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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

24th September 2017



Parable of the Labourers in  
the Vineyard

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

**First Reading:** God will forgive the person who abandons wicked ways and thoughts; God's ways and thoughts are not the same as ours.

**Psalm:** a song of praise to God, who is kind, forgiving and compassionate to *all who call him*.

The **Second Reading** is the first in a series from St Paul's letter to the Philippians, in which he is seeking to strengthen the faith of the Christians in Philippi (a city in Macedonia, in Greece).

The **Gospel** contains the parable of the Labourers in the Vineyard. It reminds us that God's justice and generosity is not like our human concepts of justice and generosity. It is also a reminder of the day of judgement: do we presume that we are among those who will be saved?

Today is a Day of Prayer for the Harvest, for the Fruits of Human Work, and for the Reverent Use of Creation.

Fr David



## St Thomas of Canterbury Sevenoaks



### Sunday Mass times:

Saturday  
6:00pm

### Sunday

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

### Weekday Mass times:

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

### Adoration:

Monday 8:00am - 12noon  
8:00pm - 9:00pm  
Tuesday 10:00am - 12noon  
Thursday 11:00am - 3:00pm  
Saturday 8:30am - 10:30am

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday  
10:00am - 10:30am,  
5:15pm - 5:45pm

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

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

Parish Priest: Fr David Gibbons, KHS  
frdavid@sevrparish.org.uk

Assistant Priest: Fr Paul Okora  
frpaul@sevrparish.org.uk

Retired Priest: Canon John Bailey, KHS  
Tel: 01474 852223

Parish Secretary: Mrs Ingrid La Trobe parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk

Presbytery and Parish Office: 12 Granville Road, Sevenoaks, TN13 1ER

Parish Office hours: 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.



### MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

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

Adoration: Friday 11:00am - 1:00pm

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

Mass times: Sunday 9:30am

Western Rd, Borough Green  
TN15 8AG

### Church contact:

Antoni Offert

Tel: 07513 041075

parish.office@sevrparish.org.uk



### St Bernadette's West Kingsdown

Mass times: 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

Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown  
TN15 6JP

### 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.sainthomas.org.uk

### St Thomas Pre School

Head: Mrs Debbie Whitehead  
Tel: 01732 779517

info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk

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

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

Catenians: 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.

### Children's Liturgy of the Word:

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

### Lectio Divina: Kathie Gonzalez

Tel: 01732 761253

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

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota, St Thomas  
Tony Capozzi: st.thomas.rota@gmail.com

Parents & Toddlers: Anna Kidd 07816 277765; Kelly Sammuller 07521 428112; Paola Webb 07429 160394. Tuesdays 9.30am - 11.30am, Parish Centre

RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust)  
MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, www.racet.org

The Pilgrims: 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.

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): Kathie Gonzalez - ugonzalez@btinternet.com (01732 761253)  
Frances Smith - francesrsmith@hotmail.com  
Joan Perkins - perkins\_aj@hotmail.com

### Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)

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

# St Edith

A Parish Devotion & Pilgrimage



Our Parish is one of the very few in Britain in which a royal saint was born. Soon after she died, aged only 23, on the 15th September 984, miracles at her tomb established her cult, particularly those associated with diseases of the eye (she is also associated with helping those who suffer from spiritual blindness).

Devotions to her were also established at her birth place in Kemsing. Water from the Well, in the old part of the village near the site of her birthplace, was regarded as a source of healing. A shrine was also built near the parish church of St Mary the Virgin whose origins date back to before the Norman conquest. As St Edith's Shrine was so near the Pilgrims Way to Canterbury, and she was such an important national saint, it became a site of pilgrimage.

The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation. It is not known when Catholics felt able to come openly to Kemsing again to pray at her Well. But a regular Parish Pilgrimage to the Well has continued since well before the Second World War. This year, a group of parishioners, who couldn't resist the opportunity to join pilgrims through the ages, walked from St Thomas's in Sevenoaks, lunching en-route at Holy Trinity Otford, to the Well in Kemsing.



