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Archdiocese of Southwark

PARISH OF
ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
SEVENOAKS



Churches in Sevenoaks, Otford,
Borough Green and West Kingsdown

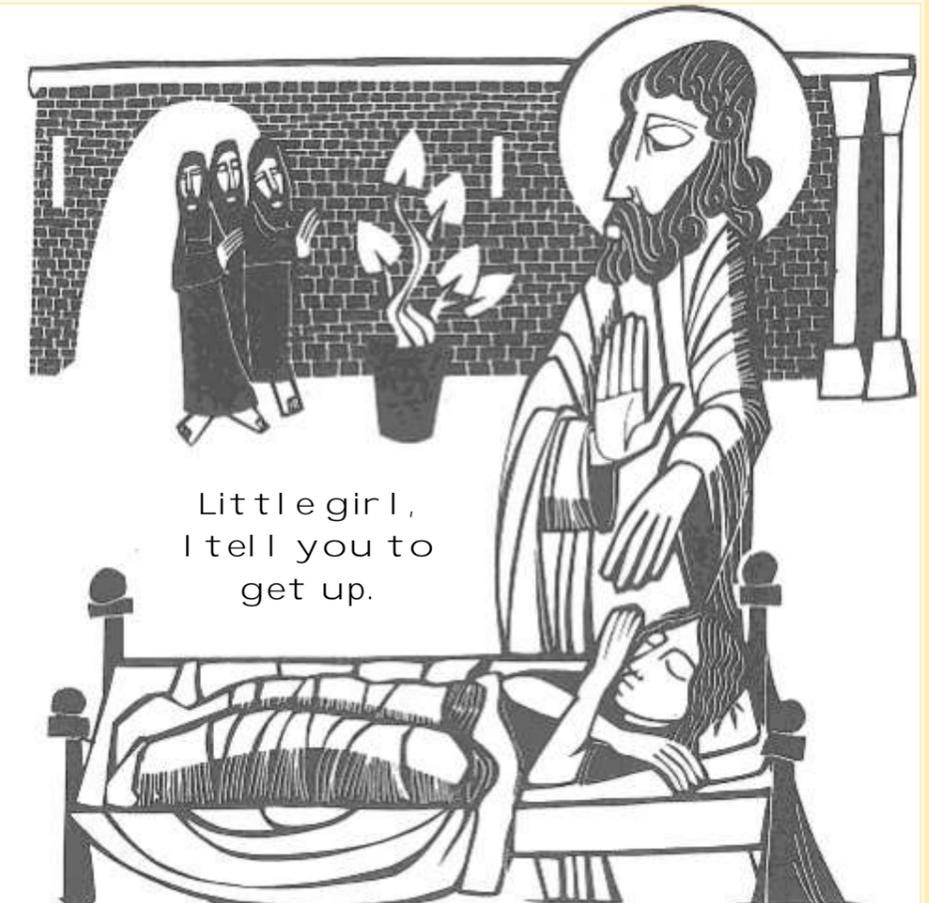
Parish Newsletter

1st July 2018

Death
was not
god's doing,

he
takes no
pleasure in
the
extinction of
the living.

Wisdom 1: 13



Little girl,
I tell you to
get up.

Today's Mass: THIRTEENTH SUNDAY in ORDINARY TIME (Year B)

First Reading: the first human beings should have been immortal, being created in God's own image, but the 'devil's envy' brought death to mankind.

Responsorial Psalm: this is a prayer of thanksgiving offered by a sufferer who, by God's mercy, has recovered from a serious illness.

Second Reading: Paul is about to ask the Christian church in Corinth for money to help the church in Jerusalem. He begins his 'pitch' by urging them to learn charity and generosity from Christ Jesus Himself.

Gospel: Jesus heals both the woman with the haemorrhage and the daughter of Jairus, a synagogue official. Faith is the factor that unites the two stories, the astonishing faith of the woman and of the official, contrasted with the lack of faith of the professional mourners around the girl. The raising of Jairus' daughter also anticipates Jesus' own resurrection.

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 8:30am - 12noon
7:00pm - 8:00pm
Tuesday 10:00am - 11:00am
Thursday 11:00am - 1:00pm
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, Sevenoaks

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
(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)
Wed 10:00am
Holy Days of Obligation 10:00am
Adoration: Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

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
(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)
Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

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 10:00am - 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.saintthomas.co.uk

St Thomas' Pre School

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

Adoration:

Barry Authers - adoration@sevrparish.org.uk

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

Bereavement Support Group: A monthly meeting, on the third Monday of each month for all those who have been bereaved recently, or a long time ago. Held from 10.30am till noon, Parish Centre, St Thomas's Church. If you would like more details, please phone either Ronnie Campbell 01732 452988, Sarah Harrison 01959 522357 or Isabelle Parsons 01732 462504 or 07873 953423.

