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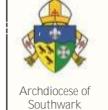
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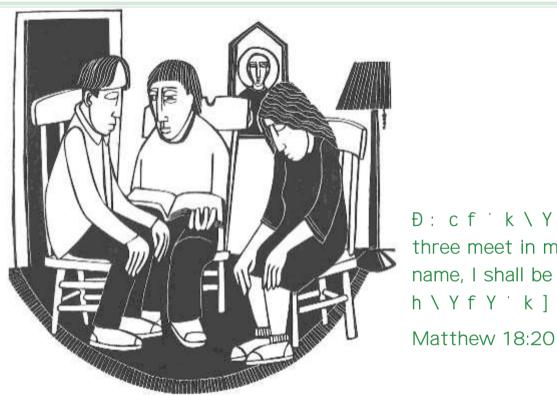


Parish Newsletter

PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY **SEVENOAKS**

Churches in Sevenoaks, Otford, Bor ough Green and west kingsdown

10th September 2017



 $D: cf'k \setminus YfY'h$ three meet in my name, I shall be $h \setminus Y f Y \cdot k] h \setminus \cdot h$

Today's Mass: Twenty Third Sunday (Year A)

First God, aspeaking through Ezekiel, says that the appointed leader must speak out against evil. In the end, it is a matter of (eternal) life and (eternal) death.

P s a Ithe psalm recalls the disobedience of the ancestors Meribah means strife and Massah means testing Instead we must obey God listen to his voice

Second: Rove às the follilling of the law. St Paul lists the very sins about which Jesus speaks in the Gospel

G o s :pCbrist here speaks forthrightly about the effect of unrepented sin on the community of faith. We tend to think of sin - and therefore forgiveness as well - as personal. But every sin badly wounds the whole community, the Church. The ultimate sanction against a sinner is exclusion (being treated like a pagan or tax collector).

The power to forgive sins to loose them or to withhold forgiveness to bind them is given to the church: thus the Sacrament of Penance is not an optional extra for especially pious people, but is a must for all followers of Christ. When did YOU last go to Confession?

Fr David

St Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks

Sunday Mass tm &Wse:ekday Mass tm 8:00am Saturday Monday 6:00pm Tuesday 9:30am Wednesday 8:00a m Sunday 12:00noon Thursday 8: O QLatin) 8:00am Friday 9: 1 5/Childmen's Litural of Word) 9:30am Saturday 11:15am



Granville Ro Sevenoaks TN1 1 E R

Sacrament of Reconciliaton.

Parish Office: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe 8: 00 a 2nn o o Saturday

8: 0 0 19 m 0 0 p fn 0: 0 01 a0m 3 0 a m, 10:00am - 12noon 5:155m45pm

Thursday 11:0-33a n 00 p m **Saturday** 8: 3 0 1a cm: 3 0 a m

6:00pm

Monday

Adoraton:

Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri 9:00am - 12noon Tel: 01732 454177 parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk www.sevrcparish.org.uk



High Street, Otford TN14 5PH

MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

Mass :tSumetas9: 30 a m **Wed** 1 0: 00 a m

Rosemary Curtis 01959 522624 (Sacristan) Anne Knight 01959 524488

Church contacts:

(Acting Secretary) Adora Fridan 11: O Ola: no Opm parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk



Western Rd, Borough Green TN15 8AG

St Josephøs **BOROUGH GREEN**

Church contact:

Mass :t**Same**tags9: 30am³

Antoni Offert Tel: 07513 041075 parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown TN15 6JP

St Bernadetteøs

West kingsdown

Mass :tSumetays11:00am Thurs, Fri & Sat 9: 15 a m Holy Days of Obligation 1 1: 0 0 a m

Church contact: Jill & John Gobel Tel: 01474 853676 **Rosary:** 1st Wed every month at 7:00 pmparish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk

