

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL

This greeting comes a little late: the parish staff, both clerical and lay, needed time to recover from all that happened around Christmas. It was a splendid series of feasts. We friars thank you most sincerely for all your greetings, gifts and generosity in the Christmas collection. The New Year has begun and already promises to be busy. Easter is less than three months away. We shall hear much about the deeper meaning of the Year of Mercy. It will take us back to the topic of family and marriage—what else is there of such importance?

PARISH COUNCIL

Meet on Tuesday, 12th January. Usually the Parish Council does not meet in January. However, at the last meeting we realised there is so much to be done, it was decided that we will meet this week. Please note the day will be Tuesday, not Monday. Concerns about the running of the Becket Centre will be high on the agenda.

JOURNEY OF FAITH

Will resume tomorrow Monday, 11th January. We will plunge tomorrow into the Vatican Council with all it tells us about who we are and where we are now. Since the current series of meetings started last September, we have built a happy group comfortable to be able to reveal their deep thoughts and aspirations. Though for several of the participants the concentration is on reception into the church, the exercise is also valued by others. Some have joined in because they feel they lag behind in knowledge and understanding of our church, its teaching and self-awareness. Others come from different backgrounds to extend their knowledge.

TUESDAY CLUB

A STIMULATING 2016 TO ALL!! Panic not—Brain Exercise! FRANK'S QUIZ on the 12th followed by recuperative refreshments.

YEAR OF MERCY

As part of the Year of Mercy, Fr. Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral would like to invite all those men and women who are separated, divorced, remarried or who are experiencing difficulties in their marriage to come to the Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Diocese, and join the Cathedral parish community at Mass on Sunday, 17th January at 6.30pm. The preacher will be Mgr. Gordon Read, the Chancellor of the Diocese.

SOUP RUN FOR THE HOMELESS AND NEEDY

Our first soup run of 2016 will be on Wednesday and we would be grateful to receive sandwiches, cakes, biscuits, fruit, toiletries and warm clean men's clothing. Items can be left in the parish office during opening hours or in the Becket Centre between 7pm and 8pm on Wednesday night. Thank you for your continued support.

BADMINTON

Come and get fit in 2016. We play Thursday night in Trinity School, Mornington Road between 8pm and 10pm. Cost £5 per night. For details please 'phone Liz 07759 410304.

KEEP FIT

Lose weight and keep fit for the New Year. Come to our fun keep fit class on Monday evening 8pm—9pm in the Becket Centre. Only £3.

BUCKHURST HILL

As part of the parish of St. Thomas of Canterbury, Mass is celebrated at St. James United Reformed Church in Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill at 9am each Sunday. We are a friendly and welcoming community and currently have spaces available in our children's liturgy group. If anyone would like to join us they will be very welcome.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Our next meeting will be held in the Becket Centre on Thursday, 14th January at 7.30pm. Please ring Angela on 020 8505 0356 if you have any queries about this meeting. Anyone who has been bereaved and feels that they would like to join our small, supportive group is welcome to 'phone for more details.

BECKET CENTRE CHAIRS

Ushers please note:

Any chairs taken from the Becket Centre for Sunday Masses **MUST** be returned immediately after Mass as they are required in the Becket Centre during the week.

REPOSITORY

Now open again after the Christmas Holiday. We have re-stocked with Lent and Easter in view thinking particularly about books to help children understand what's happening in church. There are also some lovely new statues of Our Lady and some saints. Come and have a browse—if you can't see what you need perhaps we can order it for you.

CWL

Meeting Wednesday, 13th Jan. at 8pm in the William Scott Room.

WHITE FLOWER APPEAL 2016 SPUC

The threat of "assisted suicide" is growing. Make a stand for vulnerable people—join us in affirming that everyone has a life worth living. Please take a card as you leave church today. Please give generously to the retiring collection.

CHURCH CLEANING

Thursday 9am 14th January Kath Mahoney, Jack Edwards, Amanda Rae, Emily Hannon, Kathy Howes.

We need 1 more person to help clean on a Friday at 9am on a rota once in 7 weeks. Please contact Pat Bell on 8504 4577.

