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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

17th September 2017



St Edith of
Kemsing

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

First Reading: The words of *Sirach* are strikingly similar to today's *Gospel*, in opposing revenge and forgiveness, and in linking forgiveness and prayer. The author reminds us that everyone is subject to death and divine judgement in the end, so we are not in a position to pass judgement on others.

Psalm: The psalmist praises God for his divine forgiveness, compassion, and faithful love.

Second Reading: The living and dying of a Christian, that is to say his or her whole existence, is for Christ and for others.

Gospel: Jesus urges unlimited forgiveness. The *seventy-seven times* is reference to *Genesis* 4:24, where Lamech proudly boasts that he will avenge himself seventy-seven times on anyone who dares to attack him. Forgiveness is the opposite of revenge.

Jesus goes on to tell a parable about an oriental sultan who conducts an audit of his accounts and underlings, one of whom is forgiven his debts but does not in turn forgive those who owe him, and he is punished. The main point of the parable is not, however, the wicked servant but the magnanimous king, who represents God in his limitless generosity. And of course if we wish to be part of his kingdom we too must imitate God in our forgiveness.

Today is also Home Mission Sunday. The theme for this year is *Share the joy of the Gospel*.

Fr David

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St Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks



Sunday Mass 8:00am
Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 8:00am
9:15am (Children's Liturgy of Word)
11:15am
6:00pm

Monday 8:00am
Tuesday 9:30am
Wednesday 8:00am
Thursday 12:00noon
Friday 8:00am
Saturday 9:30am

Adoration: Monday 8:00am - 12noon
Tuesday 10:00am - 12noon
Thursday 11:00am - 12noon
Saturday 8:30am - 10:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday 10:00am - 12noon
Monday 8:00pm - 10:00pm
Tuesday 5:15pm - 7:45pm
Friday 11:00am - 12noon
Saturday 10:00am - 12noon

Granville Road,
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER
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

www.sevrparish.org.uk Parish Tel: 01732 454177

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

Parish Office Mrs Ingrid La Trobe parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk
Presbytery at 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER
Parish Office Mon, Wed, 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.



High Street, Otford
TN14 5PH

MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

Mass: Sunday 9:30am
Wed 10:00am

Adoration: Friday 11:00am - 12noon
parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk

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



Western Rd, Borough Green
TN15 8AG

St Joseph's BOROUGH GREEN

Mass: Sunday 9:30am

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



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown
TN15 6JP

St Bernadettes West Kingsdown

Mass: Sunday 11:00am
Thurs, Fri & Sat 9:15am

Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am
Rosary: 1st Wed every month at 7:00pm
Adoration: Wed 7:30pm - 8:30pm
Thurs 10:00 - 11:00am
parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk

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

St Thomas Catholic primary school



South Park,
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH
Headteacher: Mrs Claudia Aquilina
Tel: 01732 453921
www.saintthomas.co.uk
Head: Mrs Debbie Whitehead
Tel: 01732 779517
info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

Adoration: Barry & Marie Authers
adoration@sevrparish.org.uk

Altar: David Brunning Tel: 01732 465518
davidabunning@btinternet.com

Catechists: The Catechists 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.

Children's Liturgy of the Word: St Vincent de Paul Society Sevenoaks, 9.15am Mass: Anne Murphy annemurphy2000@yahoo.com
Otford, 9.30am Mass: Alex Wilson-Beales Tel: 07789 776602

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

Gift Aid: Sean Corrigan
sean.corrigan@sevrparish.org.uk

Lectornia: Kathie Gonzalez
Tel: 01732 761253

Mother's Rosary: Mondays, 11.00am at Star House, Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532500

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers: Parish Handbook and on our website
Tony Capozzi: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com
Visit us at www.sevrparish.org.uk

Parents & Friends: Anna Kidd 07816 273765; Kelly Sammuller 07521 428112; Paola Webb 07429 160394.
Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre

RACET (Rural & Educational Child Development): MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

The Pi Teag 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.

