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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

2nd December 2018

**ADVENT**

TO YOU, O LORD,  
I LIFT UP MY SOUL.

### Today's Mass: FIRST SUNDAY of ADVENT (Year C)

**First Reading:** "it is the Lord who speaks" means that it is God speaking through the prophet. Here, through Jeremiah, God promises that in time a descendant of David will once again rule Israel, a rule marked by honesty and integrity.

**Psalm:** God is our teacher and saviour. In this psalm we express our humble trust in and faithfulness to God.

**Second Reading:** in Advent we are meant to think about Christ's second coming, and use the season to make progress in our spiritual lives.

**Gospel:** today we begin the Year of Luke (Year C). Luke has been described as the 'Gospel of Mercy' or the 'Gospel of Compassion'. Amongst other things today's Gospel is about maintaining one's faith in the midst of a hostile world: we must "stay awake" and pray for faithfulness so that we can face Christ with confidence when He comes again.

**Advent:** is the season of preparing to celebrate Christ's First Coming to humanity and the season for looking forward to His Second Coming at the end of time. Therefore Advent is a season of devout and expectant delight. In Advent the use of the organ and other instruments as well as floral decoration of the Altar are marked by moderation, so as not to anticipate the full joy of Christmas. The new Lectionary cycle begins, that is Year C, the Year of Luke. The Gloria is not sung or said on Sundays of Advent (but it is on Saturday's Solemnity).

## 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  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk*

## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks

[www.sevrccparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrccparish.org.uk) Parish Tel: 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Gibbons, KHS  
davidgibbons@rcaos.org.uk

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Paul Okora  
paulokora@rcaos.org.uk

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

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Ingrid La Trobe sevenoaks@rcaos.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.*

### Adoration:

Barry Authers - adoration@sevrccparish.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  
**Oxford, 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

**Gift Aid:** Sean Corrigan  
sean.corrigan@sevrccparish.org.uk

**Lectio Divina:** Kathie Gonzalez Tel: 01732 761253

**Mothers' Prayers:** Mondays, 11.30am at Star House, Star Hill Road, Sevenoaks. Tel: 01959 532505

### Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota:

**St Thomas's Andrew Pembroke:**  
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](http://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:** Reading a Gospel together.  
Andrew Wilkinson - 07847 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@sevrccparish.org.uk

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

Visit us at [www.sevrccparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrccparish.org.uk)



High Street, Otford  
TN14 5PH

### 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

### Church contacts:

Rosemary Curtis 01959 522624  
(Sacristan)  
Anne Knight 01959 524488  
(Acting Secretary)  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk



Western Rd, Borough Green  
TN15 8AG

### ST JOSEPH'S BOROUGH GREEN

**Mass times:** Sunday 9:30am  
(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)

### Church contact:

Antoni Offert  
Tel: 07513 041075  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk



Fawkham Rd, West Kingsdown  
TN15 6JP

### 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

### Church contact:

Jill & John Gobel  
Tel: 01474 853676  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk

### ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL



**South Park,  
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH**  
**Headteacher:** Mrs Claudia Aquilina  
Tel: 01732 453921  
[www.saintthomas.co.uk](http://www.saintthomas.co.uk)

### St Thomas' Pre School

**Head:** Mrs Debbie Whitehead  
Tel: 01732 779517  
[info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk](mailto:info@stthomaspreschoolsevenoaks.org.uk)



# PASTORAL LETTER

+ PETER ARCHBISHOP OF SOUTHWARK

Dear brothers and sisters,

During the summer months the media was full of horrifying reports of the sexual abuse of children and young people by clergy, in two Benedictine Schools in this country, and in the wider world abuse in many dioceses in America, Australia and other countries round the world. These crimes have caused a terrible wound in the hearts of the victims of that abuse, and in the community of the Church, the community of God's people, the body of Christ on earth. These terrible wounds brought to my mind the picture portrayed towards the end of St. John's Gospel, when Jesus was being taken down from the cross: "When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance: and immediately there came out blood and water." The sexual abuse of children and young people in the Church has deeply affected all of us who are members of the Church: the laity, male and female religious congregations, deacons, priests and bishops. It is heart-rending and we must do what we can to support the victims.

