

FUN SPANISH LESSONS

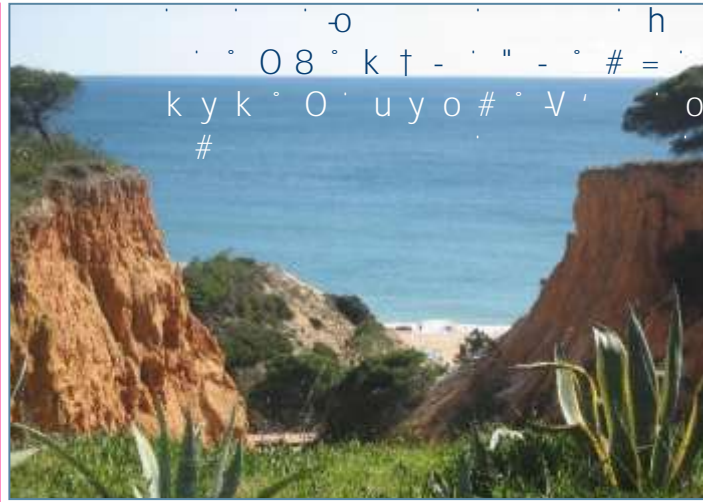


**FOR 3 TO 11 YEAR-OLDS
ON TUESDAYS @
OTFORD VILLAGE
MEMORIAL HALL**

**LEARNING HAS NEVER BEEN MORE FUN:
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Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

Churches in Sevenoaks, Otford,
Borough Green and West Kingsdown



Parish Newsletter

16th July 2017

Today's Mass: Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year A)

7 these words make sense in the context of today's 8. Just as the rain waters the earth to give life, so God's word gives growth. The h continues the same idea.

0 : if we compare Paul's famous words about creation's eager longing with *Genesis 3*, we can see that Paul is here talking about the restoration of paradise. The glory that awaits us in the next life makes our sufferings in this life bearable.

8 : the Parable of the Sower has two important lessons for us in our efforts to evangelize. First, we must enthusiastically try to sow the seed in spite of what may seem to be meagre results; our responsibility is to sow the seed, only God can give increase. Secondly, there is a difference between hearing the word and understanding it; we must try to enable people to understand the Good News.

This is the first in a series of parables of the kingdom. Jesus, however, does not tell us what the kingdom of God will be like after the Day of Judgement; rather He concentrates primarily on God's action in the present world and people's response.

Fr David



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St Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks



o U † U
Saturday **Monday**
Sunday **Tuesday**
 (Latin) **Wednesday**
 (Children's Liturgy of Word) **Thursday**
Friday
Saturday

o k
 o u V
Monday **Saturday**

Tuesday 10:00am - 12noon
Thursday
Saturday

Parish Office: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe
 Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri
9:00am - 12noon
 Tel: 01732 454177
 parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk
www.sevrparish.org.uk

Contacts & organisations

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

Fr David Gibbons, KHS frdavid@sevrparish.org.uk
 Fr Paul Okora k frpaul@sevrparish.org.uk
 Canon John Bailey, KHS Tel: 01474 852223

Mrs Ingrid La Trobe parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk
 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

Parish Safeguarding

Your Parish Safeguarding Representative is *Isabelle Parsons 07873 953423*.
 The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 02072 611606. *In an Emergency dial 999.*



MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

U : Sunday
 Wed
 Friday

High Street, Otford
 TN14 5PH

Church contacts:
 Rosemary Curtis 01959 522624
 (Sacristan)
 Anne Knight 01959 524488
 (Acting Secretary)
 parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk



St Joseph's BOROUGH GREEN

U : Sunday
 *Currently taking place at
 Borough Green Primary Sch Hall

Western Rd, Borough Green
 TN15 8AG

Church contact:
 Antoni Offert
 Tel: 07513 041075
 parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk



St Bernadette's West Kingsdown

U : Sunday
 Thurs, Fri & Sat
 Holy Days of Obligation
Rosary: 1st Wed every month at
Adoration: Wed
 Thurs

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
 TN15 6JP

Church contact:
 Jill & John Gobel
 Tel: 01474 853676
 parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk

St Thomas Catholic primary school



Headteacher: Mrs Claudia Aquilina
 Tel: 01732 453921
www.saintthomas.co.uk

Head: Mrs Debbie Whitehead
 Tel: 01732 779517
 info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

Barry & Marie Authers
 adoration@sevrparish.org.uk
 David Brunning Tel: 01732 465518
 davidabrunning@btinternet.com
 The Catenians are a social club for Catholic men aged 18 to 108. We also help the parish with social events. We always 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 on 07834 259 229.

