

FAMILY AND MARRIAGE

Some have expressed concern about issues so far raised in our search for what the Pope is asking of us. You are quite right to insist that basic doctrine will not change. One question put was to identify the unchangeable and look to where there is a margin for development of understanding and practice. God does not exclude: he seeks to draw all no matter how sinful or unconventional into Christ's loving family. The Pope's priority is a change of attitude in the church. "I have not come to condemn the world but to save it" said Jesus last Sunday. The Pope is urging not judgement but compassion for all.

LENTEN LUNCHES

Tuesdays in Lent, 12.15pm—1.30pm in the Becket Centre. If you haven't tried our delicious home-made soups, French bread and butter why not join us this coming week.—it's only £3 and your money would help to feed vulnerable children.

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, 30th March 7.30pm at St. Thomas'. A number of priests will be available to hear confessions. No further public times for celebrating this sacrament before Easter.

EASTER TRIDUUM

Many thanks to all those who offered their services last weekend; we do however, still need more Readers, Ministers of Communion, Sacristans and Ushers for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. Please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church if you are able to help.

MAUNDY THURSDAY Washing of the Feet

We are looking for 12 volunteers (male or female), so far we have six volunteers so we are half way there! If you would like to take part in this moving re-enactment of Our Lord washing the feet of his disciples, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS

There is a list in the Altar Server's Sacristy for all Altar Servers to sign when they are available to serve during Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. *Please note that there will be a practice on Saturday, 28th March at 11am in the church which you are expected to attend.*

HOLY WEEK FLYER

Please take a flyer as you leave church giving you details of the Masses and services over the Easter period.

MOTHER & TODDLERS

Are collecting Sainsburys vouchers, please hand them in to the Parish Office.

VOTIVE CANDLES

An anxious well-wisher drew attention to a very young child lighting votive candles unattended. We must all be concerned, but parents particularly: this is a real risk of physical harm to a child. Also many candles were left burning in dangerous places last weekend. Please light candles only where there is place on the stands. If the stand is full then place your candle in the box provided so that it can be lit later when there is room.

WELCOME

We welcome into the parish community Santino Allen, Reilly Joseph Walshe, Jack Culkin and Spencer Daniel Mereu who were baptised in St. Thomas' last weekend.

HOLY FAMILY LAY ASSOCIATES MEETING

Monday, 30th March at 5 The Green at 7.30pm. Please bring your "Joy of the Gospel" booklet.

Easter Mass Cards are now available from the Repository and parish office

CHURCH CLEANING

Friday, 9am 27th March Maureen Insole, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Christine Acons, Lisa Robinson.

EASTER CLEAN : CHANGE OF DATE

The Easter Clean of the Church is at 10.30am on **TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH**. **PLEASE PLEASE** put it in your diaries. We only had 3 people helping at the Christmas clean. Can you please give just a little of your time to get our Church clean for the Easter celebrations.

THANK YOU.

LONDON CITIZENS (Telco)

A reminder of The Social Care Tea Party
At the Becket Centre on 11th April from 3pm to 5pm. If you are receiving care or are a carer we would warmly welcome you to attend. Please contact the Parish Office 8504 1686 a.s.a.p. or by 1st April.

VOLUNTEERING?

Need more cash to cover your expenses?
If you are a Catholic aged between 16 - 24 you may be eligible for a grant from the Catenian Association's Bursary Fund to help with your expenses. Your project must have a clear benefit for others as well as widening your life experience. For full details, eligibility criteria and application form visit www.thecatenians.com and click on Bursary.

ST THOMAS' SVP CONFERENCE

We urgently need more members to help us in our work. For more information please contact Gerry Curran on 07754 100149 or email gerrycurransvp@hotmail.co.uk.

PIANO & ORGAN RECITAL

Easter Sat. 4th April 7pm at Holy Trinity Church S. Woodford in aid of UK registered charity "Iraqi Christians in Need".

CAFOD FAMILY WALK AND PICNIC WITH CHILDREN'S TREASURE TRAIL

Thursday, 9th April Hanningfield Reservoir, Nr. Billericay CM11 1WT. Meet at the Visitor Centre 11am. Enjoy a stroll to the fishing lodge for games and refreshments. Bring your own picnic (coffee and tea available from the café). £5 suggested donation per adult—children free. For more details call CAFOD Brentwood 020 8502 9722.