Eighty parishioners took part in this year's celebrations of St Edith. Parishioners came from all the churches in the parish. It was good to see a number of children (including some who walked from Otford) and some fellow Christians from other denominations at St Edith's Well, where a posy of flowers was laid in her honour. We prayed the rosary and were delighted that Canon Bailey could lead us in the first Glorious Mystery of the Holy Rosary. Fr David, supported by Frs Paul and Kenneth, said prayers for the parish and asked for St Edith's intercession, especially for those with eye problems.



This year, we were welcomed, by kind permission of the Vicar, to pray Vespers at St Mary the Virgin as part of our devotions. Church warden Jean Walker gave us a warm welcome at this beautiful church with its historical connections to St Edith. Our singing was led by Aga, the cantor for Holy Trinity, Otford, and Douglas Bennet from St Mary's Church choir.

In time honoured tradition, as food is always very important when on pilgrimage, we finished at The Bell, with afternoon tea and a cake for St Edith.

By Antony Tyler & Ingrid La Trobe



# Parish NOTICES

## Contents this

- Pages 3-4 Parish Notices
- Page 5 Mass Intentions
- Page 6 Mass Readings
- Page 7 Sunday Message
- Page 8 Mass Activity for Children
- Page 9 From the desk of the Parish Priest - *Who can be Baptized?*
- Page 10 St Edith - A Parish Devotion & Pilgrimage
- Page 11 Contacts & Organisations

## Today

### Day of Prayer

Please pray today for the harvest, the fruits of human work, and for the reverent use of creation.

### Annual Mission Appeal

We shall be joined 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.

### Confirmation Away Day

Please pray for the candidates on this year's Confirmation programme who are on their Away Day at The Carmelite Shrine at Aylesford.

## This Week

### Why? Course

Begins on Monday at 8:00pm in the upper room in the Parish Centre. This week, Catholic answers to the big question - Why God? Each session lasts just one hour (inclusive of a 25 minute video), and is for those wishing to explore the Catholic faith, or just learn more about Catholicism. A 3-week course on consecutive Monday evenings. 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 Monday. Contact Andrew La Trobe for more information [andrew.latrobe@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.latrobe@gmail.com).

~~SVP~~ Monday, 7.30pm in Marjorie Hennessey Room  
~~Week~~ Tuesday, 8:00pm in Marjorie Hennessey Room.

## Mass for Commissioning of Holy Communion

Our Area Bishop, Rt Rev d Paul Mason, will be coming to St Thomas's on Thursday, to celebrate Mass at 8:00pm. At this Mass he will commission those who have been acting as Extraordinary Ministers but who were never Commissioned. All Extraordinary Ministers are asked to attend; all parishioners are welcome to attend this Pontifical Mass. Refreshments afterwards.

*There is no Ordinariate Mass this Thursday.*

## Friday

The Feast of the Archangels, SS Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael marks the anniversary of the restoration of the English Hierarchy and the establishment of the See of Southwark by Pope Pius IX in 1850.

## Next Weekend

### Next SVP Day

The second collection next weekend (30 Sept/1 Oct) will be **the annual SVP collection**. The SVP are a parish group whose members visit the sick, the elderly and the housebound, and help the needy financially with bills, food, furniture, transport to Mass etc. They are also twinned with 3 villages in India where they support very needy families. They support baby feeding centres in Sudan, and school students and those doing vocational training in India. They are completely dependent on voluntary contributions and so depend on your generosity each year to keep helping the needy.

With that in mind next weekend **30th Sept/1st Oct** there will be **a collection of clothes to help the refugees in Northern France via the charity Seeking Sanctuary**. [www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com](http://www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com)

*Please bring in the following items either new or in very good condition:*

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 7 to 10 and a half (especially the larger sizes).

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

*Many thanks for your continued support.*



# Parish NOTICES

*Holy Trinity Otford*  
The usual tea/coffee morning will take place at Holy Trinity on Sunday 1st October after the 9:30am Mass.

## Notices

*Solemn Opening Mass*  
Rt Rev d John Hine, Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop, will preside at the Solemn Opening Mass in St Joseph's at 7:30pm on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

*APF Collectors and Individual Returns*  
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 important this year as the old £5 notes and £1 pound coins cease to be legal tender early in October.** Cheques should be made payable to *Archdiocese of Southwark APF Account* and sent to Peter Ringham (01732 885814). Thank you for your continued support.