Sevenoaks, 9.15am Mass: Anne Murphy
 annemurphy2000@yahoo.com
 Otford, 9.30am Mass: Alex Wilson-Beales
 Tel: 07789 776602
 Chair: Bill Farren 07787 537350
 Minutes Secretary: Terry D Avrincourt 07812 054364

Sean Corrigan
 sean.corrigan@sevrparish.org.uk

Kathie Gonzalez
 Tel: 01732 761253

Mondays, 11.00am at Star House,
 Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532500

Tony Capozzi: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

Emma McGovern 07786 219742,
 Lourdes Marinetto-Travers 07900 591527
 Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre
 MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

Teas or lunches, four times a year, held at
 St. Thomas in the Parish Centre. All older parishioners
 are welcome and lifts are available. Contact:
 Jackie Pembroke 01732 450197
 ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com
 or Pat Harman 01732 453902
 bobandpat.harman@gmail.com.

Kathie Gonzalez
 01732 761253

Borough Green UCM: June Dinsmore (President)
 Tel: 01732 672602
 West Kingsdown UCM: Monica Biggs (President)
 per_ardua_ad_astra@hotmail.com

Two groups of informal catechesis for
 school years 4-6 and 7-9, Sundays after 9.15am Mass in
 the TV room upstairs. Term time only. Contact:
 Enia Adeleye at youngdisciples@sevrparish.org.uk

Further details of organisations are available in our
 Parish Handbook and on our website

St Joseph's & Parish Finances

St Joseph's, Borough Green

At long last there is good news to report about the new church at Borough Green. As you will know the building work had ground to a halt by about the time I came to the Parish. With the assistance of the new diocesan Premises Manager and after numerous surveys - to ascertain the state of the building, sewerage outflow, the safety of the electrics, the condition of the roof, etc, etc - we have recruited a reputable contractor who is able to complete the building.

They commenced work last Monday, and anticipate that the work will take eight to ten weeks; this will take us to the middle of September. Once the building is almost complete the various items in storage – the Altar, Ambo, statues, chairs etc – will have to be retrieved and reinstalled. We are planning a Solemn Opening Mass, most probably for late September or early October.

Meanwhile, as the Chair of the Parish Finance Committee notes below, now that building work has recommenced we shall have to make periodic payments to the contractors, so we need to raise more funds to meet those payments.

For the time being we shall reuse the existing Altar and Ambo; however, the plan is to have new permanent ones designed to enhance the Sanctuary of the new church, and we hope that someone may wish to donate the cost of these, perhaps in memory of someone who has died.

So, watch this space for the big announcement of which will be the first Sunday Mass in the new church!

Fr David

Parish Finances

Parish Finance Committee

Our newly-formed committee has met four times since it was established in January. The committee has an 'advisory' character rather than an 'executive' one. Its purpose is to act as a sounding board for the Parish Priest who retains responsibility under Canon Law and Civil Law for the parish's resources. The Parish Priest and Assistant Priest attend meetings by invitation but are not members of the committee.

Our discussions and activities have so far been split broadly into two categories:

- **St Joseph's, Borough Green rebuild:** this project has suffered, for a number of reasons, from delays. We have taken steps to assess the project, take professional external advice and to put in place a plan to get the project brought to completion (more from Fr David on that above). In spite of the delays, assuming all goes to plan from now, we are not expecting the net funding shortfall on completion to be any higher than anticipated at the start of the project - albeit there will be a shortfall which we will need to fund;
- **Presbytery rewiring** (a safety issue) and **office/telephone systems** - bringing those up to date and making them fit for purpose.

- we are looking at introducing a quinquennial inspection regime so that we can get a better handle on maintenance budgeting across the 'estate' of seven properties (four churches, the parish centre, the Presbytery and West Kingsdown house);
- we approved the Parish Financial Return for 2016, a copy of which is on the noticeboard in each church.

Any thoughts and suggestions, particularly on fundraising, are very welcome.

Bill Farren FCA

Parish NOTICES

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Today (Sunday)

Visiting Priests

We welcome Fr Joseph Ukende, MSP offering Masses today.

This Week

Lectio Divina

Tuesday at 8:00pm in the Marjorie Hennessey Room: listening to God through the Scriptures. For more information contact Kathie Gonzales on 01732 761253.

School Leavers' Mass

Year 6 have their Leavers Mass on Wednesday at 6:00pm in St Thomas's. Parents and other family members are especially welcome.