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY

We are up London again on Wednesday night and would be grateful to receive sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, sweets, toiletries and warm clean men's clothing and shoes. Items can be left in the parish office from 9.30am - 1.30pm or the Becket Centre from 6.30pm on Wednesday evening. As this is the last Soup Run before Easter it would be lovely to be able to give every person that needs our help an Easter Egg to take away.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES

For the tax year 2015/16 are available for collection at the back of the church.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS TALK

There will be a talk on Tues 24th March at 7.30pm at Chigwell Convent. Tea and coffee will be provided. Additional talks will be arranged after Easter.

TUESDAY CLUB

The last before Easter. The ever interesting and amusing JENIFER PLUMMER will give us the low-down on "Sweets & Chocolates", appropriately enough. See you all at 2pm in the Becket Centre on 24th. We'll resume on the 14th April with the LOUGHTON LADIES' CHOIR.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Baby Oliver Barker, Sheila Abrams -Batley, Angela Barrett, Teresa Bonaventhor, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Claire and Lauren, Paddy Callanan, Bernadette Clancy, Julia Croft, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Don Dourado, Ana-Maria Erkasap, Ray Finney, Baby Frankie in Great Ormond St Hospital, Trish Gardener, Joan Green, Cynthia Gregory, Pat Greene, Lily Hanna, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Michael Hehir, Rowland Hill, Phyllis Kelly, Paul McDonnell, Mary McKay, Gloria McQueen, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, John Meneghan, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Harry Moody, Patrick Moran, Miriam Mullally, Betty Norton, David O'Connor, Fr Con O'Connell OFM, Mary O'Donnell, Maureen Pestell, Sally Picton, Anneli Prowse, Lily Reding, Joan Reynolds, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Grace Taylor, Barry & Beryl Vaughan, Lorenzo Vaughan, Teresa Warnock, and for all the sick and housebound of the parish.

Lately Dead.: Irene Boyle, Gebremeskel Tibebe Habtemariam, Roland Hitchcock, Padraig Hynes, Ina Meyles, Maura Regan.

Anniv: Alec Murphy.

We extend the sympathy of the parish to the family of **Aliko Lobo**. His Requiem will be on Wednesday, 25th March at 10am in St. Thomas'.

Irene Boyle's Requiem will be on Monday 30th March at 10am in St. Thomas'.

PADRE PIO

The Billericay Padre Pio Prayer Group invite you to a Day of Devotion to the Divine Mercy at Abbotswick, Diocesan House of Prayer on 12th April. Arrival 10.30am for 11.00am start. Confession available, mass 3.30pm. Tea and coffee available but please bring a packed lunch. Ring Claire Wallis 01277 658783.

ASSISI LUNCH

Next Friday, 27th March, in the Becket Centre.

LOYOLA PREPARATORY SCHOOL

A Teacher (with additional responsibility) job vacancy. Please see the school website www.loyola.essex.sch.uk. Closing date 24.4.15. Interviews 5.5.15 with the post commencing Sept. 2015. Please feel free to call the school office 020 8504 7372 for further information or to arrange a tour of the school.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES WITH BISHOP ALAN JULY 2015

The Annual Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is filling up—book soon! Sunday 26th to Friday, 31st July 2015 from £649 by air with full board for six days, five nights, or from £429 by coach. For a brochure call Cathy O'Connor 01206 501146 or www.brentwoodlourdes.org.

SUNDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'

1st Mass Sat. 6pm; 8.30am;
10am (Children's Liturgy)
11.30am

Chigwell Convent

10am

St. James URC

(Buckhurst Hill)

9am (Children's Liturgy)

WEEKDAY MASSES

St. Thomas'

10am

Chigwell Convent

9.30am

Saturday 10am

(1st Weds of the month)

No morning Mass

Trinity High School

8.20am on Lower Site.

SATURDAY

CONFESSIONS

St. Thomas'

10.30am—11.30am

5.00pm—5.45pm

Chigwell Convent

After 10am Mass

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays

Of the month



St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

Served by the Franciscans



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Tel: 020 8504 1686 Fax: 020 8504 1844



Email: parishoffice@friar.org Web: www.stthomaswoodford.org

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT CYCLE B

22ND MARCH 2015



Lent is a journey to Easter, a journey of hope. In this way our journey through Lent is like our journey through life.

First Reading (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

We live in the present but we live for the future, a future written in our hearts.

Second Reading (Hebrews 5:7-9)

Progress can make us better, but only Christ can make us perfect.

Gospel (John 12:20-33)

If our life gives us exactly what we expect, then we are like the seed that doesn't grow. A fruitful life will always bear fruit in unexpected ways.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM
A pure heart create for me, O God.