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 second 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, Sunday Mass:

Sevenoaks, 9.15am Mass:

Anne Murphy - annemurphy2000@yahoo.com

Otford, 9.30am Mass:

Alex Wilson-Beales - Tel: 07789 776602

Borough Green, 9.30am Mass:

Jenny Allan - allanjenny@aol.com

Fiona Newton - fionanewton321@btinternet.com

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 532505

Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota:

St Thomas's Tony Cappelletti: 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'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.

Scripture Fellowship: On Wednesday, 8pm-9pm in the Upper Room in the Parish Centre. Bring a copy of the Gospel of Mark. Andrew Wilkinson - 07487 652846

St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP): Please contact us if you know of someone who would benefit from a visit or some financial help. We aim to help anyone irrespective of a person's religion. 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: Informal catechesis for school years 4 - 9, Sundays after 9.15am Mass in the TV room upstairs, starts with refreshments. Term time only.
Enia Adeleye - 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

Refugees in northern France

This Parish has responded to three appeals for clothing and sleeping items for refugees in Northern France. On each occasion the donated items have been collected by Phil Kerton on behalf of the charity *Seeking Sanctuary* and taken within a day or two to Calais. *Seeking Sanctuary* aims to raise awareness about the situation of people displaced from their homes and to channel basic humanitarian assistance from faith communities and community organisations through partnerships with experienced aid workers, especially those in northwest France.

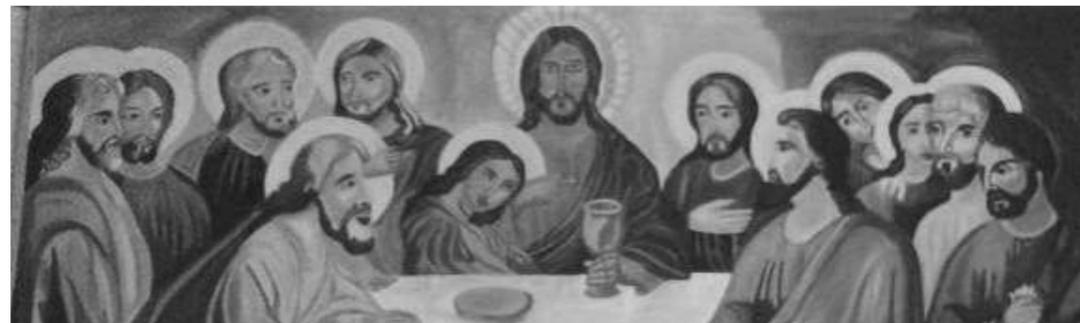
According to *Seeking Sanctuary's* website "almost all of the 8,000 plus migrants in Calais in October 2016 were moved away, hopefully to better accommodation. 1,616 unaccompanied minors were also moved, along with hundreds of vulnerable women and children, hoping that their claims to stay in the UK or France would be processed. Many judge that they have been let down, and hundreds have returned to sleep rough near Calais and along the coast. The Grande-Synthe camp near Dunkirk burnt down in April 2017, displacing around 1,400 people, over 950 of them accommodated elsewhere, whilst the rest remain close to the coast, joined by scores of new arrivals every week. These people need food, good counsel and clothes, which are accepted, sorted and distributed by several Calais warehouses, which also supply needs further afield."

In his monthly newsletter Phil Kerton reports the death of Mawda Shawdi, a Kurdish girl killed by the Belgium Police. She was with her mother on the front seat of a van into which 30 people were crammed travelling towards Calais. A number of police cars gave chase and one shot was fired which passed through Mawda's head. She died soon afterwards in hospital but without her parents who had been locked in a cell in a detention centre. "Those who knew her when she had stayed in Dunkirk, sheltered in a former gym for the winter were shocked by the news and even more shocked when they and those staying in the 'mini-jungles' around them were evicted and removed a week later. A number have returned to a different part of Dunkirk, much affected by industrial pollution: we do not yet know where most of them have ended up."

Phil Kerton makes frequent trips to Calais taking food, clothing and financial donations from various parishes and community groups from London and the South-east. He sent a letter of thanks to Fr. David for the items recently donated by this Parish. He refers to refugees as 'exiles' which he considers better reflects the many factors beyond conflict which oblige people to leave their loved ones and make hazardous journeys.