At the same time we must put all this in the wider context of the sexual abuse of young people in the community of our Church which has been prominent in society at large. This was well set out in a very recent interview with Fr. Hans Zollner who is President of the Centre for Child Protection at the Gregorian University in Rome, and a member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. He was told that the impression is often given through the media that child abuse is rife in the Catholic Church, and was asked, "Is it possible to say that it is more likely to take place in the Church as opposed to the wider society?" Fr. Zollner's response was this: "We can't say it is more likely and people who say so can't present statistics. There is no other institution, no other Christian denomination or religion, which has been investigated as thoroughly as the Catholic Church. So there is no real comparison to that. And even within professional groups, there isn't any research that would cover, for example, school teachers... psychologists, doctors, police, and sports trainers. We also have to acknowledge that by far the most sexual abuse and of course physical abuse of minors happens in the family context." But he went on to say rightly, "This does not excuse the Catholic Church. Every single abuse that takes place is one too many. Every single abuse that is committed by Catholic clergy and other personnel in the Church is a horrendous crime and needs to be prosecuted and punished... full stop!"

So I just want to give you a brief summary of what the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have done in recent years to combat such abuse by clergy, and to reach out to the victims of this abuse. In 1999, Archbishop Cormac Murphy-O'Connor asked Lord Michael Nolan, a well-known and highly respected member of the High Court to set up a review by independent experts on child welfare, to draw up a set of procedures for all the Bishops of England and Wales to deal properly and fully with any allegations against a priest that he had abused a child.

The Review took 12 months to complete and was made public in 2000, and was accepted by all the Bishops of England and Wales. The consequence was that since 2001 every Diocese in England and Wales has a Diocesan Safeguarding Commission to deal with any allegations of abuse by priests, permanent Deacons and laity in responsible positions in the parishes. After five years, Baroness Cumberledge was asked to review how the procedures were working and to provide recommendations as to how they might be improved in the light of experience, which she and the members of the review body did very fruitfully. We also have two national bodies to oversee and improve these procedures on an ongoing basis, the Catholic Safeguarding Advisory Service and the National Catholic Safeguarding Commission (both of which can be accessed on the Internet). As regards to Safeguarding in our schools, all our Diocesan Catholic Schools are subject to the Local Authority of the area in which the school is, and which oversees safeguarding in all the schools in that area. And one of the consequences of my experience early on in my return to my home Diocese of Southwark, was to ask all the priests of the Diocese to contribute to a fund which would enable me to pay for psychotherapy for the victims and their families. The clergy responded magnificently and very generously from their own pockets, and I have been able to help some of the victims and their families, which has helped them enormously.

The season of Advent which we begin today, is a season of hope, longing and joyful expectancy, but is also a penitential season. As we look forward to and prepare for the celebration of Christmas, we need to put our trust firmly in the risen Christ who said: "If you want to be a follower of mine, you must take up your cross and follow me." and "Fear not, I am with you always, yes, even to the end of time." So we must put our trust firmly in that promise, that he will always be with us as his family, the community of faith, and despite all the difficulties we are facing, he will also give us the grace and strength to continue to fulfil the mission of the Church to preach and live out the Gospel in season and out of season. Jesus seeks entry to our innermost lives in order that he may share his life with us. He stands at the gate and knocks. So during Advent I ask every parish in the Diocese to arrange, preferably on a Friday each week, to have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and pray for those who have suffered abuse. All those attending the National Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool, back in September were uplifted by the experience and came away strengthened in hope and trust in the love, mercy and compassion of Christ. In that time of adoration we encountered the risen Christ and asked for his help to heal the wounds of the Church in these difficult times. The great challenge we have today is to have the courage and strength to continue the fundamental mission of the Church to proclaim the Gospel in the face of the awful scandal of the sexual abuse of children and young people, and to pray for all those who have been abused.