Adoration: Wed 7: 3 0 \(\bar{8} \) :m3 0 p \(\bar{m} \) Thurs 1 0:-00:00am

St Thomasøcatholic primary school



South Park, Sevenoaks, TN:13 1ESH ThPomeasSchool

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

Head: Mrs Debbie Whitehead Tel: 01732 779517

info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

Contacts & organisations

Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks www.sevrcparish.org.uk

frdavid@sevrcparish.org.uk

Parish Fr Davidi Gibbsonts,: KHS Assista Fr Raul Obkora esRetred CaRon Johne Bailet, KHS frpaul@sevrcparish.org.uk Tel: 01474 852223

> Parish.office@sevrcparish.org.uk Presbytery a n12dGran Rviller Road, Seveno aks, Ten 13 1ER Parish Of More, Weld, Thurs & Fri 9:00am - 12noon

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.

AdoraBiarroy 1&: Marie Authers adoration@sevrcparish.org.uk

A | t a r Savid Brunenings Tel: 01732 465518 davidabrunning@btinternet.com

C a t e nTheaCatenians 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

Finance Commitee: Chair: Bill Farren 07787 537350 Minutes Secretary: Terry D Avrincourt 07812 054364

G i f Sheain Corrigan sean.corrigan@sevrcparish.org.uk

Lecto Kathie Gomzalez Tel: 01732 761253

Moth ₱ r a y Mondays, 11.00am at Star House, Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532500

Parents & Emma Mtc Govern 07386 219742. Lourdes Marinetto-Travers 07900 591527 Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre

RACET (Rurals A £ ducat 6 h i T d u MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

Parish Tel:

The Pi Tleag or lunches; four times a year, held at St. Thomas s 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.

Chilsdrleinturgy of the Wordst Vincent de KPathaieuGonzaSezo-ciety ugonzalez@btinternet.com (01732 761253) Frances Smith - francesrsmith@hotmail.com Joan Perkins - perkins_aj@hotmail.com

> Union of Catholic Mothers Borough Green UCM: June Dinsmore (President) Tel: 01732 672602 West Kingsdown UCM: Monica Biggs (President) per ardua ad astra@hotmail.com

Young D 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@sevrcparish.org.uk

Further details of organisations are available in our

Readers, Ministers & SWelcomers Randbook and enjour website Readers, Ministers & swelcomers Rota, State and Enjour website Readers, Ministers & swelcomers Rota, Swelcomers Rota Visit us at www.sevrc Tony Cappozi: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

R.c.i.a

(rite of Christian initiation of adults)

RCL-What is it?

It is the process by which non-Catholics become Catholics. When the Church speaks about welcoming new people as members it says:

The rite of initiation is suited to a spiritual journey of adults that varies according to the many forms of God s grace, the free co-operation of the individuals, the action of the Church, and the circumstances of time and place. (RCIA 5)

This may need a little unpacking:

The rite of initiation - is how the Church refers to the process of welcoming new members;

is suited to a spiritual journey - it is a time of growth for those seeking to know/experience God in their lives;

of adults - of any age or background;

that varies - there is not one blueprint;

according to the many forms of God s grace - for those who seek Him, God is already at work in their lives; an initial part of the process is to help people recognise this grace, God s blessings, in their lives;

the free co-operation of the individuals - people respond in different ways to God s call;

the action of the Church - to become a Catholic is to be a member of a universal body of believers which is grounded in local parish community;

and the circumstances of time and place - your life situation is an important factor within the process.

RCLWho is it for?

- z intended for those who are not members of the Catholic Church;
- z intended for those who wish to explore and understand the faith of the Church;
- z begins with a time of enquiry, for asking questions and for reflection. This may is done in a group: both with others who are also seeking and members of the local church;
- z can be used by those Baptized a Catholic but who have lapsed and wish to re-connect with the Church.

