

## 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

### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

### Adoration:

**Monday** 8:30am - 9:30am  
**Tuesday** 6:00pm - 7:00pm

### Fathers' day off:

Fr Vipin: **Monday**  
Fr Piotr: **Tuesday**



Granville Road,  
Sevenoaks TN13 1ER

Parish Office: Magdalena Wiacek  
Mon. Wed. Thurs. Fri.  
8:30am - 12:15pm  
**Tuesday closed**  
Tel: 01732 454177  
sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk  
[www.sevrcparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrcparish.org.uk)



High Street, Otford  
TN14 5PH

## MOST HOLY TRINITY OTFORD

**Mass times:** Sunday 9:30am  
(with Children's Liturgy of the Word)  
Wednesday 10:00am  
Holy Days of Obligation 10:00am  
**Adoration:** Thursday 7:30pm - 8:30pm  
Friday 11:00am - 12:00noon

### Church contact:

Barry Authers  
Tel: 01959 524362  
sevenoaksmht@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)  
Thursday 10:00am  
Holy Days of Obligation 6:00pm

### 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  
Friday 10:00am  
Holy Days of Obligation 11:00am  
**Adoration:** Wed 12:00noon- 1:00pm

### Church contacts:

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



## ST THOMAS' CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

South Park,  
Sevenoaks, TN13 1EH  
[www.saintthomas.co.uk](http://www.saintthomas.co.uk)

**Headteacher:**  
Ms Geraldine Leahy  
Tel: 01732 453921

GIVE A LITTLE GIFT AID FORM



Archdiocese of  
Southwark

## PARISH OF ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY SEVENOAKS

CHURCHES IN SEVENOAKS, OTFORD,  
BOROUGH GREEN AND WEST KINGSDOWN



Parish Newsletter

21st April 2024



This Weekend we observe the World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life, which is also affectionately known as Good Shepherd Sunday. This day reminds us of our collective call to holiness through the cherished image of Christ as the Good Shepherd, as vividly depicted in the Gospel (John 10:11-18).

Scripture frequently uses the metaphor of God as a shepherd, illustrating His guidance and protection. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want," we read in Psalm 23, and in Isaiah, the Messiah is depicted as the caring shepherd who "will gather the lambs in his arms." These passages underscore the loving and protective role of God towards His people. In the New Testament, Jesus embodies this shepherd, promising eternal life and ensuring us that nothing can snatch us from His hand. Today we are called to reflect on how we respond to Christ's voice, which calls us to embrace a life dedicated to faith and service. Do we recognise His voice? Are we prepared to follow Him faithfully? How do we support those called to a special ministry in ordination. Saint John Paul II often expressed, priests and religious are pivotal to the Church's mission, embodying Christ's presence and leading the community in faith. Supporting our priests in their spiritual and practical formation is crucial, as is our commitment to praying for an increase in holy and devoted vocations. Pope Benedict XVI highlighted that the future of the Church relies significantly on our ability to foster new, enthusiastic shepherds of faith.

In our prayers today, let us also remember Fr. Vipin, who celebrates a decade of faithful service in his priesthood this Tuesday, 23rd April. He will be presiding at the 9:30am Mass, and it would be a joy to have many of you join in celebrating this joyful occasion.

Let us support and pray for those who have dedicated their lives to pastoral ministry, ensuring that the voice of the Good Shepherd continues to resonate through their work. As we continue our journey of faith, let us listen attentively to the Good Shepherd's voice, inviting us to a life of service and dedication.

## CONTACTS & ORGANISATIONS

### **Parish of St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks**

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

**Website:** [www.sevrparish.org.uk](http://www.sevrparish.org.uk) **Tel:** 01732 454177

**Parish Priest:** Fr Piotr Kucharski [piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:piotrkucharski@rcaos.org.uk)

**Assistant Priest:** Fr Vipin James, [vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:vipinjames@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Deacon:** Rev'd Neil Philipson [neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:neilphilipson@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary:** Mrs Magdalena Wiacek [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

**Parish Office hours:** Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday 8:30am - 12:15pm, **Tuesday - closed**

**Safeguarding Rep:** Ken Baines [sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakssgl@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)

The Diocesan Safeguarding Coordinator can be contacted on 020 7261 1606; in an emergency dial 999

#### **Adoration**

Barry Authers: [sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksadoration@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Altar Servers (St Thomas's)**

Catherine Ingram: [ingramfamily15@yahoo.com](mailto:ingramfamily15@yahoo.com)

#### **Catenians**

Social club for Catholic men

Aiden O'Mahony: [aidan.omahony@btinternet.com](mailto:aidan.omahony@btinternet.com)

#### **Children's Liturgy of the Word, Sunday Mass**

*Sevenoaks, 9:15am Mass:*

Mark O'Prey: [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Oxford, 9:30am Mass:*