Ordinarate Mass

Thursday at 7:30pm in St Thomas's.

End of Term Mass

St Thomas School have their End of Term Mass on Friday at 9:30am. Again, all parents and other family members are most welcome.

Garden Party

Thanks to Ben Andradi for co-ordinating the Parish Garden Party last Sunday, and to all the various helpers who made it such an outstanding success. Even the weather co-operated! The event raised approximately £1,644.00 for parish funds. The Raffle prize winners were:

Winning Ticket	Prize	Name
265	Portugal Holiday	Atkari
1188	Presentation Analysis	Baker
1180	Dinner -Fr David & Paul	Anderson
112	Vintage Doll	Baldock
186	Whiskey	Edwards
321	Boxed Liquers	Sandy
1020	Knitted doll	Parsons
1148	Champagne Set	Stockmann
507	Pimms	Beugling
1037	Gift Voucher	Oberman
602	Coffee Set	Murphy
738	Star Wars Clock	Caroline G
384	Car Kit	Mauduit
161	Danish Collection Candles	Scott
283	4 Hours Gardening	Hardaker
1119	Knitted Bunny	Menday
435	Golf set	Corrigan

Thank you to everyone who donated these generous prizes.

'The Pilgrim'

The diocesan newspaper is published every month. It usually includes an article by Fr David. Please take a copy home and read it. The parish pays for the copies, so don't worry about paying for it, just take it and read it.

Newsletter

Thank you for all your positive comments about our new newsletter. In particular we would like to thank Adrian Pingleton for all his work behind the scenes, Fiona Sanday-Myers for her help in designing it and John Caruana for the new church photographs.

Parish Handbook

With many thanks to Pat Harman and Esther Beugeling, this is now available in all Porches in hard copy and at www.sevrcparish.org.uk. If you would like a copy and there are none available, please let Ingrid in the Parish Office know. This is a living document, please inform the Parish Office (parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk, 01732 454177) if it needs correcting or updating. Thank you.

Parish NOTICES

Parish Office and Mass Intentions

Ingrid is on holiday from Thursday 3rd August. She will be back in the office on Thursday 31st August.

If you have any Mass Intentions for August and the first week of September it would be most helpful if you could submit them before the end of July.

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.

Holy Souls Masses

You may have seen the wall box in the porch marked Holy Souls. Every so often it is emptied, and (by diocesan rule) every £10 represents one Mass for the Holy Souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them. These Masses tend to be offered by the priests when they are concelebrating, so are not necessarily announced.

It is a worthy tradition to maintain. As well as an act of charity towards the deceased, we hope that the parish will offer Mass for us when we have departed this life!

For your diary - Annual Diocesan Day for Catechists at St Georges Cathedral on the 23rd September. Details to follow early September.

Babysitting and summer childcare available

I am experienced and responsible, reasonable rates, references can be supplied. Contact Helen Rodger on 07598848660, or hmirodger@gmail.com.

Parish Finances

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Offertory - 9th July

St Thomas	1147.12
Otford	154.96
B Green	139.50
W Kingsdown	91.08
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AoS: (2nd Collection)	£517.09
Fr Gregory's Collection:	£968.64
Garden Party:	£1,644.05

Thank you for your generosity and support.

Gift Aid

If you haven't yet done so, please collect your box of envelopes. If you can't find your box email Sean Corrigan (sean@corrigan-family.com) or ring Ingrid in the Parish Office.

If you pay by Standing Order or put money in the loose collection, now is the time to review the amount you give: are you giving back to God generously out of all the good gifts he gives you?

If you pay UK tax but do not yet use the Gift Aid system, please fill in a Gift Aid form or contact Sean Corrigan (sean@corrigan-family.com). You make the same contribution as now but we can claim back the tax you have paid. This brings in a substantial amount to parish funds.

Please see the noticeboards at St Thomas' Church

z Southwark Catholic Youth Service Newsletter

How do I get my Notice in the Newsletter?

Please submit items for inclusion in this Newsletter no later than Wednesday evening. Submit to Parish Office at
 Notices are subject to available space and the approval of Fr David.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Why does my Catholic Bible differ from Protestant Bibles?



In my previous article, I said that the early Church decided which books of the Hebrew scriptures were to be included in the Old Testament - the canon of scripture. So why do Protestant Bibles have seven fewer books than Catholic Bibles or the Greek and Slavonic Bibles? These missing books - Tobit, Judith, I & II Maccabees, Wisdom, Sirach & Baruch, plus additions to Esther & Daniel - are known by Catholics as the deuterocanonical books and by Protestants as the Apocrypha. Deuterocanonical means that they are contained in the later, second canon (the Septuagint) not in the earlier (Hebrew only) canon.