The Shape of the Rite

To become a Catholic can take some time. It is a journey of faith and like any journey the route is marked by various stages. In RCIA these stages, which might be thought of as turning points, are marked by special rites or liturgies in the church. They are signs of a growing and deepening relationship. Between these turning points are periods — time to get know Jesus and the Church and appreciate that what we believe affects how we live our lives.

There is no overall timetable, though Baptism (Christening) usually takes place at Easter (in the spring). With that as a signpost you can take as long as you need. It is also possible to decide it is not for you.

Our RCIA CeCuartsheolficors non

Begins with the *Why?* Course on Monday evenings at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre, starting on 25th September. That is followed by the RCIA programme proper, continuing on Monday evenings. Initially it is just Come and See there is no commitment (that will come later). Both those who have never been Baptized (known as catechumens and those who have been Baptized in another church candidates are invited to come along.

If you know someone who may be interested in becoming a Catholic, please issue a personal invitation to join this course, and please accompany them at least to the first session. Further information can be obtained from Andrew La Trobe via the Parish office.



Parish NOTICES

Today

St Joseph's, Borough Green

The first Mass in the new St Joseph's church is today (Sunday) at 9:30am. Praise the Lord! Don't go to the school by mistake! Tea and coffee afterwards.

Second collection

Today it is for the Catholic Education Service. The CES is the chief negotiating and advisory body on all aspects of Catholic education; it also provides financial assistance for school transport in rural areas.

Loaves and Fishes collection

Donations of non-perishable items (food and toiletries) for the Sevenoaks foodbank should be placed in the baskets provided. No tea, pasta, soups, or baked beans this time, please.

This Week

Parish Finance Committee

Meets on Monday evening.

Lectio Divina Group

All parishioners are invited to come to the upper room in the Parish Centre to watch the Seven Deadly Sins DVD, on Tuesday at 8:00pm. Followed by a discussion.

Ordinariate Mass

Thursday at 7:30pm in St Thomas s.

Friday Adoration at Otford

No Adoration this Friday; back to normal next week.

Saturday: Consecration Anniversary

The Solemnity of the Anniversary of Consecration is on Saturday. Mass at 9:30am, followed by tea and coffee in the Parish Room. Please note tha Solemon with yaan kSsunday in Ord 6:00pm Mass on Saturday Consecration Annit Semslaryy,

St Thomas's Parish Parenting Course

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? We look at communication skills, discipline, encouragement, resolving problems and other areas of parenting, using Family Caring Trust programmes.

This term we will be running the course for parents of 0-6 year olds. 9:15am to 11:15am starting this Friday. There are limited creche places; please contact Ann O'Sullivan (07826 527568 or annosullivan7oaks @gmail.com) this for emerk information or to book a place.

Holy Matrimony

The Marriage of Adam Barnes and Kerry Pinington is at 2:00pm at Holy Trinity, Otford on Saturday.

Next Weekend

Second collection

Next Sunday is Home Mission Sunday. The second collection provides the Bishops with resources to spread the Gospel in this country and to give grants for parish evangelization.

St Edith of Kemsing Devotions

The annual Devotions are on Sunday 17th September: St Edith's Well, Kemsing (next to The Bell pub) at 3:00pm, Vespers in Kemsing Church at 3:30pm, and Afternoon Tea in The Bell at 4:15pm. These devotions are very suitable for children and families.

In addition, please do consider joining in a Pilgrimage Walk from St Thomas via Most Holy Trinity Otford. It leaves from St Thomas at 10.30am and from Otford at 1.30pm. Pick up a leaflet from the porch today. Further details from the Parish Office.

St Edith is the right hand saint in the mural behind the Altar in St Thomas s, with Kemsing Church behind her. She was born in Kemsing in 961, the daughter of King Edgar the Peaceful, and became Abbess of Wilton; she was famous for her learning, beauty, and sanctity.

Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers

asked to attend this Mass.