SUNDAY TEAS

We are looking for 2 people to help with teas after 10am Mass on a Sunday morning in a team of 3 on a rota once in 7 weeks. Please contact Pat Bell on 020 8504 4577 or email mrmcbell@btinternet.com if you can help.

ST. ANTONY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NURSERY APPLICATIONS

Admissions to St. Antony's School Nursery 2016/2017

Children whose date of birth is between 1.9.2012 and 31.8.2013 can now apply for the school year 2016/17. Those children born between 1.9.2013 and 31.12.2013 may also apply to start in January 2017 if there are vacancies. Application forms are available at the School Office for the Nursery for the school year 2016/2017 and also available on the school website www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk. Please note any enquiries will only be dealt with in the afternoons after 1.30pm. Closing date for receipt of forms is mid-day on Friday, 4th March 2016.

We will be holding drop in sessions for any parents/carers waiting to look around our Nursery on Tues 2.2.16 (10-11am & 2-3pm) & Thursday 4.2.16 (10-11am & 2-3pm).

BAPTISMS

If you need to attend a baptism course, please contact the parish office. Baptisms take place on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. We recommend couples to attend a course before the birth of their child.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick:- Mike Angelo, Maria Ashley, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Liz Browne, Genevieve Campbell, Yvonne Carpenter, Eustage Chesley, Claire, Mike Crutchlow, Claver D'Souza, Don Dourado, Laurie Durrant, Maureen Halford, Thomas Hefferman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Trish Gardner, Mary Grisdale, Cynthia Gregory, Catherine Heagney, John Harris, Doris Harriss, S. Kuntz, Lauren, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Bridie McCoy, Paul McDonnell, Claudia McNulty, Jutta Menzies, Pat Morgan, Frances Piller, Dr Courtney Price, Lily Reding, Edward Shearer, Joshua Smikle, Melda Tierney, Pauline Tuite, Astrid Turner, Mary Quaine, Kath Vaughan .

If you know of any sick or housebound parishioner who would like to receive communion, please contact the parish office.

Lately Dead David Archer, Kevin Connolly, Sarah Figuredo, Sr. Theresa (St. Mary's Hornchurch), Sergio Masotti. There will be a Memorial Mass for Sr. Theresa on Wed. 27th January at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Hornchurch. She was a dedicated servant of the parish for over 55 years with 30 as Headteacher.

Anniv: Angelo de Casare, Frederic Hayes, Andrew Jeffreys, Kathleen Johnson, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M.

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

SIXTH FORM STUDENT

Are you willing to pop in 4 nights a week for half an hour to read with a 6year old? Will pay £5 per night. We live in the Woodford Green area so may work for someone at Trinity Sixth Form on their way home after school.

If this is something you are interested in please contact 07903 674872.

ST. JOHN'S RC SPECIAL SCHOOL

Requires a talented class teacher for April 2016. For an application pack please contact t020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk. Closing date Friday 22nd Jan.

DAWN McNULTY FOR HAIR

Freelance hairdressing Contact 07808921962/01992214303 or email Foghorn dawn@yahoo.co.uk.

FRANCISCAN MISSIONS

A mission calendar for 2016 is available at the back of the church. Please take one as you leave. In the year just ended the parish contributed £13,011 to the mission in South Africa. Thank you to everyone who made offerings.

IN TOUCH

Parish Magazine on sale at the back of the church price £2.

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

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD CYCLE C

10TH JANUARY 2016



The baptism of Jesus marked a profound change in his way of life. He began his public ministry in the power of the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Good News to those who were poor.

First Reading (Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11)

A message of consolation: the Lord is coming to save his people. Prepare a way for him.

Second Reading (Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7)

God saved us by the cleansing water of rebirth, renewing us with the Holy Spirit so generously poured over us through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Gospel (Luke 3:15-16. 21-22)

After Jesus baptism, the Holy Spirit descended upon him in the form of a dove and a voice from heaven declared, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Bless the Lord, my soul!
Lord God, how great you are.*