In the third century BC the Jewish scriptures were translated from Hebrew into Greek (because most educated people of the day could read Greek but not Hebrew). According to tradition 72 rabbis worked on the translation, and so this version is called the Septuagint from the Greek word for seventy. It was this version of the Old Testament which was adopted as the Christian Old Testament and which was used by St Jerome in his ground-breaking translation into Latin (known as the Vulgate).

In the 1500s Protestant scholars deleted the deuterocanonical books from their Bibles. At first they put them in a separate section (the Apocrypha, which was originally included in the so-called King James Version) but eventually dropped them altogether.

They did this for two reasons. One was that many Jewish rabbis in about 100AD revised their canon of scripture, and deleted these books, partly because they were (to them) suspiciously recent, partly because they suspiciously seemed to point to Christ, and partly because many were written not in Hebrew but in

the suspicious foreign tongue of Greek. The Protestant scholars likewise rejected them for these reasons.

Secondly, the Protestants also objected to these books because of the doctrines they found in them. For example, II Maccabees contains unambiguous references to the doctrines of purgatory and prayer and sacrifices for the dead. Likewise Tobit teaches the importance of good works in God's eyes. The Protestants rejected these doctrines and so they rejected these books. But they couldn't reject some bits and not others, so they expelled all of the deuterocanonical books. Thus the Westminster Confession of 1648 declared that the Apocrypha books were not of divine inspiration, were not therefore part of the canon of scripture, and so were not part of the Church of God.

These Seven books
 are inspired BY THE
 HOLY SPIRIT.

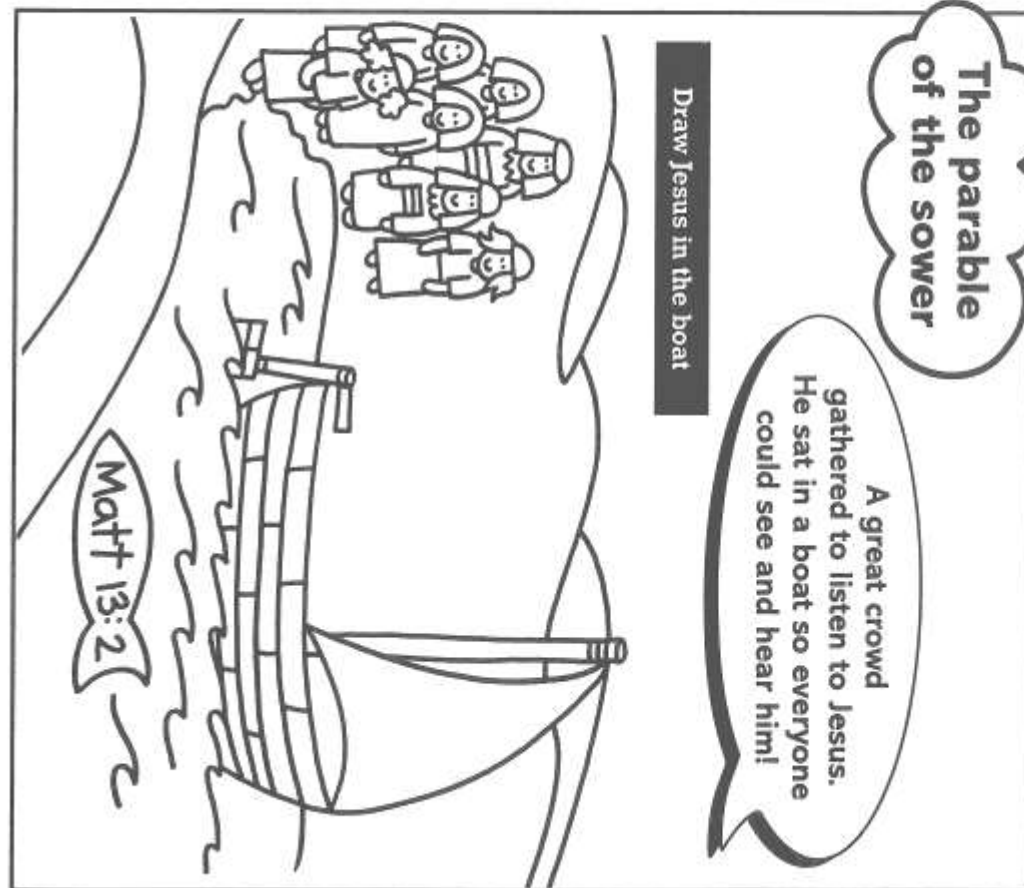
By contrast, in the Catholic Church Pope Damasus in 382 issued a formal list (of both Testaments) which is the same as now, the Ecumenical Councils of Nicaea in 787 and Constantinople in 869 quoted some of these books as authoritative, and the Council of Florence in 1441 decided in favour of the longer canon.