"I'm getting in touch to let you know that the donations so kindly supplied in your parish were safely delivered to Calais yesterday. They were very gratefully received at the warehouse because the turnover of stock is very high due to the actions of "imported" riot police in regularly confiscating or damaging tents, bedding and property at the places where exiles are sleeping in the woods, often either in the middle of the night, or when they have left to collect food from one of the regular meal distributions. As Refugee Week starts, please pass on my thanks to your people, on behalf of those who will truly benefit from their kindness."

Frances Smith
(SVP)



Icon at the
Former Eritrean
Church in the
Calais 'Jungle'.

Parish NOTICES

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Today

Summer Supply Priest

We welcome Monsignor Boniface Tamani for his customary visit. 'Fr Boni' is the Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Blantyre, in Malawi, and will be with us in Sevenoaks until mid-August.

St Bernadette's Mini Summer Fair

After the 11:00am Mass, 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. Various stalls, including plants, hand crafted items, and a tombola. Parishioners from the other churches are invited to support the West Kingsdown fundraising efforts in aid of Dementia UK.

This Week

Hazel Pilorz RIP

Hazel's Funeral Mass is 12:00 noon at St Thomas's on Monday, followed by Interment in the Greatness Cemetery.

Parish Office

The Parish Office will only be open this week on Monday and Friday.

Tuesday – St Thomas' School

Year 2 will attend the 9:30am Mass. As usual parents and other family members are most welcome.

Tuesday – Extraordinary Ministers' Evening

All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are reminded of their get-together on Tuesday evening, 7:30pm, in the Parish Room.

Next Sunday

Second collection

The second collection next weekend is the Sea Sunday collection for the Apostleship of the Sea. This Catholic charity supports seafarers worldwide, providing practical and pastoral care to seafarers via Port Chaplains and volunteers.

Notices

Food bank

Thank you for the very generous response for Food Bank items last weekend. The next date for collection from St Thomas' & Holy Trinity will be in September, but contributions can be taken to St John the Baptist Church, the corner of Quakers Hall Lane & St Johns Hill TN13 3TX, any day between 8:00am & 6:00pm. The 40 families in need collect a bag of food every Thursday throughout the year.

Isobel White

Ride and Stride Sponsored walk/bike ride - Saturday 8th September

Charles Sexton will be organising the Ride and Stride sponsored walk/bike ride again for Holy Trinity Otford. The event is on Saturday 8th September. Charles will be riding again and will be looking for sponsors after Sunday Masses. If anyone in Holy Trinity would also like to walk or ride please let him know. We will also need volunteers to greet participants on the day and a signing up form will be available shortly. Contact Charles (01322 865167, sextons@talktalk.net) if you would like to participate. Thanks.

Ride and Stride organiser needed for St Thomas

We do not have a parishioner at St Thomas's to help organise and perhaps participate in this event. If you think you would be interested please contact Ingrid in the Parish Office, and perhaps have a chat with Charles about what is involved.

Social Justice

From time to time people meet to discuss progress upon issues such as reducing poverty, persecution,

Parish NOTICES

conflict, discrimination and environmental degradation - all dear to the heart of Pope Francis. The next such meeting will be from 2.00 to 4.00 pm on Sunday July 8th at the Area Bishop's house ("The Hermitage", More Park, West Malling ME19 6HN - near the Catholic Church and school). All are welcome!

Parish Retreats at Aylesford

Women's Retreat: 7th - 9th September 2018

"The name of God is mercy"

Men's Retreat: 5th - 7th October 2018

"The Heart of the Gospel"

There are a limited number of places available for these retreats. If you would like to attend please pick up a registration form from the back of your Church or download a form from the website: www.sevrcparish.org.uk.

Any queries please contact Catherine Rodger by email at c.rodger@btinternet.com or 01732 458852. The registration form and non-refundable deposit of £20 made payable to 'St Thomas' RC Church, Sevenoaks' must be returned to the Parish Office in an envelope marked PARISH RETREATS.

Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima

This year's parish pilgrimage, from Tuesday 11th - Saturday 15th September, is definitely going ahead. If you wish to book you should do soon while places are still available. Please ask Ingrid in the Parish Office for a booking form. The basic price - for flights and full board accommodation - is £580.00. Single supplement is £92.00.