With an assurance of my prayers for you all,

# PARISH NOTICES

## Today

### Visiting Priests

Welcome to Fr Michael Ezenwamadu, CSSp celebrating the 8:00am and 9:15am Masses.

### St Joseph's Sale

A Sale of Christmas items, gifts, food, cakes, etc, after the 9:30am Mass at St Joseph's. There will also be tea and coffee.

### You're Invited to the Parish Christmas Party

Today (Sunday), 1:00 – 4:00pm in St Luke's Hall, Eardley Road (round the corner from St Thomas's). Free food, drink, games, entertainment, bottle stall, Repository stall for Christmas cards and gifts, children's games. A merry Parish Event for everyone, young and old!

### St Thomas' School Raffle tickets

Raffle tickets will be sold after Mass at St Thomas' for the Christmas Hamper raffle at St Thomas' Primary School. Some wonderful hampers to be won, including Liz Earle, Luxury Foods, and Pamper hampers! Tickets £2 each. Raffle will be drawn on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm. Thank you for your support & good luck!

## This Week

### Professor Thomas Healey RIP

Thomas Healey's body will be Received into St Thomas's today (Sunday) at 7:00pm, followed by Vespers of the Dead. The Funeral Mass will be on Monday at 11:30am, followed by Interment at the Greatness Cemetery.

### Tuesday: St Thomas' School

Year 3 attend the 9:30am Mass on Tuesday.

### Wednesday: Mothers' Prayers Christmas Gathering

At Star House, Star Hill Road, at 7:00pm.

### Saturday: Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the BVM

The church fathers have taught us that in her immaculate conception the Blessed Virgin Mary was protected from original sin from the very moment of her creation in the womb of her mother Anne. Our Lady, under this title, is a principal patron of our Archdiocese. Holy Mass at 9:30am, which will include the *Gloria* (unusually for Advent) and the Creed.

## Next Sunday

### Foodbank collection

Next weekend. Please bring items, especially this time 'Christmassy' things, and place them in the baskets provided.

## Notices

### Canon John Bailey

We wish Happy Birthday to Canon John, celebrating his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday this week. *Ad multos annos!*

### Repository

The Repository in St Thomas's has Confirmation cards, gifts, and prayer cards available for sale. There is also a comprehensive stock of Christmas cards, Advent Calendars, and various gift items. If the Repository is unmanned, please put your money in the wall box marked 'Repository'.

### The big Christmas clean at St Thomas's

We shall do this after the School Mass on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December from 10.30 to 11.30am. Team C would welcome help from other Teams or, indeed, from any parishioners who could join us to prepare the Church for the great feast. Rubber gloves would be useful if you might be able to help remove wax from the candle stands. Thank you. *Pat Harman*

### Lost Property in Porch & kitchen at St Thomas's

This is the last call to ask if you would be kind enough to retrieve your things, including spectacles and umbrellas, from the basket in the porch. We are tidying up before Christmas. The kitchen worktops need decluttering so please check, if you ever use the kitchen, and take home your things. Thank you.

### St Thomas' School Admission - September 2019

Parents of children who were born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015 should be aware that the procedure for Primary Admissions has commenced. An Information Booklet and Reception Common Application Forms (RCAF) are available from the Local Authority at [www.kent.gov.uk/ola](http://www.kent.gov.uk/ola). Closing date for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019. *Families wishing to apply to St Thomas' Catholic Primary School will also need to complete and return a Supplementary Form to the school, together with a copy of the child's Baptismal Certificate and Birth Certificate.* An information pack is available to collect from the school office or please visit [www.saintthomas.co.uk](http://www.saintthomas.co.uk) (follow the link to the Parents section).

# PARISH NOTICES

## Christmas dinner and carol singing

The Catenians are hosting a Christmas dinner on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at Knole Park Golf Club at 8:00pm. £22/head for 2 courses, coffee & mints followed by carol singing. All welcome. Bring your singing voice! For more information, please contact Tony Capozzi on tony.capozzi61@gmail.com.

