

NEWSLETTER

PARISH OFFICE: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 01732 741693
 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 12 noon
 Parish Office email: parish.office@sevrccparish.org.uk
 Website: www.sevrccparish.org.uk

PARISH PRIEST
 Fr. David Gibbons
 frdavid@sevrccparish.org.uk

ASSISTANT
 Fr. Paul Okora
 frpaul@sevrccparish.org.uk
 01732 454177

Today's Mass: Fifth Sunday of Easter (Year A)

First Reading: the early Church was increasing so rapidly that some officials had to be appointed to oversee the distribution to the needy, and to avoid disunity among the followers. Here we see the origins of the Order of Deacons: the apostles selected the seven men, laid hands on them, and commissioned them for service ('diakonia' in Greek).

Psalm: this hymn of praise has one enigmatic feature: the full psalm has the same number of verses as letters in the Hebrew alphabet.

Second Reading: St Peter thinks of the Church as a building, not literally but metaphorically as the people of God. And in a well-known phrase he describes the people of God in language previously applied to Israel: "you are a chosen race ...". The meaning and significance of this last sentence would be a good subject for your meditation or family discussion this week.

Gospel: in this extract from His discourse at the Last Supper, as told by John, Jesus announces that He will be going away, to the Father. But we can follow Him, because He "is the Way, the Truth and the Life". At the end of the Gospel He refers to the Church, which will continue the mission of the risen Christ after His return to the Father.

Fr David

This Week

Visiting Priest

This Sunday we welcome Fr Mark Odion, MSP at Otford and at the 6:00pm Mass.

Confirmation of Adults

This will take place at the 11:15am Mass today.

May Procession at Otford

The annual May Procession, Rosary & Benediction at Holy Trinity, is today at 3:30pm. Bring all the family: children will enjoy this as much as adults!

Jackie Belton RIP

The Requiem Mass for Ellen (Jackie) Belton is at Holy Trinity on Tuesday at 2:00pm. There is a separate, private Committal.

Adoration - Will you not watch one hour with me?

We are looking for more volunteers to spend an hour with Our Lord at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas's. There has been a gradual decline in numbers as people have died, have health issues or extended holidays and we need more cover (if only 30 minutes) whether permanent or on an occasional basis - see rota times on right hand side of weekly Mass sheet. We are particularly looking for cover on Mondays from 9:00am until 10:00am, and on Thursdays in June from 11:00am until 12:00 noon, and Thursdays from 1:00pm until 2:00pm. For more information, please contact Marie or Barry on 01959 524362.

Just as you can't be exposed to the sun without receiving its rays, neither can you come to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament without receiving the divine rays of His grace, love, and peace.

Mass Intentions

Each time he offers Mass the priest can offer it for a specified intention, such as for someone who has died, for good health for a sick person, or in thanksgiving for graces received. These are the Intentions listed in the weekly Mass Sheet and usually announced at the beginning of Mass. This ancient practice benefits both the faithful and the person for whom prayer is asked (the Mass is the greatest prayer of intercession). **To book a Mass Intention** use one of the envelopes available by the newsletters (or any envelope); write the Intention on it, any particular date or place you wish it to be offered, and your name and contact details if you want the details to be confirmed. Put your donation inside (£10 is a typical amount) and hand it to one of the priests or pop it through the Presbytery letterbox. Alternatively you can call in to see Ingrid in the Parish Office.



BAPTISM

Welcome to:

**Athena
 CALVERT
 &
 Annabelle Grace
 D'SOUZA**

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 Pilorz, Rosemary Remnant, Ana Pilar Santos

ANNIVERSARIES

Mona Jenkins, Dickie Mallock, Nigel Authers, Mimi Coker, George Brunning, Walter Campbell, James Rudden, Freda Ford, Rita Cressey, Mary Cadley, Bernard Moose, Eleanor Lynes, Joseph McDermott, Roland Chown, Keith Viner, Bridget Henderson, John O'Loughlin, Brian Hunt, Joan Smith, Isabel Darcy, Robert Hatch, Frederick Briggs, Kathleen Morgan, Maria Villa

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, SEVENOAKS - NEWSLETTER

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 this weekend 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

St Gregory's Catholic School – Open events 2017

Come and see the school on a normal working day. Tours of the school followed by coffee and an informal chat with the Headteacher in the library.

Wednesday 21 & Thursday 22 June - 9:00am & 11am
Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 September - 9:00am & 11am
Thursday 28 September - Open Evening 4.30pm to 7pm
Wed 18 & Thursday 19 October 2017 - 9:00am & 11am

At St Gregory's we are an integral part of the Catholic community and committed to supporting parents in the academic, physical, spiritual, moral and religious education of their children. Not only do we support students in understanding their faith but we also ensure students get the very best teaching, nurturing and pastoral care to ensure they flourish to the best of their abilities. We are an Ofsted Outstanding school and progress students beyond the expectations set at primary school, many outperform their grammar school peers.

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.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Fr David will lead a parish pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, from Monday 18th September to Friday 22nd September. The cost will be approx. £541 per person. Enquiries to Ingrid in the parish office.

SVP Lenten Copper Collection

Made £227.73 for the very needy of Sudan and South Sudan. Many thanks to all, including those in the villages, who donated their small change.

Oxford Civic Service on Sunday 21st May at 10:00am

Parishioners from Holy Trinity, Oxford are warmly invited to attend. Please confirm your attendance by Monday at st.bartholomews@otford.net.

Summer Accommodation in London - Allen Hall

Allen Hall in Chelsea offer comfortable rooms in July and August. Beautiful gardens and chapel. Rooms from £50 per night (including breakfast). Email: allenhall@rcdow.org.uk.

Please see the noticeboards at St Thomas's -

- Jesuit Missions - Current opportunities
- SVP St John Bosco Summer Camps
- Supporting Refugees in Southwark Diocese
- Ecumenical events - Thy Kingdom Come
- Open Day - Bellesini Community
- Job advertisement - Diocese of Westminster
- Clifton Diocese Pilgrimage to Glastonbury

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@sevrcparish.org.uk for further information.

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

RCIA Monday 15th May, 8pm, Upper Room, 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 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 18th May, 4-5pm St Thomas's.

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

Offertory

Figures next week as this newsletter was printed early because of rewiring in the Presbytery.

Thanks.