



St John the Baptist & St Theresa of the Infant Jesus

Catholic parishes of Westerham and Biggin Hill

www.jandtcatholic.com



Newsletter 25/26 July 2026

Parish information:

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17th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

The King Solomon ruled over Israel after David his father. He was a young man, more of a builder than a warrior and the kingdom was a large one - so he entreated the Lord at Gibeon. He didn't ask for health or wealth but for wisdom – a wise and discerning heart and the Lord granted his request. Wisdom is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit which is 'a kind of knowledge in the sense that it allows one to understand God's purposes and the divine will'. So when embarking on a difficult task or having to administer the affairs of others - the wisdom from the Lord is to be highly savoured - for it is the summation of all goodness.

The Lord Jesus speaks about the finders of the hidden treasure and the fine pearls in today's Gospel. The parables zero on our earnestness for the kingdom of God – illustrated by the treasure that was discovered and acquired at all expense. Real treasures are neither found on the surface of the earth nor everywhere – but lie hidden in the field or under the sea. And he who seeks them must be diligent, untiring, and ready to sacrifice other interests. The discovery of the riches of the kingdom brings surpassing happiness – unfortunately, the owners were quick to sell their land because they didn't realize the values therein.

Fr John Olaniran

Urgent! NEW SCAM in the diocese targeting parishioners via Whatsapp! Please be alert of cyber criminals using artificial intelligence (AI) to create video, voice or text messages of the clergy and asking for donations. Please remain vigilant if Bishop, parish priest or any member of the clergy contacts you personally via Whatsapp asking for money/gift cards or asks you to give them your bank details. **Do not send any money** and please report any suspicious messages and phone numbers to Action Fraud department at – www.reportfraud.police.uk

Summer Raffle - the draw will take place on Sunday in St Theresa's hall after the 9am Mass. Good luck everybody.

Mass times:

Saturday 25th July St James	09:00	Biggin Hill <i>Int: For Dean & Nala: for the good work they are doing for the welfare of the animals</i>
	18:00	Westerham <i>Int: People of the parish</i>
Sunday 26th July Seventeenth Sunday	09:00	Biggin Hill <i>Int: Thanksgiving & God's protection on Anna, Tammy, Jason & Jessica</i>
	11:00	Westerham <i>Int:</i>
Monday 27th July	09:30	Westerham <i>Int: White, Batson & Cousin Families, Living and deceased</i>
Tuesday 28th July	08:30	Biggin Hill <i>Int: Steve Gadd RIP</i>
	19:00	Biggin Hill Rosary
Wednesday 29th July Sts Martha, Mary & Lazarus	19:30	Westerham <i>Int: Mary Madelene Cyril RIP</i>
Thursday 30th July St Peter Chrysologus	08:30	Biggin Hill <i>Int: Paula Fish RIP</i>
	19:00	Biggin Hill Adoration & Confessions
Friday 31st July St Ignatius of Loyola	09:30	Westerham <i>Int: Welfare of Margaret Harrington</i>
Saturday 1st August	09:00	Biggin Hill <i>Int: Reynaldo Dante RIP</i>
	18:00	Westerham <i>Int: Mark Delaney RIP</i>
Sunday 2nd August Eighteenth Sunday	09:00	Biggin Hill <i>Int: Thanksgiving to God for academic success by Nicole, Natalie & Natasha Olisa</i>
	11:00	Westerham <i>Int: People of the parish</i>

Prayer Requests: Please remember in your prayers: Nanette Allies nee Mistry, Anna & Tammy and family, Ola Alalde, Keith Bence, Mary Butler, Jacqueline Bleicher, Hannah Bryant, Sheila Clarke, Richard Clarke, Reggie Davies, Paddy & Hannah Delaney, Teresa Dering, Anita Dunn, Hugh Ferris, Margaret Furey, Colin Field, Marion Gordon, Heath St John, Moira H., Anna Harper, Adil Hamidovic, Barbara Howe, Paul Humphries, Kay Ions, Nicole Jones, Dominic Lincoln, Alison-Marie, Doreen Lilian Hicks, Katie Louise Hicks, Mark Keefe, Mike Martineau, Lynn Pilditch, Francesca Peake, Joan Potts, Mary Ralph, The Rivett Family, Francesca Rodrigues, Josie Shankey, Jill Selbie, Roy & Lyn Shergold, Annette Shepherd, Sean Torpey, Claire Valsler, Bridget Walsh, Jim Wakeley, Sean Wakeley, Aldona, Yvonne & Anthony, Simone, Norma, Vaida, Vytautas, Michelle & Family Paul & his wife, Shoobridge family.

