

FUN SPANISH LESSONS

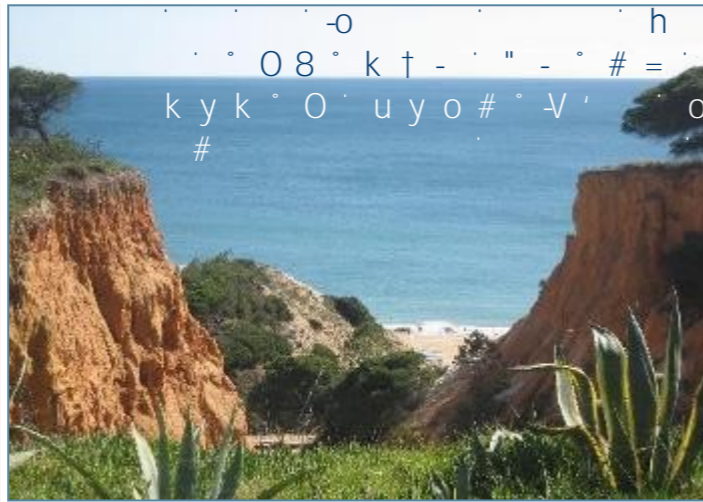


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Archdiocese of
Southwark

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

6th August



u u u u

This Feast, being a Feast of the Lord, displaces the Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time this year.

7 Daniel has a vision of the heavenly king, *one like a This title was immediately taken up in the New Testament as a title for Jesus Christ and the vision in this Reading as a vision of Christ's ultimate enthronement as King of the Universe. The description of his robe as white as the reason it forms the First Reading of today's Feast.*

h Christians take the Lord as referring to Jesus Christ, whose glory can be seen by all peoples.

o Peter, seeking to prove that Jesus will return, gives evidence that he was an eyewitness to the Transfiguration, which revealed Christ's true glory.

8 the *high m* has always been identified as Mount Tabor in southern Galilee. In Jewish thought mountains symbolized the border between earth and heaven, between the material and the spiritual; many encounters with God happened on mountains (eg Moses on Mount Sinai, Elijah on Mount Carmel). In the Gospel this episode comes between Jesus' ministry in Galilee and his turning towards Jerusalem, where He will become the suffering Messiah put to death. The three witnesses – Peter, James, and John – next reappear together in the Garden of Gethsemane, where they will witness his earthly agony. Here, on Mount Tabor, they witness His true, divine nature, and this fortifies them for what lies ahead.

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



Monday - Saturday
 Tuesday 10:00am - 12noon
 Thursday -
 Saturday -

8 k
 o u V - k
 Parish Ofce: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe
 Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri
 Tel: 01732 454177
 parish.ofce@sevrpcparish.org.uk

CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

h o u #
 h Fr David Gibbons, KHS Fr Paul Okora k Canon John Bailey, KHS
 frdavid@sevrpcparish.org.uk frpaul@sevrpcparish.org.uk Tel: 01474 852223

h Mrs Ingrid La Trobe parish.office@sevrpcparish.org.uk
 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
 Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9:00am - 12noon

h o
 Your Parish Safeguarding Representative is Isabelle Parsons 07873 95
 The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 02072 611606. In an Emergency a



MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

U Sunday
 Wed

High Street, Otford Friday -
 TN14 5PH

 Rosemary Curts 01959 522624 Barry & Marie Authers
 (Sacristan) adoration@sevrpcparish.org.uk
 Anne Knight 01959 524488 David Brunning Tel: 01732 465518
 (Actng Secretary) davidabrunning@btinternet.com
 parish.ofce@sevrpcparish.org.uk



ST JOSEPH & BOROUGH GREEN

U Sunday

Western Rd, Borough Green Pri
 TN15 8AG

* Currently taking applications for office@sevrpcparish.org.uk
 Gurgie Green Primary Sch Hall

 Antoni Ofert
 Tel: 07513 041075
 aidan.omalony@btinternet.com or on 07834 259 229.