Bishop Paul Mason will be here on Thursday 28th
September for Mass at 8:00pm, at which he will
Commission those Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion who were never commissioned.
All Extraordinary Ministers at all four churches are

The Pilgrims' Visit to Rochester - 15th September

The parish group The Pilgrims is for retired and older parishioners. Our Autumn visit is by coach to Rochester Cathedral. There are a W€ e w will have refreshments on arrival, our own prayer time in the Crypt Chapel and a guided tour of the Cathedral by Jonathan Fenner, a parishioner. Lunch and sightseeing to follow in the town. The coach leaves Holy Trinity, Otford at 9:00am (where you can park) and 9:30am then from St Thomas s. We aim to be back by 5pm. For more info or to book contact Pat on 01732 453902 or Jackie on 01732 450197 or ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com.

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Parish NOTICES

Parish Courses/Programmes

The Why? Course

Catholic answers to the big questions:

Why God? Why Christ? Why the Church?

Each session lasts just one hour (inclusive of a 25 minute video), for those wishing to explore the Catholic faith, or just learn more about Catholicism. The course will run over three consecutive Monday evenings, at 8:00pm in the Parish Centre at St Thomas's Church, on 25th September, 2nd & 9th October. Bring your friends, all welcome.

This short course will be followed on Monday evenings by the RCIA Course, for non-Catholics interested in becoming Catholics. If you know anyone who may be thinking of becoming a Catholic please pass on a personal invitation to come on 25th September.

Contact Andrew La Trobe for more information or to register: andrew.latrobe@gmail.com.

First Confession & Holy Communion 2018

Children turning 8 in the forthcoming academic year. 2017/18, are eligible for First Confession and First Holy Communion. The initial meeting for parents will be on Tuesday 3rd October, 8:00pm - 9:00pm, in church. Application forms available on the night; contact Ingrid La Trobe in the Parish Office for further information.

Young Disciples

This group provides informal catechesis for children in Years 4 - 9, between the 9:15am and 11:15am Masses on a Sunday. We hope to resume in September but this important ministry is run by parishioners and we need more volunteers to help support the main catechist. Please contact Enia Adeleye at youngdisciples@ sevrcparish.org.uk for further details. Volunteers will need to have a DBS clearance before they can start. This is an important group in the parish, especially for post-First Holy Communion children and children not at Catholic school, so p | e a S Offertory - 2/3 September volunteer i.f you can help

Family Mass Group

Would you enjoy singing or playing an instrument in a relaxed, fun and sociable choir? If so, the Family Mass Music Group would love to hear from you. We meet once a month to practice in a home environment and lead the music once a month at the 9:15am Mass as well as at the First Holy Communion Masses. As children grow up we do need new members to be able to carry on this contribution to the parish.

If you are interested contact Karen Owen: karenreece@btinternet.com.

Church cleanina

A new church at Borough Green, a new academic year marvellous, but some things never change, and that s church cleaning. The St Thomas s rotas need a boost. Can YOU spare an hour a month, on a Wednesday 10:00am - 11:00am, to polish or push a henry? Other times too have openings for helpers. Contact Pat: 01732 453902.

Other Notices

Diocesan Day for Catechists 23rd September

The annual Day for Catechists, organised by the diocesan Centre for Catholic Formation, is on Saturday 23rd September, at St George's Cathedral. The Day begins at 11:00am, and ends with Mass at 4:00pm, at which catechists will be sent out to catechise on the Archbishop s behalf. All parish catechists are urged to attend the Day; if you don t receive information about it contact Ingrid in the Parish Office asap.

Holydays of Obligation

With effect from the First Sunday of Advent 2017, two holydays of obligation are being reinstated, and consequently transferred from the adjacent Sunday back to their proper day. The E p i p h a n y will f now be observed on 6th January (unless it falls on a Saturday or Monday when it is transferred to the Sunday). The Ascension wilf be on the Thursday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter (ie 40 days after the Resurrection). This decision was made by the Bishops of England & Wales and confirmed by the Holy See. See the diocesan website for the Vatican and Conference decrees.