## Pilgrims' Advent Gathering: 13<sup>th</sup> December

We welcome Pilgrims and friends to gather after the 12:00 noon Mass, in the Parish Room. Starting with a lunch of sandwiches and party food, followed at 1.45pm by a short reflection with prayers based on the 'O Antiphons' of Advent. Followed with music, songs, conversation and a raffle followed by tea. Any monies from the raffle will go to the local homeless charity. Any donations towards cost will be gratefully received. Please sign up on the list in the porch. If you cannot join us for lunch, please come at 1.45pm for the rest of the programme: put down your name and the time you will arrive. Contact: Jackie Pembroke, 01732 450197, ac.jbpembroke@gmail.com and Pat Harman, 01732 453902, bobandpat.harman@gmail.com

## Advent Reflections

The diocesan Spirituality Commission has produced a series of short daily emails, 'to help us focus on the true meaning of Advent'. To sign up, please visit [www.southwarkdsc.org.uk](http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk).

The diocesan Stewardship team has produced a daily reflection for Advent, to be sent to your inbox. To receive your daily reflection simply sign up at <http://www.southwarkdsc.org.uk>.

Also, Jesuit Media Initiatives and the Westminster Marriage & Family Life team have produced a series of contemplations to help families journey alongside the Holy Family this Advent. Listen or download from <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/imagining-nativity>.

## Churches Together in Sevenoaks & District

Our own Isobel White is retiring from the post of Secretary after 9 years. If you could do this – it is not onerous but involves taking minutes, emails, and some organising – please speak to Isobel or email the Chair, Reverend David Kitley, at [kitley@clara.net](mailto:kitley@clara.net).

## Holy Land Pilgrimage 12<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Fr David will be the Spiritual Director for this Tangney Tours Pilgrimage. The package price (for flights, 7 nights hotel accommodation, half board) is £1,426 per person, single room supplement £360. You can obtain an information sheet and booking form from the

Parish Office. Please note that this is not the proposed Parish Pilgrimage, which is scheduled for 2020.

## St Thomas's Church and Centre

Having received a Quinquennial Report and a Risk Assessment Report on the buildings, the Finance Committee will now draw up a programme of repairs and improvements. We need someone to supervise this, or ideally a small committee of two or three people. This would suit someone recently retired who has some experience of buildings, maintenance, or similar. Please see Fr David or Bill Farren (Finance Committee Chairman) if YOU could help in this way.

## New Parish List

Thank you to everyone who has filled in this new form. If you have not done so, you can fill in the secure online form found on our website or complete the blue form available in all porches. Thank you.

## Thank you from CAFOD

'Thank you to all parishioners for your generous support for CAFOD this year and your latest donation of £2,208.57. Please know that your gifts and prayers will really make a lasting difference in the lives of so many.'

## Cribs in Sevenoaks Shop Windows

You will see around Sevenoaks in the shop and business windows cribs of varied size and style. Please do patronise these shops and express pleasure at seeing the crib in the window. This year's Crib Trail will be on the 29th December, there will be over 30 cribs on display in Sevenoaks and district.

## School Form signing

Please email Fr David to make an appointment for him to countersign school Supplementary Forms.

## Parish Finances

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

### Offertory - 24/25 November 2018

St Thomas	1,506.38
Otford	274.67
Borough Green	247.91
West Kingsdown	121.61
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£2,150.57</b>

Catholic Youth Services	£370.98
Advertising	£100.00

*Standing Orders are not included and are notified monthly. Thank you for your generosity and support.*



From the Desk of the Parish Priest

# When is the Second Coming?



In the Nicene Creed we recite on Sundays, we say that 'I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ ... He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead...' Advent, as well as being the time for preparing to celebrate Christmastide, is also the season when we prepare for Christ's Second Coming (known by the technical term as the 'Parousia'). But when is the Second Coming? Christ assured us that He would come again (see for example *Luke 21:27*), but He did not tell us when. Indeed, He deliberately declined to say when it would be: "but about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (*Matthew 24:36*).