ST BERNADETTE & WEST KINGSDOWN

U Sunday
 Thurs, Fri & Sat

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
 TN15 6JP

Holy Days of Obligation
 1st Wed every month
 Thurs
 Jill & John Gobel
 Tel: 01474 853676
 parish.ofce@sevrpcparish.org.uk

O †
 Sevenoaks, 9.15am Mass: Anne Murphy
 annemurphy2000@yahoo.com
 Otford, 9.30am Mass: Alex Wilson-Beales
 Tel: 07789 776602

7 #
 Chair: Bill Farren 07787 537350
 Minutes Secretary: Terry D Avrincourt 07812 054364

8 Sean Corrigan
 sean.corrigan@sevrpcparish.org.uk

O Kathie Gonzalez
 Tel: 01732 761253

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

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

h Emma McGovern 07786 219742,
 Lourdes Marinetto-Travers 07900 591527
 Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre

k # - u k # u
 MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

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

o † Kathie Gonzalez -
 ugonzalez@btinternet.com (01732 761253)
 Frances Smith - francesrsmith@hotmail.com
 Joan Perkins - perkins_aj@hotmail.com

y # U
 Borough Green Dismote (President)
 Tel: 01732 672602
 West Kingsdown 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@sevrpcparish.org.uk

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

ST THOMAS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



Head teacher: Mrs. Claudia M. Quideibale Whitehead
 Tel: 01732 453921 Tel: 01732 779517
 info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

CALLED TO GRATITUDE

WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE GRATEFULLY BY LEISA ANSLINGER

†
A few years ago, my husband, Steve, rediscovered the hobby of woodworking. He spent hours in our garage one spring carefully cutting boards and piecing them together. Little by little, a cabinet began to take shape, and he told me he planned for it to be our gift to his mother for her birthday. Hour upon hour, day upon day, I watched as he built the cabinet. It was beautiful, and I was anxious to see his mother's reaction to this gift of love. Then, one Sunday afternoon, returning home from an errand, our daughter seemed very anxious for me to go into the house. When I did, I was stunned, and fell silent. The cabinet was for me, donned with silver ribbon to mark our twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. I must have said thank you a dozen times, and yet, the expression seemed inadequate. My heart was so full that words could not capture the emotion, not only for the cabinet, which has a beautiful place in our home, but more for the care and love with which the cabinet had been crafted. When I see it, I am still filled with gratitude.

†
Sometimes it is difficult for us to grasp that all we are and have are gifts from God. So thinking about a time in which we have been moved with gratitude helps us to apply that realization to life and faith. Developing an attitude of gratitude changes the way in which we perceive daily life, and helps us to recognize God's place in it. Living gratefully calls us to be aware of our blessings, even in moments of difficulty. For example, those who struggle with physical illness may be challenged at times to be grateful, until they think about the skill of their doctor or the companionship of a friend. Living gratefully helps us to see God's hand in our lives. We might otherwise miss this awareness of God's presence by being caught in the constant seeking for more, better, or bigger that is such a tendency for humans.

U
Growing in gratitude is simple, but for most of us, it takes conscious effort.

O
Each time we are tempted to whine, to focus on what we want, or to look at all that is not the way we wish it were, we must turn our minds instead toward the many ways in which we have been blessed. Over time, this gratefulness-mindset becomes more natural.

O
Recognizing God as the Giver of every good gift and being mindful of our blessings each day changes our inner life with God and our interactions with others. We are more likely to be satisfied with what we have, rather than seeking what we do not have; we will be more content in the present, and more hopeful for the future. When gratitude marks our way of life, we truly embody the Eucharist (the very word means to give thanks). Coming to Mass aware of all we have to be thankful for opens our minds and hearts to the fullness of Christ's presence with us. We gather as members of Christ's Body, aware of our many blessings, the greatest of which is Christ's gift of new life and union with God, poured out in word and sacrament around the Eucharistic table.

Reprinted from the International Catholic Stewardship Council website

*Prayer is an aspiration of the heart,
it is a simple glance directed to heaven,
it is a cry of gratitude and love
in the midst of trial as well as joy.
St Thérèse of Lisieux*

PARISH NOTICES

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*What are the differences
in the Old Testament
Called to Gratitude -
what it means to live gratefully*

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should attend Mass if at all possible). Holy Mass at the following times:

St Thomas, 8:00am, 9:30am, 12:00 noon, 8:00pm.
Holy Trinity, 10:00am, 1:00pm, 7:00pm.
St Bernadette, 11:00am, 7:00pm.

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If you need the words of the Order of Mass to assist you in following the Mass, they can be found in *A Simple Prayer Book*. Copies are available from the Repository, priced £1.95. If the Repository is unmanned, please put the money in the Repository wall box next to the Sacristy door.

h

Ingrid is on holiday from Thursday 3rd August. She will be back in the office on Thursday 31st August. Please continue submitting Mass Intentions as normal for August.

U O

The Funeral Mass for Monique is on Monday at 12:00 noon in St Thomas's, followed by Interment at Knockholt Cemetery.