Parish Finances

St Thomas	1,462.18
Otford	194.65
B Green	170.50
W Kingsdown	123.99
TOTAL	£1,951.32

Thank you for your generosity and support. The totals for Standing Orders are not included and are notified

For newspapers and repository items please put your money in the correct wall box.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Hard guestions about the Old Testament



ome difficult questions remain. What about the portrayal of a violent, vengeful and frankly unappealing God? How can we reconcile the Genesis account of creation with Darwinism? What is the relevance to us today of L centain passages, such as the cultic requirements in Leviticus which we no longer observe?

One answer is that we can t pick and choose which bits to retain and which bits to throw overboard; no two people would select the same bits. And in any case, human nature being what it is, we would be tempted to keep the easy, consoling parts and get rid of the challenging, difficult parts. The Hebrew scriptures have come down to us, wholesale, as part of our scriptures.

Secondly, we are dealing with a mystery, the mystery which is God and his covenant relationship with his people. Although we can appreciate some aspects of this, we should not expect that interpreting the scriptures will always be easy. Indeed, it should sometimes be hard, requiring struggling with the text by theologians over many years. We are not perfect yet, so we will not fully comprehend God yet.

How odd of God to choose the Jews This famous saying should alert us to the fact that, thirdly, we need to understand the Jewish context in which the Old Testament books were written, and to recognise the different literary forms or genres in which they were written. We have to do this even for much more recent texts (such as Magna Carta or Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales If we are to understand the Old Testament writers properly, we can t short circuit this.

This mistake is made by people such as Professor Dawkins, who claim that Genesis, being written so long ago, conflicts with our modern scientific knowledge. The creation account is a story asserting that God created the universe. It is not a scientific, physics treatise about the origins of the universe. (Incidentally, it is remarkable how Genesis, with its symbolic, picture language, is consistent with the modern scientific account of the Big Bang.) Just because something was written millennia ago does not mean that it cannot be a revelation about God, that it cannot be true.

Dawkins also writes The God of the Old Testament is arguably the most unpleasant character in all fiction The God Delusion (He does, at least, concede that Jesus is a huge improvement!) But a careful, close reading shows that although God is indeed wrathful when his people disobey him, and follow idolatry and wickedness, ultimately he is a God of love. His love for his people does not waver, however bad their transgressions.

We have to interpret the Old Testament carefully and holistically; then we will not misunderstand it by extracting only short sections out of context.

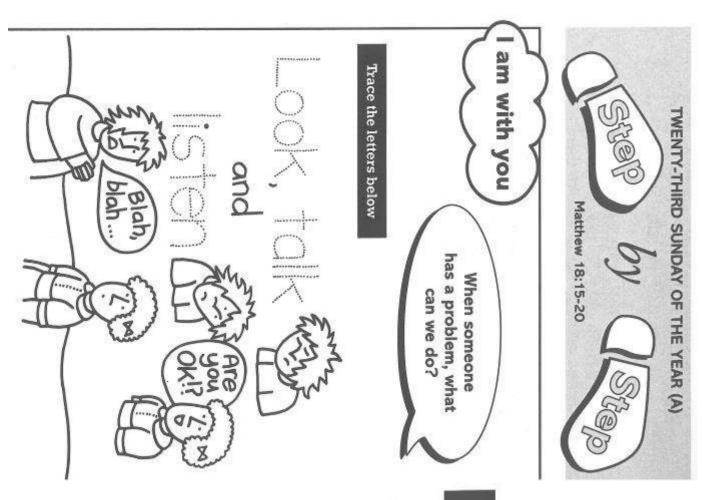
The old testament puts a spring in our step & a song in our hearts.

