



PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead:

- ◇ Bishop Thomas McMahon
 - ◇ Maria Grant
- May they rest in peace*

Anniversaries:

John (Sean) Dunne, Henri Haydonsk, Francis Keane, Maurice O'Sullivan, Martin Thomas, Lena Tyson, Eileen Christie, Ruth Comorford, Roger Higgins, Elizabeth Stoffel, Lucia Nie, Patricia Greene, Peter Jacques, Eileen Morley, Katherine Delaney, Martin Fuller, Joan Hayes, John Martin, Leslie Bond, Ethel Humphrey, Rita Marrai, Robert Taylor.

The Multi-faith Chaplaincy Team at Whipps Cross Hospital

Invites you to join them in serenading the staff and patients who are working or staying in hospital over Christmas.

TUESDAY 23RD DECEMBER 2025
TIME: 5PM – 7:30PM-ISH
MEET IN THE CHAPEL 1ST FLOOR
JUNCTION 5 (NEAR THE BLACK CAT)

Brentwood Directory

Is available in the parish shop to purchase

SUNDAY MASSES

1st Mass: 6pm Saturday;
8.30am; 10am & 11.30am Sunday
(The 11.30am Mass is recorded)



*Join us for tea/coffee after
Sunday Mass in the Becket
Centre*

10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on
Saturday's when mass takes place at
10am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Retiring collections

Thank you for your donation of
£1154.37 for the Brentwood
Children Catholic Youth Society

There will be a retiring collection next
weekend for SVP at St Thomas'

St Thomas'
Mini Retreat for Advent
Saturday 6th December
3.30 to 5.30pm
Clare Room
All Welcome



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

First Sunday of Advent (A) 30th November 2025

Please note the nearest Fire Exit to you whilst you are in the Church

The vision of Isaiah inspires us. It is a beautiful prophecy of peace. We keep this vision before us, as the Lord warns us not to become complacent in our faith.

First Reading Isaiah 2:1-5

Isaiah presents Jerusalem as an inspiration to all nations, from which the word of the Lord will be proclaimed; the presence of the Lord will bring about peace.

Second Reading Romans 13:11-14a

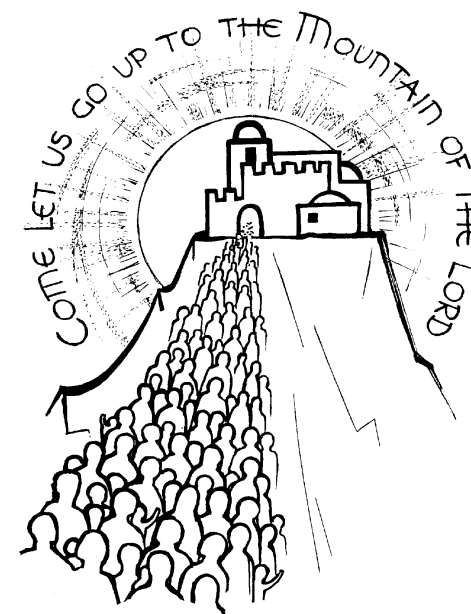
Paul advises us to wake up and to put on the Lord Jesus Christ, wearing the armour of light.

Gospel Matthew 24:37-44

Jesus urges his disciples not to be complacent in their faith, but to be prepared for the return of the Son of Man.

Responsorial Psalm

Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.



ADVENT- A NEW LITURGICAL YEAR

It often feels as though the Church is playing catchup with the secular world but the Church is starting a new year a month before the world. The beginning of Advent is the start of a period of frantic activity for many of us. We want everything to be perfect for Christmas and that means planning the shopping and sorting out the Christmas greetings of family and friends. The price of stamps makes a lot of our former ways of greeting, e.g., cards, prohibitive. The atmosphere of a Christian Advent is a season of expectation. We speak of pregnant women as 'expecting.' We with Our Lady are remembering the expectation of the Saviour but also His coming in glory. This season asks to be very involved in the business of this world but also to live in preparation for the promised world to come. Pope Leo had not said anything about Advent yet but here are Pope Francis's thoughts.

Themes of Advent according to Pope Francis

- **Vigilance:** Be awake, alert, and vigilant to recognize Christ's coming and not be unprepared for His visit.
- **Acceptance:** Accept God's saving love, even when struggling. Advent is about letting God come to you, not about preparing for Him by cleaning everything up first.
- **Daily life:** Recognize God's presence in your daily life. Pay attention to daily life, even amidst distractions and earthly matters, so you don't miss the bigger picture.
- **Spiritual preparation:** Do not think you must have a big change in mood to enter Advent. Instead, realize you need saving and accept God's saving love.

St Vincent De Paul Society Re-established in St Thomas' Community

Dear Parishioners, we are pleased to announce that, after a period of inactivity, the SVP conference for St Thomas' has now been re-established. We will be starting this Christmas with a collection after Masses next weekend. This money will be used to help those in need in our parish community. At this early stage we are working with the schools to identify those in need, but you can also help. Do you know any individuals or families who could benefit from SVP assistance. If so, please email svpstthomas@gmail.com. **For anyone who is in urgent need please call us on our dedicated SVP number 07547 491067 and leave a message. We will call you back.**

Another plea, we need more members to join our small team. At a time when so many are in need could your new year resolution be to reach out and help. If so, please email us svpstthomas@gmail.com for more information.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co Mayo

Led by Bishop Alan Williams. Monday 15th June 2026. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from London Stansted, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 30th November

8.30 Dorothy Hetherington anniversary
10 Nora Power RIP
11.30 Fr Austin McCormack RIP

Monday 1st December

Intention of O'Kane & King families
Massacred children at Nyadzonya
Funeral 11 am Rita Pesci

Tuesday 2nd December

Septime Dabou RIP
Children massacred at Chimoyi
Francis De Costa RIP

Wednesday 3rd December

Hugh Gaughan anniversary
Simone De Costa RIP
S Dalson RIP

Thursday 4th December

Teddy Rosario RIP
Brigid Hulse RIP

Friday 5th December

Joan Hayes anniversary
John Martin
Bro Didacus ofm anniversary

Saturday 6th December

10 Luciano Pesci RIP
6 Rob Taylor anniversary

Sunday 7th December

8.30 Ann Curran RIP
10 Donald Raecke RIP
11.30 Constance & Allen Edwards RIP

Church Cleaning
Saturday 6th December 10.30am
Rosie O'Connor & Charmaine Turrell

Advent Service 7th December 4.30pm

Do come along and enjoy this service of music and readings at St. Thomas's. It's a truly ecumenical occasion, with our own choir and the choirs of All Saints and St. Mary's, South Woodford, combining to help us prepare for the great feast of Christ's coming.

Advent activity calendar

Children's advent & Christmas calendar 2025 is available at the back of church, please take one to share with your children.

Magical Christmas Carols Event

Loyola Cantorum are hosting this event at The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Epping, CM16 4RA on the 5th December at 7.00pm. Adult tickets are £10. Tickets: https://www.justgiving.com/page/aine-wood-2?utm_campaign=lc_frp_share_transaction_fundraiser_page_launched&utm_content=c0baae40-7393-475f-94a8-315ba5a6b35c&utm_medium=email&utm_source=postoffice&utm_term=1763122839324

St Thomas' Polish Christmas Carol sing- along

Will take place on
13th December at 4pm
Followed by refreshments