So, are there any clues about the time of the Parousia? Can we find any indications if we comb through scripture? No.

The time of the First Coming of the Messiah was foretold in the Old Testament many times. You can read for instance *Isaiah 7:14* ("the virgin will give birth to a son"), *Micah 5:2* ("for out of you, Bethlehem ... will come a ruler over Israel") and *Daniel 9*. Many of the Jews around the time of Jesus were expecting the coming of the Messiah, although there was no consensus about the nature and purpose of the expected Messiah.

By contrast, the nature and purpose of the Second Coming is fairly clear, but the time is completely obscure. Why? So that we would be ready at all and any times to meet the 'thief in the night': "keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour" (*Matthew 24: 42-44*). It is a somewhat surprising, derogatory even, description Christ gives Himself - the 'thief in the night' - but it

does convey the unexpected and unanticipated nature of His Second Coming.

If even Christ said that He did not know the time of His Second Coming, how presumptuous and arrogant for any mere human being to claim to be wiser than the Blessed Lord by predicting the exact date. We can safely discount those few misguided people who announce that the 'End is Nigh'. St Thomas Aquinas is especially fierce in his denunciation of such people: "all those who have been misled to reckon the aforesaid time have so far proved to be untruthful ... the falseness of these calculations is evident, as will likewise be the falseness of those who even now cease not to calculate" (*Summa 77,2*).

Christ left the nature and purpose of His Second Coming clear for the same reason that He left its time unclear: so that we would be ready at all times for the Last Judgement, for the full presence of the Light of Truth, when nothing can be hidden from the just (and, thankfully, merciful) judge. Let me use an analogy. Suppose I commute by train to work, but want to avoid paying the fare (which would of course defraud the railway company). If I knew that on a particular day in 9 months' time there would be a ticket inspection, I would delay purchasing a ticket until the last day of the eighth month. As, however, I don't know when the ticket inspection will happen, and it could happen on any day, it compels me to be more honest and always purchase my ticket.

## WE NEED TO GET INTO THE PRACTICE OF BEING GOOD NOW.

For if – not knowing when the Second Coming will happen for us – we lived each moment of our lives in the expectation of an imminent Parousia, if we practised the presence of Christ as judge at the end of every day, we would be well on our way to becoming saints. In Heaven we shall live in the presence of light, from which evil cannot hide, and we have to be perfect to be in Heaven (hence the purifying of Purgatory beforehand). We need to get into the practice of being good now; put it off and we may find that we are not up to the task when the Second Coming happens. "Let us live justly and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope and coming of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (*Titus 2: 12 -13*).

# GOD LOVES HIS CHILDREN

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

## Footprints

LUKE 21:25-28, 34-36

**Be ready to welcome Jesus!**

Jesus will come again – but only God knows when

Write the letter that is missing from the second word in the box

In <b>BEAR</b> 	but not <b>ARE</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>MILE</b> 	but not <b>MILL</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>ROSY</b> 	but not <b>POSY</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>SWEET</b> 	but not <b>SWAT</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>SAIL</b> 	but not <b>SILL</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>DANCE</b> 	but not <b>PRANCE</b>	<input type="text"/>
In <b>YELLOW</b> 	but not <b>FELLOW</b>	<input type="text"/>

What must we remember to do? \_\_\_\_\_



Jesus told us how we will know that the end of time has come

The word 'Advent' means 'coming'. Today is the First Sunday of Advent when we light the first candle on our wreath

Use the code to fill in the blanks and find out what we must watch for!