Pilgrims and Friends Outing, 3rd September

A visit to Goring by Sea to the fascinating reproduction ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Rome, at the English Martyrs Church. The day also includes our own prayers in their Good Shepherd Chapel. On the way coffee and cake in a tea garden. Lunch at the beach café (or bring your own) and tea and scones on the way back at the Bolney vineyard. All expenses included except lunch: £28. Please note the date. Sign up lists in mid July; enquiries Pat 01732 453902 or Jackie 01732 450197

SVP St John Bosco Summer Camps

These camps are for boys between 8-13 years and girls from 9-12 years. They are week long activity-packed holidays in Aldham, Essex in July and August. Suggested donation £145. Please apply at www.svpboscocamp.org.uk or contact Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

Appeal for help with Children's Liturgy of the Word: 9:15am Mass at St Thomas's

Calling all parents of pre-school age and any parents who are new to our parish! Please could you consider helping out with Children's Liturgy of the Word from September 2018? We need new blood as our older children move on to different Masses, and especially if your children attend either Cherubs or Little Angels, then you can help. Being an assistant or leading Cherubs is very straightforward and requires no special training, just filling in volunteer's and safeguarding forms. If you think you can join our large and enthusiastic team, please email me at annemurphy2000@yahoo.com to let me know.

Anne Murphy

Understanding Domestic Abuse

A half-day seminar at Hope Church on Saturday 7th July, run through the Council's Community Domestic Abuse Programme. The £10 cost includes Lunch; book via www.hopechurch7oaks.org.

Catholic Newspapers

Copies of the latest *Catholic Herald*, *Catholic Times* and other publications are always available in St Thomas's porch. Why not take some Catholic reading home every week? Please put the money in the marked wall box.

Each month the diocesan newspaper, *The Pilgrim*, is available. It usually contains an article written by Fr David. Please take one (you can put a donation in the newspaper box if you like, but the important thing is to take it and read it).

Parish Finances

What return can I make to the Lord for his generosity to me? Psalm 116

Offertory - 23/24 June 2018

St Thomas	1,228.86
Otford	189.70
Borough Green	293.81
West Kingsdown	127.49
TOTAL	£1,546.05

The totals for Standing Orders are not included and are notified monthly.

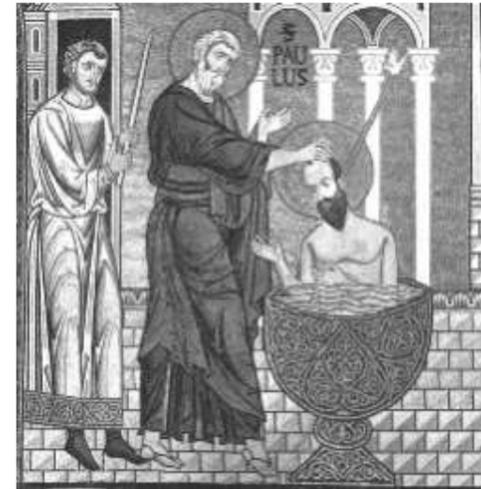
Thank you for your generosity and support.



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

Where do the Sacraments come from?

1. The early Church: Eucharist & Baptism



From the very earliest times of the church, as we see in the *Acts of the Apostles* and other early writings, there were two Sacraments. The Eucharist was celebrated when the first Christians met together in people's homes for the breaking of bread in remembrance of Christ: "they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer" (Acts 2:42). This 'breaking of bread' was not merely a meal in the sense of a communal get together, nor was it simply a remembrance of Christ. Already, right from the earliest days, the Eucharist was understood as the representation of Christ's sacrifice, obeying His command to 'do this in memory of me'.

The other Sacrament which was immediately established was Baptism, whose origin is clearly stated in Christ's command at the end of *Matthew* (28: 18 - 20): "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you". Following this commission adult Baptism very quickly became an established rite and process, including a period of instruction for catechumens (those preparing for Baptism). We have evidence of this in a first century treatise called the *Didache* and in the writings of Justin Martyr, who died in 165.

Eucharist and Baptism can very easily be seen to have been instituted by Jesus Christ, as recorded in the Gospels. The other rituals and prayers, however, only slowly developed into the seven Sacraments we have today.

In the ancient Greek and Roman world, people were initiated into secret cults worshipping the various

pagan gods: following a period of instruction there would be an initiation ceremony. This was called in Greek a '*Μυστήριον*' (a mystery or secret), and the Eastern Orthodox (who of course usually use Greek as the basis of their terminology) refer to the Seven Mysteries.