One key reason for our inclusion of these books is that the apostles and New Testament writers nearly always quoted the Septuagint version, and sometimes quoted from these disputed books. St Paul often made use of Wisdom for example, and the epistle of St James shows an obvious knowledge of Sirach. The oldest Christian Bibles (such as the Codex Vaticanus) all have these books in them, and many early theologians such as the first century Epistle of St Clement refer to these books with approval.

In summary, the Catholic Church considers these books to be inspired by the Holy Spirit, and you will occasionally hear readings taken from them at weekday Mass.

Would you like to read at Mass? This is an important ministry. Please contact Fr David or Fr Paul.

God Loves his children



Step
by
Step
 FIFTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)
 Matthew 13:1-23

A farmer went, his seeds to sow,
 He did not know if they would grow.
 Some seeds fell on stony ground,
 Some the hungry birds soon found.
 Some fell among the thorns so tall,
 They stood no chance to grow at all!
 But some seeds fell on fertile ground,
 and soon the crops grew all around.

Find the words to read the poem
 🐦 = birds *|* = thorns
 👨 = farmer 🌾 = seeds

Jesus told
 them a short story, or
 parable, which they could
 understand

Mass intentions

All masses are at St Thomas's CHURCH unless otherwise stated

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6:00pm (Sat) Fr Gregor Lenzen C.P. (Music Group)
 8:00am Sylvia & Kenneth Shore RIP
 9:15am People of the Parish
 11:15am Phyllis Claydon Morel RIP
 6:00pm All the staff of St Finbarrs Hospital
 9:30am Otford Miss H.M. McNabb RIP
 9:30am Borough Green Frank Hullett RIP
 11:00am W. Kingsdown Patrick Bunton RIP

U **Feria**
 8:00am Bettina King RIP

U **Feria**
 9:30am Michael Connolly RIP - dear husband
 of Kathleen

† **Feria**
 8:00am Celia Piddock RIP
 10:00am Otford Milburn Smith family - deceased relatives
 6:00pm St Thomas School Leavers Mass

U **Feria**
 9:15am W. Kingsdown Rev Peter Ryman RIP
 12:00noon Paul Duke & Prof John Henry RIP
 7:30pm Ordinariate Mass

7 **Feria**
 8:00am Lawrence Cronin - well being
 9:15am W. Kingsdown Private Intention
 9:30am St Thomas School - End of Term Mass

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 9:15am W. Kingsdown Deceased Clergy
 9:30am Intentions of the Rodrigues family

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

6:00pm (Sat) Celia Piddock RIP
 8:00am Françoise Hobeika
 9:15am Intentions of the Rodrigues family
 11:15am People of the Parish
 6:00pm Helen Grove - cancer
 9:30am Otford Miss H.M. McNabb RIP
 9:30am Borough Green Jim Collins RIP
 11:00am West Kingsdown Joan Warby RIP

Please remember the sick
 who have been commended to
 our prayers, especially:

Thomas Healy, Rosemary
 Remnant, Hazel Pilorz, Maureen Way,
 Sue Chamberlain, Ana Pilar Santos,
 Myra Piercy

Departed

Please pray for the souls of

)
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 # h
 who have recently died.

Anniversaries:

Johanna Hiejnen, Professor Tucker,
 Kathleen Catlin, Ellen Forrest, Peggy
 Lines-Roberts, John Smith, Florence
 Bishop, Joseph Eyre, Ruth Genth,
 Marjorie Hennessey, Carole Edwards,
 Margherita Tondina, Winifred George,
 Paul Duke, John Douglas, Mary Eyre,
 Marthe Turland, Brenda Wraight,
 Beatrice White, Peter James, Brian
 Morel

Eternal rest grant unto them,
 O Lord, and let perpetual light
 shine upon them.
 May they rest in peace.



Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

- V u k' V # - ' V u @ h = \ V
 Ego autem cum iustitia apparebo in conspectu tuo; satiabor dum manifestabitur gloria tua.
 # \ U U y V @ \ V ' V u @ h = \ V
 Qui manducat meam carnem et bibit meum sanguinem, in me manet et ego in eo, dicit Dominus.