ABCDEF GHI J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

Find the words missing from the poem below

WAIT CHRISTMAS BIRTHDAY CANDLES  
PINE FIRST GREEN UNENDING BIRTH

Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ is not far away,  
and we must be ready for \_\_\_\_\_ Day.  
As we light the \_\_\_\_\_ candle on our Advent ring,  
we begin to prepare for the \_\_\_\_\_ of our King.  
Like the ring of \_\_\_\_\_ holly and \_\_\_\_\_  
that we see,  
God's love is \_\_\_\_\_, and will always be.  
As the light from the \_\_\_\_\_ grows brighter and strong,  
we watch and we \_\_\_\_\_ as time draws on.



# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent (Year C)

6:00pm (Sat)	Hazel Pilorz RIP
8:00am	Maureen Hanton RIP (1st Anniv) & Terry Hanton RIP
9:15am	Evelyn Fernandes RIP
11:15am	Suzanne Marie Elliott RIP
6:00pm	People of the Parish
9:30am Otford	Bridie O'Neill RIP
9:30am Borough Green	UCM Intentions
11:00am West Kingsdown	Fr Tom Quinn RIP (Anniv)

## Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> S Francis Xavier, Pr

8:00am	Angela Simmonds RIP
11:30am	Funeral Mass - Thomas Edward John Healy RIP

## Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:30am	Robert Hilton RIP (Anniv)
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## Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> Feria

8:00am	Kenneth D'Souza RIP (Anniv)
10:00am Otford	George

## Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> Feria

9:15am West Kingsdown	In thanksgiving
12:00noon	Canon Philip Donnelly RIP

## Friday 7<sup>th</sup> S Ambrose, B D

8:00am	Thomas Horn RIP
9:15am West Kingsdown	Cesar Fernandes RIP

## Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> IMMACULATE CONCEPTION of the BVM

9:15am West Kingsdown	Peggy Spiers RIP
9:30am	Joyce Fernandes RIP

## Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent (Year C)

6:00pm (Sat)	Mark Connolly (90th birthday, Diocese of Bridgeport, USA)
8:00am	Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP
9:15am	People of the Parish
11:15am	Bernard Page RIP
6:00pm	Eric John Mottram RIP (Anniv)
9:30am Otford	David Fowdrey RIP
9:30am Borough Green	For the wellbeing of Denise Barnes
11:00am West Kingsdown	Patrick O'Grady RIP

### Confirmation

Congratulations to

Carys Allan, Edward Bartlett, Miranda Busvine, Jacob Condon, Sophie Crack, William Dinsmore, Molly-Rose Hayden, Sam Hopkins, Adele Hubbard, Hannah Hubbard, Chikombero Inneh, Henry Knight, Aleksandra Kujawinska, Michael Lamstaes, Katherine Magee, Alice McQueen, Aislinn McSharry, Francesca Mistry, Carl Noguchi, Cliona O'Sullivan, Maia Patricio, Hope Penny, Beatriz Piñol, Peter Protopapas, Olivier Rizvi, William Simmonds, Thomas Wackett & Michelle Wodke who were confirmed at St Thomas's last Sunday.

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

Sue Chamberlain, Michael Gerald Cleere, Elaine Cuthbertson, Sister Rosemary McCaffrey fmsa, Fr Pat O'Leary, Rosemary Remnant, Ana Pilar Santos, Ann Steven, Antony Tyler, Jim Vinson

### Anniversaries

Gabriel Nye, Kathleen Smith, Robert Angibault, Tony Stevenson, Maureen Hanton, Molly Suwala, Sr Margaret Colson, Hazel Molloy, Rowland Connolly, Ignace Van Kan, Bernard Molland, Theresa Hart, Augustus Schnorr, Canon Donnelly, Annie Berry, John Horgan, Mark Otto, Margaret Salt, William Sherratt, Dolly de Havilland, Eileen Mackey, Martin Williams

Eternal rest grant unto them...

### Sunday 8:00am Mass Antiphons

#### Entrance Antiphon

Ad te levavi animam meam, Deus meus, in te confido, non erubescam. Neque irideant me inimici mei, etenim universi qui te expectant non confundentur.

#### Communion Antiphon

Dominus dabit benignitatem, et terra nostra dabit fructum suum.