Union of Catholic Mothers: Borough Green UCM: June Dinmore (President) Tel: 01732 672602
West Kingsdown UCM: Monica Biggs (President) per_ardua_ad_astra@hotmail.com

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. 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.
Visit us at www.sevrparish.org.uk



A Journey of faith

by Father Kenneth Eger e

Growing up in the small village of Ntrigom in Northern Cross River State, Nigeria was fun. My position as the first born and male child in a traditional African Society where gender inequality was at its peak made village life more interesting! With great nostalgia, I vividly remember the many times Mom woke me up as early as 5:30am for Morning devotion in our small Village church. We would have to walk through a scary, narrow and wet footpath with a lantern that made shadows all around us.

Although my parents were both Catholics and I was baptized as an infant, the teaching of African values and traditions through stories and parables in the evening at moonlight played a bigger part of my childhood than being taught about my faith. Occasionally Mom will teach me simple Catholic prayers like Hail Mary, Our Father, etc. in both the vernacular and Latin. I was far more interested in stories like those of the Nigerian-Biafra civil wars, rather than learning how to recite the simple prayers! As a child, I went to a village primary school and later on through the influence of my mother I was sent to a Catholic School.

Our Parish Centre was about 18 miles away from Ntrigom, my ancestral home. The Irish Parish Priest, who was a Kiltegan Father (St. Patrick s), would only visit our Station Church once every 3 to 4 months as he had 47 daughter churches to visit. The impact, when he did arrive to say Mass, of the Irish Parish Priest in his immaculate white cassock going through the machination of ceremonies in our village church, was phenomenal. As a child, I always saw a holy aura around the priest, a kind of feeling that seem unearthly and transcendent. I loved seeing the priest but never, not even in my wildest dreams, wished to become a priest. My father told me that in our traditional society, childlessness is a curse from the ancestors.

However, as it was the tradition that students from our school visit their Parish Priest during long vacation for a week and two so that the Parish Priest could write a report allowing us to go back to school, I did this every vacation. My Mom and Dad had told me that after High School I would be sent to University to study Law. Shortly before my Sixth grade, however, I began to think about becoming a priest perhaps because the Irish Parish Priest was very gentle, nice and generous to everybody around him. When my parents found out they were both disappointed and heartbroken as they had hoped I would become the breadwinner of the family. Mom was not very cross with me but Dad was; in fact, it almost cost Mom s marriage since she suggested Catholic Education for me. Consequently, Dad would neither assist me financially during my long formative years nor talk to me. Sanctions were indeed imposed by my father but Mom was discreetly very supportive. Providentially, through *Missio* a Catholic charity, I got full sponsorship from a German Lady, Teresa Hoppe till after my ordination.

After ordination, I have spent most of my priesthood studying and teaching. I found the priesthood very interesting but a perilous thing to do. Fears usually creep in at regular intervals because it is a privilege not given even to the Angels and more so our human nature is fallen and fragile - and what if the umbilical cord breaks? The aura comes even more when recognizing the boldness of the venture and to be God's instrument daily. Taking his most sacred mysteries into my unworthy hands is an awesome responsibility. Amidst these, being a priest is the greatest gift God has given to me. I really enjoy and love my Priesthood.



Parish NOTICES

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Today

Saturday 6:00pm Mass

This is the Solemnity of the Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church (in 1935). The readings and prayers are taken from the Common of the Dedication of a Church, so ignore the readings etc in the middle of this Newsletter. Note however: this Mass does fulfil your Sunday obligation.

Second Collection

On this Home Mission Sunday the second collection provides the Bishops with resources to support the spread of the Gospel in our own country and to support parish evangelization.

St Edith of Kemsing Devotions

The annual Devotions for our local saint are this afternoon:

Devotions at St Edith s Well (next to The Bell)	3:00pm
Vespers in Kemsing Church	3:30pm
Afternoon Tea at The Bell	4:15pm

These devotions are very suitable for children and families. A pilgrimage group is walking to Kemsing, leaving St Thomas s at 10:30am and Holy Trinity, Otford at 1:30pm.

Monday is the actual feast day of St Edith: Mass as usual at 8:00am.

This Week

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes

The Parish Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes takes place this week, from Monday to Friday, led by Fr David.

