20 places are available for each retreat. LIFT SHARES to Aylesford Priory will be organised. If you would like to attend please pick up a REGISTRATION FORM from the back of your Church or download a form from: www.sevrcparish.org.uk, and return it to the Parish Office by Sunday 4th June.

Any QUERIES please contact Catherine Rodger by email at c.rodger@btinternet.com or by phone: 01732 458852.

Please see the noticeboards at St Thomas's -

- White Flower Appeal thank you
- Missio Boxes thank you.
- Justice and Peace Newsletter
- Vocations weekend for young women 26/28 May
- Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- SVP St John Bosco Summer Camps

FOR YOUR DIARY: UPDATE STILL

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@sevrcparish.org.uk for further information.

RCIA: Monday 8th May, 8pm, in Church

SVP: Monday 8th May, 7.30pm in Parish Centre

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 or 07834 259 229.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: Next Children's session Thursday 11th May, 4-5pm St Thomas's.

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

Offertory

St Thomas's	1070.90
Otford	189.14
B Green	181.50
W Kingsdown	112.60
TOTAL	£1,554.14
St George's	391.86
Easter Offering (additional)	215.00

Thank you for your generosity