*Joint Quiz Night*  
St Thomas's PTA and Sevenoaks Catenians are hosting a joint quiz night at St Thomas's School at 7:30pm on Sat 7<sup>th</sup> October. All proceeds in aid of St Thomas's PTA. £10/head including supper. Bring your own snacks/drinks. Contact aidan.omahony@btinternet.com or St. Thomas' PTA on stthomaspta@hotmail.com.

## Pilgrimage & News

1. *Rochester Visit* - Blessed with fine weather we happy band of pilgrims set off to reach Rochester in record time for our various activities. We want to thank our Cathedral guide Jonathan Fenner of our Parish for his fine tour and the Dean for letting us use the beautiful crypt for our prayer service. We remembered our private intentions gathered at the foot of the altar and the many needs of our world today. Thanks to all who came and who turned up at the right place at the right time!

2. *Monday 30th October* will be the date of our next outing, now in the planning stage. Travel by mini-coach and more local than Rochester. Watch the Newsletter for details and then sign up. Thank you.

## Parish Courses / Programmes

*First Confession & Holy Communion*  
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.

## Other Notices

*Mass at Saint Michael's Church, Peckham, TN12 5NG*

**On Michaelmas Eve, Thursday 28 September at 7pm.** Please share transport where possible as parking space at the Church is very limited. Further inquiries to James on 01622 812368 or Box Holders

## Marriage and Family Life

A meeting for the laity to explore and discuss the Pope's views on Love and Joy in the family will be held in your area. This event is suitable for all adult parishioners, and will include suggestions about how to put the Pope's message into practice. Booking is essential and for further information please contact the MFL coordinator in your area. (Tea and coffee will be provided)

Event: Saturday 30th September 2017 West Malling. Time: 10am - 1pm  
Contact email: [carolemfikent@gmail.com](mailto:carolemfikent@gmail.com) or phone: 07983524727

## Parish Finances

### Offer for 17 September

St Thomas	1,159.67
Otford	207.27
B Green	210.30
W Kingsdown	96.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,673.33</b>
Home Mission	£367.90
Standing Orders - August	£3,920.67

Thank you for your generosity and support.  
For newspapers and repository items please put your money in the correct wall box.

## How do I advertise my Business in the Newsletter?

Advertising is now available for October - December. Please email [advertising@sevrparish.org.uk](mailto:advertising@sevrparish.org.uk) for further details & costs. The deadline for next weekend is Thursday noon. Adverts are subject to available space and the approval of Fr David.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

## Who can be Baptized?



In the early Church Baptism was administered to adults. Very often this was done just prior to death (like Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor) in case the person sinned after Baptism and negated its effects. The Sacrament of Penance (Confession) was not fully developed for many centuries. Thus, for example, when St Ambrose was elected Bishop of Milan in 374 he wasn't even Baptized; he had to be Baptized before he could be Ordained.

Nowadays converts to Catholicism are Baptized as adults if they have not previously been Baptized. Adult Baptism normally occurs today as part of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), usually at the Easter Vigil, and is immediately followed by Confirmation and Holy Communion.

To be admitted to Baptism *an adult must have manifested the intention to receive Baptism, must be adequately instructed in the truths of the faith and the duties of a Christian, and tested in the Christian life over the course of the catechumenate. The person must moreover be urged to have sorrow for personal sins* (Code of Canon Law 865).

If there is doubt about whether an adult has already been Baptized, the priest will perform a conditional Baptism. In this case, he performs the ceremony saying *If you are not Baptized, I Baptize you in the name of* . A person can only be Baptized once; if he or she was Baptized as, say, an Anglican then the Baptism is not performed again.

In the Catholic Church today Baptism is most commonly administered to infants. This is also the

normal practice of the Orthodox and historic Eastern churches, as well as most mainline Protestants.