Catherine Bennett: [sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

*Borough Green, 9:30am Mass:*

Fiona Newton: [fionanewton321@btinternet.com](mailto:fionanewton321@btinternet.com)

#### **Choirs**

*Music Group:*

Lonnie Christophers [lonniechr@hotmail.com](mailto:lonniechr@hotmail.com)

*Traditional Choir:* Barbara Page 01732 454729

*Borough Green:* Chris Hurl [chris.hurl@outlook.com](mailto:chris.hurl@outlook.com)

#### **Church Cleaning (St Thomas's)**

James McSharry: [jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmcsharry@hotmail.com)

#### **Church Flowers (St Thomas's)**

Kate Travers: [katetravers521@hotmail.com](mailto:katetravers521@hotmail.com)

#### **Confirmation Programme**

Gabrielle Ellis: [sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksconfirmation@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Parish Finance Committee**

Secretary: Mary Scott - [3maryscott@gmail.com](mailto:3maryscott@gmail.com)

#### **First Holy Communion & Reconciliation Programme**

Catherine Tan: [sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksfhc@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Gift Aid:**

Sean Corrigan: [sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksgac@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Holy Trinity Committee**

Secretary: Barry Authers - [sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksmht@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Lectio Divina**

Kathie Gonzalez 01732 761253

#### **Listening to you (Bereavement Support)**

Third Monday, 10:30am in Parish Room

Ronnie Campbell, Sarah Harrison and Kate Travers

[sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaks@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Loaves and Fishes Foodbank**

Isabelle Mercer: [h.imercer@btopenworld.com](mailto:h.imercer@btopenworld.com)

#### **Mothers' Prayers**

Mondays, 11:30am at Star House, Star Hill Road

01959 532505

#### **Parent & Toddlers Group**

Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00noon, Parish Centre

Mary Hunt 07890 229794

#### **RACET (Rural Africa Children's Education Trust)**

MaryAnn Perasso 01959 522337, [www.racet.org](http://www.racet.org)

#### **Readers, Ministers & Welcomers Rota (St Thomas's)**

Andrew Pembroke: [st.thomas.rota@gmail.com](mailto:st.thomas.rota@gmail.com)

#### **Repository**

Open after Mass on Sunday: 8:00 am & 11:15am

#### **RCIA**

For adults becoming Catholic:

Andrew Wilkinson: [sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoaksrcia@rcaos.org.uk)

#### **Retreats**

Catherine Roger: [c.rodger@btinternet.com](mailto:c.rodger@btinternet.com)

#### **St Bernadette's Committee**

Secretary: Jill Gobel - [jill.gobel@btinternet.com](mailto:jill.gobel@btinternet.com)

#### **St Joseph's Committee**

Secretary: John Foley - [johnandmariefoley@gmail.com](mailto:johnandmariefoley@gmail.com)

#### **The Pilgrims**

For retired parishioners

Jackie Pembroke 01732 450197

#### **Scripture Fellowship**

Reading a Gospel together

Andrew Wilkinson: [andrewwilkos@gmail.com](mailto:andrewwilkos@gmail.com)

#### **St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP)**

Can help financially, practically, and through visits to the

isolated or housebound. Contact Paul Boyle 07796564018 or

Kathie Gonzalez [sevenoakssvp@gmail.com](mailto:sevenoakssvp@gmail.com)

#### **Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) (West Kingsdown)**

Ann Vallins: [annavallins@yahoo.com](mailto:annavallins@yahoo.com)

#### **Webmaster**

Barry Authers: [sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:sevenoakswebmaster@rcaos.org.uk)

## EMBRACING GOD'S CALL: A JOURNEY TO PRIESTHOOD

As we come together on this Vocation Sunday to celebrate and pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, I reflect on my own journey as I mark my 10th ordination anniversary on the feast of St. George. It is a moment of profound gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of my vocation to the priesthood.

People often ask me why I chose priesthood, to which I respond with the words of Jesus, "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you" (John 15:16). My journey began in the warmth of a loving family, where I was the third son of my parents. After the two boys my father expected a girlchild. While I may not have fulfilled those expectations, I was cherished as their "little hero."

My early inclinations towards priesthood emerged during my time in a convent nursery school, where I surprised my teachers with my aspiration to become a priest. This journey was nurtured by my grandmother, who instilled in me a love for the church and prayer. Our family's nightly ritual of praying the rosary together, with a special prayer for vocations, became a cornerstone of my spiritual formation. It was in holy communion preparation time through the prayers and the stories of saints that I found inspiration to pursue priesthood, aspiring not just for a priest but for sanctity.

Despite my human imperfections, the desire to become a priest never waned. At the age of 15, I made the decision to join the seminary, much to the surprise of my parish priest. Though doubts may have remained, I trusted in the call of Jesus, who had chosen me for this path.