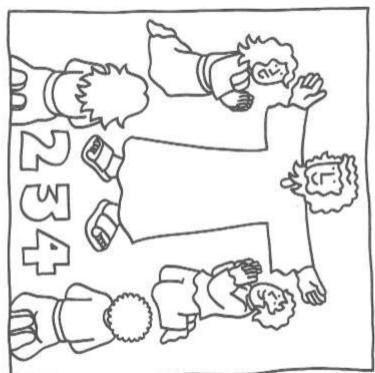
Fourthly, we are members of the New Covenant (of Jesus Christ). This means that some of the prescriptions of the Old Covenant – such as not eating shellfish or pork – have been superseded. They applied to the Jews then, but not to us today. Many of the old prescriptions do still apply, especially those which are part of basic divine law or where Jesus has restated them. Thus the Ten Commandments – which forbid murder, adultery and so on – do still form our basic moral code as Christians. See Galatians 3:17.

Stuart Blanch (a former Anglican Archbishop of York) wrote that the Old Testament is a jungle of chaotic ideas, unfinished themes and tangled history . Indeed it is. But he goes on to say it is a book which is meant to throw some light on our path, to put a spring in our step and a song in our hearts It expresses the mind of God it is a book for all mankind an ancient source of experience and wisdom. And so it is.

Lord

God Loves his children





ny people praying can you count? Circle the answer

When two or three people meet to pray, Jesus is there with them

Mass intentions

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

S u n d a Truenty-third sunday of ordinary time (A)

6:00pm (Sat) Miss H M McNabb RIP

8:00am Intentions of the Rodrigues family

9:15am Fr Peter Ryman RIP 11:15am People of the Parish 6:00pm Henrietta Temple RIP

9:30am *Otford* Claire Smith - in thanksgiving

9:30am Borough Green Sean O Loughlin RIP 11:00am West Kingsdown Julia Taylor RIP

Monda^tyh *Feria*1

8:00am Natasha Caisley (Speedy recovery)

Tuesd^ta^hFeria 12

9:30am Howard Brain RIP

We d n e s d b John Chrysostom, BD

8:00am Miss H M McNabb RIP 10:00am *Otford* Lennon Harris RIP

Thurs dharme EXALTATION of the HOLY CROSS

9:15am West Kingsdown Fr Leo Targett RIP
12:00noon Miss H M McNabb RIP

Frid tah **Qur L'ady of Sorrows**

8:00am Gawldin D Souza RIP and Lily Rodrigues RIP

9:15am West Kingsdown Roy Arthur RIP

Saturtah anniversary

9:15am West Kingsdown Fred Hood RIP 9:30am Holy Souls

S u n d a Trwenty-fourth sunday of ordinary time (A)

6:00pm (Sat) For the People of Kemsing (St Edith's Day)

8:00am Mrs Noelle March RIP 9:15am Mrs Theresa Gould 11:15am People of the Parish 6:00pm Not yet booked

9:30am *Otford*Bob & Ann Primarolo (57th Wedding Anniv)
9:30am *Borough Green*Tom Hoey RIP & the comfort of his family

11:00am West Kingsdown Leonard Joseph Gobel 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

Departed

Please pray for the soul of

Tony Biggs

who has recently died.

Anniversaries:

Alan Davies, Cecil O Callaghan, Emma Flanigan, John Hickey, Gordon Gates, Doreen Levey, Colin Moss, Stanley Norfolk, John Asquith, Elizabeth Travers, Bernard Bishop, Lucile Conney, Frederick Brain, Desmond O Meara, Barbara Hawkins, George Jones, Maurice Still, Sidney Pemberton, Brian Emmerson, Joan Taylor, Daisy Norfolk, Flora Hopkins, Marguerite Matthews, Catherine

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

Entrance Antphon:

lustus es, Domine, et rectum iudicium tuum; fac cum servo tuo secundum misericordiam tuam.

Communion Antphon:

Ego sum lux mundi, dicit Dominus; qui sequitur me, non ambulat in tenebris, sed habebit lumen vitae.