Please pray for the Peace in the World, and for those in need. We ask the Mother of Our Lord to protect us and to keep us always true to Him and his truth:

**We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God;
despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us always from dangers,
O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.
Our Lady Queen of Peace - pray for us!**

Please pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time.

**Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

* If anyone wishes to have their name included in the prayer list, or their name to be removed, please contact us. * If you wish to have a mass offered for a deceased relative or a friend, or a specific mass for an anniversary or celebration, please contact the parish office. Thank you.

Repository- Before you buy cards on the High Street please do visit the Repository where we have a lovely, excellently priced selection.

Offertory collections on 18/19 July:

Biggin Hill – Cash: £80-73; Gift Aid: £108; Total: £188-73.

Westerham – Cash: £152-95; Gift Aid: £40; Total: £209-86.

June'26 Standing Orders: Biggin Hill - £725; Westerham - £952-43.

*If you would like to Gift Aid your regular contribution to the church please sign the pledge form that is available at the front of both churches, so that we as a parish can claim back the tax on your gift. *Thank you for your continued support.*

EasyFundraising - St Theresa's can raise an additional £10 if 10 more people sign up for *EasyFundraising* before 2nd August. If you shop online please do consider signing up and try and encourage your family and friends to do so too. I know there are some of you that shop online but have not yet signed up. This is money for nothing and will go towards Church funds. Many thanks. Full details from me. Jane

Parish BBQ – Sunday 16th August – 3pm to 6pm - We are holding a BBQ for parishioners from both churches at Westerham - fingers crossed for good weather! This free event is our way of saying thank you for your support of our fundraising activities and events.

- Soft drinks, tea and coffee will be provided.
- Burgers, sausages, vegetarian options, salads and cakes will be available.
- Please **bring your own alcoholic drinks**.

Attendance sheet - To help us plan the catering, it is **VITAL** that you complete the attendance sheet, which is now available at both churches, by **Sunday 9th August** at the latest. **Parking** will be in the **Westerham Main Car Park** as the Committee will need the parish car park for setting up.

Thank you,

Your Social Committee

Oppose Assisted Suicide - Act Now: Contact your MP

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation:

"The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives. "The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate. "I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading." Please speak up and voice your opposition.

Fundraising for Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage. From Bishop Paul. One of the trustees of our Lourdes pilgrimage has been doing a sponsored walk to raise money to help disabled pilgrims to go to Lourdes. He will be in parts of Kent and SE London this week. If you would be willing to contribute, he has a fundraising page at www.justgiving.com/page/calourdes125sw

Hymns at St John the Baptist:

Entry – No 908 'Blest are the pure in heart'
Gloria – No 532
Offertory – No 967 'O the love of my Lord'
Communion – No 44 'The Lord is my Light'
Recessional – No 934 'Dear Lord and Father'

Hymns at St Theresa's:

Entry – No 633 'Seek ye first' Gloria - No 406
Offertory – No 676 'Take my hands'
Communion – No 813 'Will you let me be your servant'
Recessional – No 285 'Here I am Lord'

Seventeenth Sunday Mass Readings

First Reading 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12

In those days: The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, 'Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life, or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.'

Responsorial Psalm

R: O Lord, how I love your law!

Second reading Romans 8:28-30

Brothers and Sisters: We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia. I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. **Alleluia.**

Gospel Matthew 13:44-52

At that time: Jesus said to the crowd: 'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into vessels but threw away the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

'Have you understood all these things?' They said to him, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

Communion Antiphon

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and never forget all his benefits.