7

Wednesday is the Feast of S Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, Patron of Europe. She is, slightly confusingly, one of the three Carmelite Saints called Teresa. She is better known as Edith Stein, a Jewish convert to the faith who was killed at Auschwitz concentration camp on 9th July 1942.

Thursday is the Feast of another martyr, S Lawrence, who was martyred in Rome in 258. Famously, as a Deacon he was responsible for the material goods of the church; when the persecutors demanded the church treasures, Lawrence founded up the poor to whom he distributed alms. The Roman prefect was so angry he had him placed on a gridiron prepared with hot coals; after a while Lawrence cheerfully declared 'I'm well done, turn me over!' He is the patron saint of cooks, chefs and comedians.

V O

This falls on Tuesday 15th August, and is a Holyday of Obligation in England (that is, a day when Catholics

h u

Please note that the Parish Office number is no longer in use. Please use 01732 454177 as the Parish number for all calls, including to the Parish Office.

@

The sessions have now ceased for our Summer break, we resume in September (please see the Parish Newsletter for the date). This important ministry is run by parishioners. We are looking for volunteers to help support the main catechist. Please contact Enia Adeleye at youngdisciples@sevrcparish.org.uk for further details.

)

We are still looking for help to bring Pearl, a resident of the Chipstead Lake Cheshire Home, to Mass. We are a small group with a 4-week rota at this time. More helpers, longer rota. Usually we take Pearl to Otford as this is nearest. If you can help please contact Andrew Watts 01732 462538.

7 h

It might not be the Garden of Eden, but the fruit trees planted a few years ago have plenty of fruit on them, including an apricot tree in the corner of the car park. Please help yourselves as they ripen this month.

PARISH NOTICES

Catholic answers to the burning questions Why God? Why Christ?

A course designed for those wishing to explore the Catholic faith, or just learn more about Catholicism. Each session lasts just one hour (inclusive of a 25 minute video) and will run over three consecutive Monday evenings, with each session starting at 8pm in the Parish Centre at St Thomas' Church in Sevenoaks.

We begin on the 25th September, with two further sessions on the 2nd and 9th October. Bring your friends, all welcome.

Is parenting the hardest job in the world to get right?

Would you like to be a happier parent and improve your relationship with your children? In the Parenting Programmes, we look at Communication Skills; Discipline; Encouragement; Resolving problems and other areas of parenting. We use programmes produced by the Family Caring Trust.

Next term we will be running the course for parents of 0-6 year olds. 9.15am to 11.15am starting on Friday 15th September. There are limited crèche places.

Please contact Ann O'Sullivan on tel: 07826 527568 or email: annosullivan7oaks@gmail.com for more information or to book a place.

When you look at the figures painted on the apse of the parish church in Sevenoaks, the second from the right is that of St. John Fisher of Rochester and behind his figure is that of the outline of Rochester Cathedral.

Following on from our outing last autumn to the churches within our parish we would like to explore our connections with Rochester, to see the Cathedral, to pray there, to explore a little of the town and to socialise over lunch and tea. We will be travelling by coach with a pick up from Holy Trinity, Otford (for car parking) and from St. Thomas s, Sevenoaks. Our guide in the Cathedral will be Jonathan Fenner.

Please put this date in your diaries; there will be more information at the beginning of September when the

newsletter is resumed. We look forward to seeing you then. For more information please contact Jackie Pembroke ac.jpembroke@gmail.com 01732 450197; or Pat Harman 01732 453902; bobandpat.harman@gmail.com

Charles and Rachel Sexton will be taking part in this year's event. Please support our efforts by taking part or sponsoring the riders/striders or by offering your services to man the church for an hour on the day. See notice in porch for more details.

On Saturday 23rd September, 9:00am – 5:30pm, in the Parish Hall at St Thomas of Canterbury Parish Hall, London Road, Rainham, ME8 7RH. Presenter: Elizabeth Partridge.

The Day will give a good base for those who would like to help in the ministry of bereavement support in the parish. It is a ministry of listening, not counselling, and the training day will help provide the skills to do this. Ideally there would be two people from the parish attending. Please note that you will need to fill in a DBS application to perform this ministry.

Please contact Ingrid in the Parish Office to obtain the booking form. It is not suitable for those who have themselves recently been bereaved.