My journey led me to the Society of Divine Vocation (SDV), a religious congregation I had not previously encountered. Despite my initial expectations of becoming a diocesan priest, I embraced this new path,

knowing that God's plan for me transcended my own understanding. After 12 years of formation, I was ordained as a priest on April 23, 2014, at the age of 27.

Reflecting on the past decade of my priestly ministry, I am filled with gratitude for the opportunities and challenges that have shaped me. Through the sacraments, prayer, and pastoral care, I have witnessed the transformative power of God's grace in the lives of His people. I have been humbled to serve as an instrument of His mercy, bringing healing to broken hearts and hope to those in need.

None of this would have been possible without the prayers and support of my family, friends, religious sisters and fellow priests. Their encouragement has sustained me through the trials and joys of priestly life. In particular, I am grateful for the guidance and friendship of Fr. Piotr, who has been a constant source of support on this journey.

*"I need you to change the world"*

As I look to the future, I pray that God will continue to mold me into a priest after His own heart, enabling me to serve His people with humility and love. My journey is a testament to the faithfulness of God and the power of His call. Thank you, Jesus, for choosing me to be your priest. As I will be celebrating my Thanksgiving Holy Mass on April 23rd at 9:30 am, I once again request your prayers and presence with me. Let us pray that the children and youth hear the voice of Jesus. "I need you to change the world."

*Fr Vipin*



# PARISH AND OTHER NOTICES

## SECOND COLLECTION

The Second Collection this week is for the Priest Training Fund. This collection helps to meet the cost of training students for the priesthood and the permanent diaconate. Please use your Gift aid envelopes if you can.

## FUNERALS

- Victoria Vickers on 22nd April, 12.00noon in Sevenoaks
- Peter Ringham on 24th April, 11.30am in Borough Green
- Joyce Manners on 26th April, 11.30am in Borough Green
- Patricia Neville on 30th April, 11.00am in Sevenoaks
- Veronica Dowling, details to follow

## FR VIPIN - Celebrating 10 Years of Ordination

We are thrilled to announce that Fr. Vipin will be celebrating the 10th Anniversary of his Ordination on Tuesday, April 23rd. Join us for a special 9:30 am Mass to mark this significant milestone in his journey. Following the service, there will be a delightful spread of coffee and cake awaiting you in the porch. Let's come together to honor and celebrate this wonderful occasion!

## CANON DAVID GIBBONS

Fr David is to be formally installed as a Canon of the Cathedral on Tuesday 23rd April at the Chapter Mass at 6:00pm, in St George's Cathedral. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

## QUITE DAY OF REFLECTION

You are invited to a Quiet Day of Reflection on **Saturday 27th April 2024** at The Barn, Poulton Farm, Ashes Lane, Hadlow, TN11 9QU (entrance opposite North Frith Farm) from 10.00 to 16.00.

The day will be led by Gilly Fenner who has worked as a spiritual director for over 20 years. **Please bring** a bible, a packed lunch and a change of shoes as part of the day can be spent outside.

Suggested contribution for the day is £5. If you would like to attend please email Gilly at [gf58b@icloud.com](mailto:gf58b@icloud.com)

## LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COMES TO SEVENOAKS 2024

Confirmation, which most of us have received, strengthens us in the Holy Spirit, but have we truly discerned the gifts that He makes available to us in the sacrament. For some He gives the gift of prophecy, for others the gift of healing, teaching, discernment, patience, wisdom and many more. These gifts empower us to be more effective in responding and fulfilling our unique purpose which is His plan for our lives. But we have free will and it is only in exceptional cases that His will is overtly revealed – like with St Paul, Job, Jonah and some of the Saints. For the rest of us we need to come to Him in prayerful humility seeking to discern the gifts he has given us and how we should be using them. Life in the Spirit helps us to reflect, to better understand these charisms of the Holy Spirit – transforming our lives. This year we have the privilege of a Hub at **St Thomas, Sevenoaks 8pm to** 6

**9.30pm, on Tuesdays from 23rd April to 28th May 2024 - retreat day Saturday 18th May.** Talks delivered at the Cathedral will be live streamed. Please listen to that still small voice inside you and register to attend under St Thomas of Canterbury, Sevenoaks using the link: [bit.ly/LISS2024](http://bit.ly/LISS2024)

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES

Thank you to everyone for your continued support this year. Everyone's contribution whether small or large is important. In the 2023/2024 tax year we will be able to claim back from the Inland Revenue nearly £57,000. It has been boosted this year, by donations towards the refurbishment of the parish centre. It is a big part of our income and allows us to fund our four Mass centres and contribute to the diocese.

Those who are registered as Gift Aid'ers in our Parish can now collect their boxes of weekly envelopes at the back of church. Please take your box home.