Adoration - Monday

There is no adoration on Monday evening, 8:00-9:00pm.

Anthony Biggs RIP

Tony s body is being Received into Church at 4.30pm on Wednesday. His Funeral Mass is at the 12:00 noon Mass on Thursday, followed by Cremation at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium. Tony was one of our Saturday evening Sacristans, so we hope there will be a good representation of parishioners to support Sheila and the family.

Next Weekend

Next Sunday: annual Mission Appeal

We shall be joined next weekend by two priests from the Missionary Society of St Columban for the annual Mission Appeal, and of course the second collection will be for the missionaries.

Next Sunday: Confirmation Away Day

The candidates on this year s Confirmation programme have their Away Day next Sunday, at The Carmelite Shrine at Aylesford.

Notices

Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers

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 asked to attend this Mass.

APF Collectors and Individual Red Box Holders

It is time for the annual returns to the APF Head Office. Please would you ensure that you send returns or requests for boxes to be collected before the end of September. This is particularly this year as the old £5 note cease to be legal tender should be made payable to *Archdiocese of Southwark APF Account* and sent to Peter Ringham (01732 885814). Thank you for your continued support.

Help for Refugees - SVP

There will be a collection of clothes to help the refugees in Northern France via the charity Seeking Sanctuary on 30th Sept / 1st Oct. Please bring in the following items either new or in very good condition:

Parish NOTICES

Sleeping bags, blankets, men's boxer shorts (small or medium, tight fit only), socks and gloves, warm waterproof coats and waterproof trousers, men's jogging bottoms size 26-34 waist, trainers and shoes sizes 38-45 (especially 40-43).

In Northern France the numbers of refugees become ever greater, many sleeping rough near Calais or Dunkirk, and the authorities approach is to try and deter refugees by hindering aid distributions etc. For more information please see the website www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com

We will also need help to sort and bag up the donated items after the 6pm Mass on Sunday 1st Oct. Please come along to the Parish Centre if you can.

Church cleaning

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.

Photographs of Borough Green

Keep a look out for photos of the new church on our website - www.sevrcparish.org.uk

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 please volunteer if you can help

Other Notices

Food Bank Collection

Many thanks for the donations to the food bank last weekend. The bank is also open weekly Thursday 1-4pm at St John's, Quakers Hall La., Sevenoaks. Next collection is on 18/19th Nov. Queries: 07487 652846.

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 haven't received information about it contact Ingrid in the Parish Office asap.

Parish Finances

Offertory - 9/10 September

St Thomas	1,303.23
Otford	204.05
B Green	422.30
W Kingsdown	131.53
TOTAL	£ 2061.11

Catholic Ed Service	£234.12
BG Church Build Fund	£60.00

Thank you for your generosity and support. The totals for Standing Orders are not included and are notified monthly. For newspapers and repository items please put your money in the correct wall box.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Why should people be Baptized?



The short answer is that Jesus Himself was Baptized and He commanded his disciples to Baptize. Although He was without sin Jesus insisted at the beginning of His public ministry that John the Baptist Baptize Him (read *Matthew 3: 13-17*). And, as recorded in *Matthew 28: 18-20*, Jesus last command to His disciples was to *baptize them [all nations] in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit*.

In His encounter with Nicodemus (*John 3: 1-21*) Christ made it clear that Baptism is necessary for salvation: *Amen, amen I say to you, unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*. To state it crudely: the only way we know of - from both scripture and tradition - of being sure that we are on the road to heaven is to be Baptized. It is, of course, perfectly possible for God to enable non-Baptized people to enjoy eternal life, and the Church has long recognised two other types of Baptism: the Baptism of desire (those who wish to be Baptized but who die before they receive it) and the Baptism of blood (those killed for the faith before they can be Baptized).

There is, as you might expect, a long answer to the question of why we should be Baptized. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* the two principal effects of Baptism are purification from sins and new birth in the Holy Spirit.

By Baptism *all sins* are forgiven, original sin and all personal sins, as well as punishment for sin.