St Thomas	1081.69
Otford	175.51
B Green	151.95
W Kingsdown	113.30

- Divine Mercy Apostolate Retreats Sat 19th August and Saturday 26th August.
- St Gregory's Catholic School Newsletter (in St Thomas's Porch)
- Life in the Spirit Seminar
- The Pilgrims Visit to Rochester Cathedral



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

What are the different types of book in the Old Testament?

If you are a reader at Mass, or if you are studying the scriptures for your own edification, it is important to understand the different genres to be found in the Old Testament. The Church teaches us (Dei Verbum §12) that *to search intention of the sacred given, among the earth if no*

One fact worth knowing (if only for quiz questions!) is that although the Old Testament was mostly written in Hebrew, there are also parts of Ezra and Daniel in Aramaic, and the deuterocanonical books were written in Greek (but sometimes translated from other languages).

Over half of the Old Testament consists of that is to say stories about people and events, told in many books starting with Genesis and Exodus, including the books of the Kings and Chronicles, right through to Nehemiah and Daniel. The purpose of these stories is principally to show us God's plan in dealing with his people. We should not get too bogged down over the question of their historical accuracy. They vary from what seem to be quotes from official documents in I and II Kings to what is clearly fiction, as in Jonah. The various authors seem to have made no distinction between sacred and secular history; rather, their purpose is to instruct us about how God acted in the past.

Secondly, parts of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy are books of the Law. These contain several collections of laws (eg the Holiness Code in Leviticus 17 – but at the heart of the law are the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20, Deuteronomy 5). These laws are the foundation of the special relationship between God and his people, the covenant. We must remember that although Jesus often criticised the scribes and Pharisees for over scrupulous or erroneous interpretations of the Law, He came not to abolish but to complete it.

PSALMS ARE A VIBRANT AND MEANINGFUL WAY OF PRAYING TO GOD.

A third genre is the hymns and psalms found mainly in the Psalms and the Song of Songs. It seems that the psalms were intended for public liturgies (in the Temple) and for private prayer, and they are still



used in both ways today. For century after century Christians have found these hymns and psalms to provide a vibrant and meaningful way of praying to God.

The books include Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Job: these books are intended to guide us in making godly choices in our lives. They vary from aphorisms about daily life to speculation about theological and cosmological questions. Wisdom is often personified and (despite being a feminine noun in both Hebrew and Greek, and so translated as she) is always taken by the Church as referring to Christ.

A fifth genre is the prophets, which is contained in 16 books (from Isaiah to Malachi). The prophets were God's spokesmen to Israel, the people of God. Sometimes they denounce an evil of which God disapproves; sometimes they predict what God will do in the future.

Finally, parts of Daniel and Zechariah are which contain revelations, usually about the appearance of God, about heaven, or about the end of time.

The fact that there are so many different genres or literary forms means that we need to read the Old Testament with discrimination. Some books can only be read straight through, like a novel (eg Job). Others, eg the Psalms, require a more meditative or reflective approach.

We must remember that all these genres and all the books in the Old Testament are theological: in one way or another they are about God and our relationship with him (especially the covenant), about how we should accordingly behave in our daily lives (ethics or right behaviour is a strong element throughout the Old Testament), and about how ultimately God saves us.

GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN

God's glory on the mountain

Jesus took three of his disciples to see something amazing

Find their names and circle them - PETER, JAMES, JOHN

A	P	P	O	R	B	J	K	J
S	T	M	A	O	H	N	C	E
B	E	D	L	E	S	N	Z	C
D	R	E	L	S	N	Z	C	E

Step by Step
Matthew 17:1-10

THE FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION (A, B and C)

Step by Step
Matthew 17:1-10

Join the dots to finish the picture

Jesus shone like the sun!

Matt 17:1

Matt 17:2

MASS INTENTIONS

ALL MASSES ARE AT ST THOMAS'S CHURCH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Welcome to
h
who was baptized last week at
St Thomas s.

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

k \ o o) t U
Please pray for the soul of
o U U
who has recently died.

Charles Chapman, Ken Sawczak, James
Hickey, Anthony Porteous, David
Gordon, Maurice Walshe, Hilda Jaffa,
Douglas St. Clare Hill, Paul Falla, James
Farrell, Harry Parsons, Fr Nicholas
McCormack, Patrick Wyer

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- V u k * V # - . . . V u @ h = \ V
In splendidi nube Spiritus Sanctus visus est, paterna vox audita est: Hic est Filius meus dilectus, in quo mihi bene complacui:
ipsum audite.
\ U U y V @ \ V . . . V u @ h = \ V
Cum Christus apparuerit, similes ei erimus, quoniam videbimus eum sicuti est.