There is small bundle of envelopes at the back of church for those who donate by standing orders. Each bundle is in an envelope with your name on it. Please find your envelope and take it. Many thanks.

## 1st PILGRIMS GROUP REUNION

On Wednesday, 8th May 2024 2.30pm – 4.30pm there will be the first Pilgrims Group reunion following the opening of our swish new Parish Centre! A short service of prayer and thanksgiving for all you have graciously done and generously given, followed by a tasty Tea. Come hungry!

**CONFIRMATION 2024 - Attention all those currently in Year 7 or above:** Registration for this year's Confirmation Programme is now open. Please register online at [sevrparish.org.uk](http://sevrparish.org.uk). A welcome meeting for parents, candidates and catechists will be held on Wednesday 22nd May 2024 from 7:30pm-9:00pm in St Thomas' church. **Closing date for registration: Tuesday 30th April 2024.**



**SAVE the DATE: 21st June 2024.**

We are delighted to be able to host the world renowned choir, *The Sixteen* conducted by Harry Christophers, CBE, at St Thomas', for a specially-curated gala evening concert, with poetry readings by Actors Antonia Christophers and Noel Byrne.

**Tickets to go on sale soon:** watch the Parish website and the newsletter!

The proceeds of the ticket sales will go to our St Thomas Parish Community projects, specifically the Most Holy Trinity, Otford.

# MASS INTENTIONS

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

## SUNDAY 21<sup>st</sup> April

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am (Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Lilian Spragg RIP
- People of the Parish
- In thanksgiving
- Timothy & Cleta Andradi RIP
- Canon Luke Smith
- Good estate of Jill Wightman
- Edward Etheridge RIP (anniversary)
- Good estate of the People of St Bernadette's

## Monday 22<sup>nd</sup>

- 8:00am

Private Intention

## Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup>

- 9:30am

## Saint George, Martyr, Patron of England, Solemnity

In thanksgiving

## Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00am
- 10:00am Otford

Wellbeing of Mary Watts

Donor's Intention

## Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

- 10:00pm Borough Green
- 12:00noon

## Saint Mark, Evangelist

Joyce Manners RIP

In thanksgiving & for her future wellbeing of Isobel White

## Friday 26<sup>th</sup>

- 8:00am
- 10:00am West Kingsdown

Brandon Gough RIP

People of St Bernadette's

## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>

- 9:30am

Joseph & Josephine Brown RIP

## SUNDAY 28<sup>th</sup> April

- 6:00pm (Sat)
- 8:00am (Latin)
- 9:15am
- 11:15am
- 6:00pm
- 9:30am Otford
- 9:30am Borough Green
- 11:00am West Kingsdown

## FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

- Eileen Pritchard RIP (anniversary)
- Canon Luke Smith
- People of the Parish
- Stacey Collins Sargeant RIP and comfort of her family
- Private Intention
- Janet & John Frith (50th anniversary)
- Cheryl & George (40th anniversary)
- Archie Payne RIP (birthday)
- Paddy Welch RIP

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY WORKSHOP DAY** organized by the Agency for Evangelisation and Catechesis of the Archdiocese of Southwark. The event is scheduled for Saturday, 27 April 2024 in St Thomas' Parish Centre. Participants will have the opportunity to share the joy of this ministry, be formed, and gain valuable insights. Booking required. More details on the Poster & the QR code.



## THE SICK

Milena Currall, Diana Latter, Sue Spilstead, Elizabeth Sherratt, Philip Hardaker, Paulina Andrea, Zamora Hernandez, Mavis Mitchell Lambert, Toni Barrett, Frank Easterbrook, Lynne Stanley, Veronica Williams, Yvonne Bollen, Ann Steven, Sean Cloke, Ann Farren and all in care and nursing homes in the Parish.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN APRIL

Frederick Byrne, Sarah McCracken, Frederick Pert, Eileen Manville, Isobel Joyce, Margaret Hickey, John Evans, Kate Turner, Lucien Bernard, Malcolm Chapman, Stanley Dine, Janet Brett, Bob Clifford, Amy Player, Annie Hearn, Matilda & Robert Dwyer, Charles Hopkins, Pamela Clifton, Brandon Gough, Edmund Player, Frank Emmerson, Maria Dzierla, Peter Player, Thomas Barnes, Caroline Muir, Maru Anne Tobin.

## LATIN ANTIPHONS

### Entrance:

Misericórdia Dómini plena est terra; verbo Dómini caeli firmáti sunt, allelúia.

### Communion:

Surréxit Pastor bonus, qui ánimam suam pósuit pro óvibus suis, et pro grege suo mori dignátus est, allelúia.

**THANK YOU for the Candles.** We want to express our sincere gratitude for the thoughtful gift of candles. As the weather has improved, we currently have no need for them. However, we look forward to utilising them again when the seasons change.