In the Roman Empire new recruits into the Roman Army had to swear an oath of allegiance to the Emperor, and this was called a 'sacramentum', the Latin translation of the Greek 'mystery'. So in the West we refer to the Seven Sacraments. But for the first millennium 'sacrament' primarily referred to Jesus as the revelation of God, and sacrament could refer to any of numerous ceremonies, prayers or devotions experienced in lived Christian life.

Tertullian (who lived from about 160 to about 225 in Carthage in North Africa) was the first writer we know of to use the word 'sacramentum' of Baptism and Eucharist, meaning Church rites associated with salvation, in contrast to the pagan rites. In a discussion on the meaning of Baptism Tertullian explained that it was similar to the sacramentum or oath which recruits to the army swore. It was a religious initiation, so was Baptism. It marked the beginning of a new way of life, so did Baptism. It as an oath to serve the Emperor, so was Baptism, that is a promise of fidelity to Christ.

Sacraments
are a visible sign of
invisible grace.

The first really serious theology of the Sacraments was expounded by the greatest western Doctor of the Church, St Augustine of Hippo (354 - 430). He developed the notion that a *sacramentum* is a sign that sanctifies (= makes holy) because it is efficacious (= produces the intended effect). For instance, Christ and the Holy Spirit make effective, through grace, the cleansing that water signifies in Baptism. Augustine called a sacrament '*a visible sign of invisible grace*'. He also referred to a *sacramentum* as a *sacrum signum* ('sign of a sacred thing'). He did not consider only rituals to be sacraments but listed over 300. The Church gradually reduced this by differentiating between rituals and signs and symbols that assist people in prayer and devotion such as holy water, palms, ashes etc. These latter are called sacramentals.

God loves his children



The little girl died. What did Jesus say to her sad father?

Jesus brought the little girl back to life! Everyone was overjoyed!

Join the same shapes with a line

B E L I E V E
M E!

Give her mother and father happy faces



Mass intentions

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

Sunday 1st July Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

- 6:00pm (Sat) Tricia Confoy RIP
- 8:00am People of the Parish
- 9:15am Kate Costello RIP
- 11:15am Good Estate of Ann Steven
- 6:00pm For deceased relatives of the Andradi-Brown family
- 9:30am Otford Mary Tyler RIP
- 9:30am Borough Green & the comfort of Antony & family
- 11:00am West Kingsdown UCM Intention - Margaret & Jim Vinson
- Kathleen & John Doyle

Monday 2nd Feria

- 8:00am Fr Vincent Flynn
- 12:00noon **Funeral Mass - Hazel Pilorz RIP**

Tuesday 3rd S Thomas, Ap

- 9:30am Private Intention

Wednesday 4th Feria

- 8:00am Donor's intention
- 10:00am Otford Eric & Gladys Allibone RIP

Thursday 5th Feria

- 9:15am West Kingsdown Eileen O'Brien RIP
- 12:00noon Paul & Sarah Boyle

Friday 6th Feria

- 8:00am Marcus Wray RIP
- 9:15am West Kingsdown Marie Authers RIP

Saturday 7th of Our Lady

- 9:15am West Kingsdown Mandy McCarthy RIP
- 9:30am Justin Edwards - wellbeing

Sunday 8th July Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

- 6:00pm (Sat) Dr Lionel Edwards RIP (birthday) & well-being of Lionel & Paul
- 8:00am Timothy & Clea Andradi RIP
- 9:15am Kate Costello RIP
- 11:15am Leonard Gould RIP (1st Anniversary)
- 6:00pm People of the Parish
- 9:30am Otford Mary Scott RIP (Anniv)
- 9:30am Borough Green Jon Le Sbirel & the comfort of his family
- 11:00am West Kingsdown Celia Piddock RIP

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

- Sue Chamberlain,
- Michael Gerald Cleere, Bob Harman,
- Thomas Healy, Jeanmary Laing,
- Fr Pat O'Leary, Rosemary Olivier,
- Rosemary Remnant,
- Ana Pilar Santos, Ann Steven,
- Antony Tyler, Jim Vinson

Anniversaries

- Richard Henderson, Anna Cramb,
- Monique Langhorn, Anthony Peyton,
- Patrick Fortune, Douglas Meaden,
- Sister Emmanuel, Jacques Bell, Doris Hazlewood,
- Edward Wheatley, Mary Threadingham,
- Tony Crane, Catherine Woods, Michael Chapman,
- Jeremiah O'Driscoll

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



The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy

Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

Entrance Antiphon
Omnes gentes, plaudite manibus, iubilate Deo in voce exultationis.

Communion Antiphon
Benedic, anima mea, Domino, et ea quae intra me sunt nomini sancto eius.