Original sin is the name given to that sinfulness that all human beings have, as a result of the Fall of Adam and Eve. Although we are made in the image of God, who is good, and therefore there is good in everyone, there is also a tendency to do wrong things from time to time. Ask any parent of a two year old! Personal sins are simply those things which, as individuals, we do which are wrong (telling lies, stealing, and so on).

Every time we sin, we incur a punishment, which ultimately leads to the most serious punishment, that is separation from God. Baptism removes this punishment (or the consequences of sin, if you prefer), in this world, in purgatory, and in heaven.

Thus adults on RCIA courses who are to be Baptized do not make their Confession beforehand, unlike candidates who are to be Received into Full Communion. Once the newly Baptized have, through human frailty, committed some sins, they will only then go to Confession.

Baptism is the door to the spiritual life.

The second main effect is rebirth as a new creature as an adopted son or daughter of God, as a member of Christ (which is what christening means, being made in Christ), and as a Temple of the Holy Spirit. The person Baptized receives sanctifying grace (the life of grace within us which enables us to grow in holiness), so that he or she can believe in God, live and act in the Holy Spirit, and grow in holiness and in the virtues.

Becoming part of Christ includes becoming part of the Church, which is the continuing body of Christ on earth; at Baptism we become a part of the holy people of God, a part of the royal priesthood sharers in the missionary activity of the Church. Once Baptized we can go on to receive the other sacraments as appropriate. Thus Baptism was called by the Council of Florence (1438 - 45) the door to the spiritual life

God Loves his children

Be forgiving

At first the servant was very worried! How did he feel when he was forgiven? Draw his face

A servant owed the king a lot of money. He asked for mercy and the king forgave him everything

Step by Step

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

Matthew 18:21-35

Use the secret code pad to find Jesus' words below

SECRET CODE PAD

O = ∇	A =	E = △	R = >	F = ⊙	T = ...	M = ⊥
U = □	H = ⊥	B = △	Y = ◇	G = ⊥	I = !	V = ⊥

Jesus wants us to forgive each other just as we are forgiven ourselves

Mass intentions

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

Sunday TWENTY-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	Barbara Hawkins RIP
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

Monday St Edith of Kemsing, V

8:00am	Our Priests - thanksgiving
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Tuesday Feria 1 9

9:30am	for Vince
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Wednesday SS Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Pr, Paul Chõng Ha-sang, & Comp MM

8:00am	Holy Souls
10:00am Otford	Doreen Levey RIP (Anniv)

Thursday St MATTHEW, Ap Ev

9:15am West Kingsdown	Bantana Francisco Fernandes RIP
12:00noon	Funeral Mass of Anthony John Biggs

Friday Feria 2 2

8:00am	Miss H M McNabb RIP
9:15am West Kingsdown	Joseph & Louise Harding (Wedding Anniv)

Saturday St Pius of Pietrelcina, Pr

9:15am West Kingsdown	Rob & Jan Price (Wedding Anniv)
9:30am	Our Priests - thanksgiving

Sunday TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (A)

6:00pm (Sat)	Ted & Margaret Nowakowski RIP (Anniv)
8:00am	People of the Parish
9:15am	Eileen Edwards RIP
11:15am	Not yet booked
6:00pm	Not yet booked
9:30am Otford	for Barry & Marie
9:30am Borough Green	Not yet booked

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

Maureen Hanton, Thomas Healy, Rosemary Remnant, Hazel Pilorz, Maureen Way, Sue Chamberlain, Ana Pilar Santos, Joseph Stevenson

Anniversaries:

Mary O Leary, Douglas Bass, Adelaide Wheatcroft, Marion Dibley, George Flanagan, Margaret Quinn, Patsy Wilson, Stanislaus Aniserewicz, Winifred Maylea, John Rawlins, Josephine Cudlipp, Andrew Gallighan, Martin Duffey, Joy Wooding, Agnes Emmerson, Sidney Hearn

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



Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

Entrance antphon:

Da pacem, Domine, sustinentibus te, ut prophetae tui fideles inveniantur; exaudi preces servi tui, et plebis tuae Israel.

Communion antphon:

Calix benedictionis, cui benedicimus, communicatio Sanguinis Christi est; et panis, quem frangimus, participatio Corporis Domini est