Some people object to infant Baptism, because the baby cannot have the faith which is necessary for the sacrament. Now, faith is an important prerequisite for receiving the sacraments. This was established long ago by the theologian Hugh of St Victor (who died in 1141). We need only look at the various encounters in the Gospels to see that Christ Himself stressed the need for faith before people received graces from Him such as healing. Faith then is required for Baptism, but in the case of infant Baptism it is the faith of the parents and godparents. This is why godparents must be Catholics *who live a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken* (Canon 874).

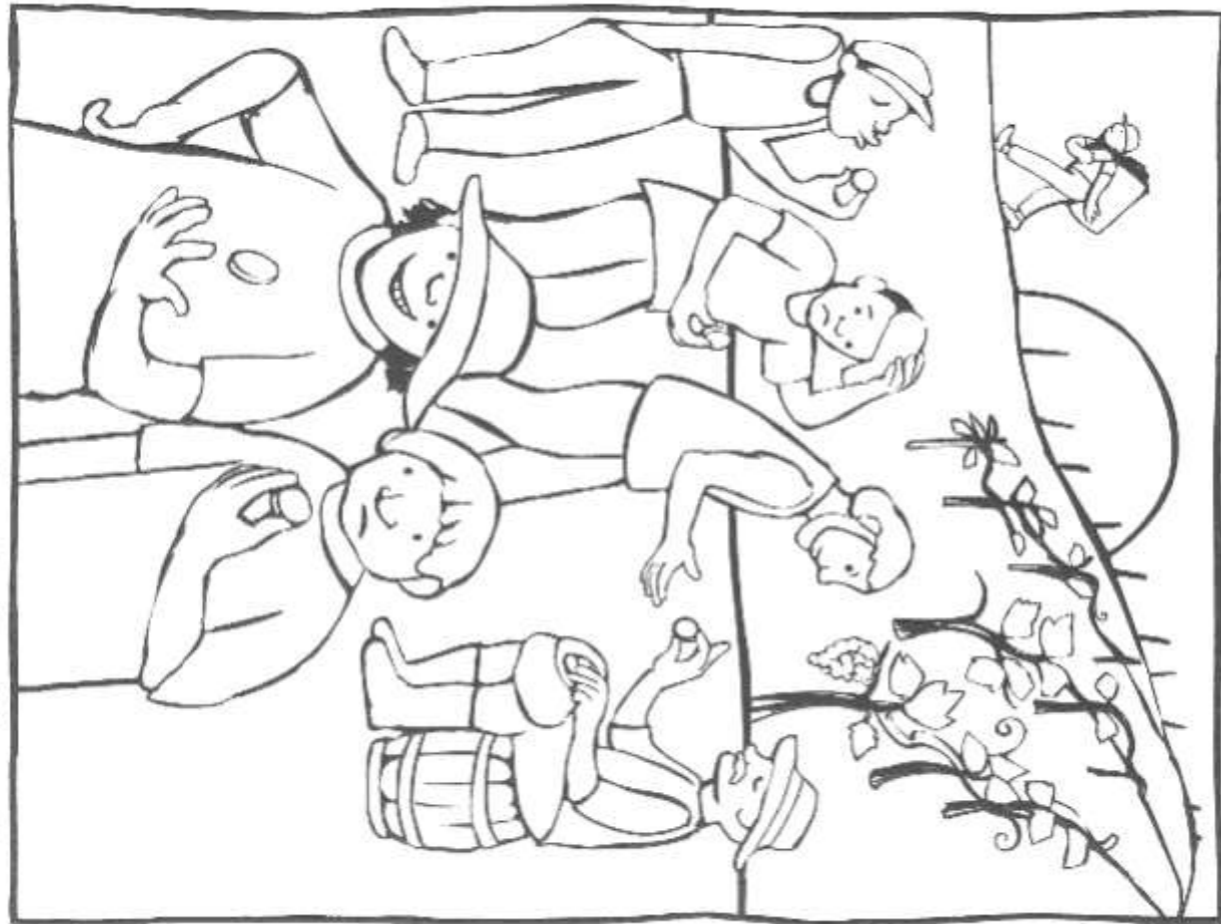
Some people argue that Baptism should be delayed until the child can understand it and even make the decision themselves. But since Baptism removes both the guilt and punishment due to original sin (as we saw last week) delaying Baptism may put the child's salvation in danger, should he or she die unbaptized. Or to put it in non-theological language: would a parent delay teaching their child they must clean their teeth until the child is old enough to understand and decide for themselves?

Godparents must live a life of faith which befits their role.

Church law (Canon 868) states that for an infant to be Baptized lawfully *there be a well-founded hope that the child will be brought up in the catholic religion* . If this is lacking the Parish Priest should defer the Baptism. This poses a dilemma for the poor priest: if he defers the Baptism this may well look as if the church is turning the family away, and they are unlikely to be seen again. What would you do?

Next week: who can Baptize? You may be surprised by the answer!

# God loves his children



Find out more about children around the world at [cafod.org.uk/picturemyworld](http://cafod.org.uk/picturemyworld)

**CAFOD**  
Just one world

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16

Illustrated by Chris No. 2017/20. Distribution: Trócaire

**Workers in the vineyard**

Jesus told his disciples another parable

Use the numbered letters to help you to find what he said in Matthew 20:1

	3	11	4	18	13	15	1	7	17	9
	17	16		11	4	5	14	4	15	
	13	12		10	13	18	4	5		
	10	5	15	7	17	2	15	4	6	
	1	17	13	15	1		3	17		
			11	13	6	4				
	2	17	6	18	4	6	12			
	16	17	6		11	13	12			
	14	13	15	4	8	5	6	7		

# Mass intentions

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

## Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> TWENTYFIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 6:00pm (Sat) Ted & Margaret Nowakowski RIP (Anniv)
- 8:00am People of the Parish
- 9:15am Eileen Edwards RIP
- 11:15am Tony Biggs RIP & for the comfort of his family (Traditional Choir)
- 6:00pm Bernard Brigham RIP
- 9:30am Otford for Barry & Marie
- 9:30am Borough Green Les Robins RIP
- 11:00am West Kingsdown Mary Reed RIP

## Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feria

- 8:00am For the Jenkins family

## Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feria

- 9:30am Ann Callaghan RIP

## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> St Vincent de Paul, Pr

- 8:00am Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP
- 10:00am Otford Intentions of Marie & Barry Authers

## Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> Feria

- 9:15am West Kingsdown Rosa Colaso RIP
- 12:00noon Intentions of the Rodrigues family

## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> SS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL, Archangels

- 8:00am Holy Souls
- 9:15am West Kingsdown Albert Bailey RIP

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> St Jerome, Pr D

- 9:15am West Kingsdown Kevin Taylor RIP
- 9:30am Miss H.M. McNabb RIP

## Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October TWENTY EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

- 6:00pm (Sat) Anthony Biggs RIP
- 8:00am Not yet booked
- 9:15am People of the Parish
- 11:15am Mr Malcolm Lott RIP (Anniv)
- 6:00pm Vincent Walsh
- 9:30am Otford Yvonne Davies RIP
- 9:30am Borough Green UCM Intentions
- 11:00am West Kingsdown Malcolm Swan

### Weddings

Congratulations to  
**Ronnie Gunson & Stephanie Bell**  
who were married on Saturday 2nd  
September at St Thomas s.

and to

**Adam Barnes & Kerry Pinington**  
who were married on Saturday 16th  
September at Holy Trinity, Otford

Please remember those  
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

### Departed

Please pray for the souls of  
**Archangels Bernard Brigham**

&  
**Eileen O'Brien**

who have recently died.

### Anniversaries

Thomas Burke, Michael Bowe,  
Elizabeth McDonald, Marie Rapicano,  
David Fitzsimmons, Eunice Dart, Ellen  
Brown, Mabel O'Brien, Audrey Bruce,  
Edmund Vaughan, Alexander Gleeson,  
George Moore, Alfred Dipple, Frances  
Larkin

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

## Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

### Entrance antiphon:

Salus populi ego sum, dicit Dominus. De quacumque tribulatione clamaverint ad me, exaudiam eos, et ero illorum Dominus in perpetuum.

### Communion antiphon:

Ego sum pastor bonus, dicit Dominus; et cognosco oves meas, et cognoscunt me meae.