



**PRAY
FOR
THE
SICK**

Anniversaries:

Laura Cannon, Nell Farrelly, Gerald Duggan, Charles Green, Beryl Jannece, Anne Alfano, Walter Pert, Derek Faulkner, Kathleen Ivens, John Mulligan, Teresa Camp, Mary James, Betty Neilson, Gladys Ratnayake, Mary Roberts, Kathleen Stokes, Cecelia Chaplin, Annie Connolly, Harry Deamer, Sister Cyril Donnelly, Brendan O'Loughlin, Dorothy Knight, Rory Maguire, Joseph Neary, Oscar Reyk, Henry White, Josie Butt.



URGENT APPEAL

Dear all, we are extremely low on donations for the church Christmas Fayre so far this year. Please do have a rummage and see if you have any of the following that can be donated:

- New & pre loved teddies (please indicate if washed)
- New & pre loved toys in good condition
- New beauty products/sets
- New toiletries / sets
- Unwanted giftsets
- New scarf/glove sets
- unopened bottles of alcohol
- No books or DVDS

Donations to the parish office or can be left at the back of the church BEFORE November 27th

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 Collection

There will be a retiring collection for
Youth Sunday next weekend

St Thomas' Mini Retreat for Advent

Saturday 6th December
3.30 to 5.30pm
Clare Room

*Please come along and join us, no
registration needed*



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



Parish Office: 020 8504 1686 Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org
Friary: 020 8504 1688 Facebook: @STOCWoodford
Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org Twitter: @STOCWoodford

Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) 16th November 2025

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

Today is the Jubilee of the Poor, but poverty doesn't always mean a lack of food, or of water, or a roof over our head. We also need companionship and hope. Jesus reminds us that, however difficult things might seem, he is there for us and will keep us safe.

First Reading Malachi 4:1-2a

To honour God is to find energy and joy.

Second Reading 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

Paul encourages us to follow his example and to work hard.

Gospel Luke 21:5-19

Jesus foretells the destruction of the Temple and chaos, but those who remain faithful to him will survive and find life.

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord comes to judge the
peoples with fairness.



LITERATURE ABOUT THE END TIME

In the Gospel today we have an example of what is called Apocalyptic Literature. This occurs especially in the Book of Revelation and it is visionary with monsters and tumult and frightening images of the last times. What we are to take from this is that our time will come to an end and that we are to be faithful to Jesus Christ Our Saviour.

These are Pope Francis comments on today's Gospel.

This Sunday's Gospel passage (Lk 21:5-19) is the first part of Jesus' discourse on the end times. He delivers it in Jerusalem, close to the Temple, prompted by people discussing the Temple and its beauty. The Temple was very beautiful. Jesus says: "As for these things which you see, the days will come when there shall not be left here one stone upon another" (Lk 21:6). Of course they asked him: When will this happen? What will the signs be? But Jesus moves the focus from these secondary aspects i.e. when will it be? What will it be like? — to the truly important questions. Firstly, not to let oneself be fooled by false prophets nor to be paralyzed by fear. Secondly, to live this time of expectation as a time of witness and perseverance. We are in this time of waiting, in expectation of the coming of the Lord.

Jesus' words are perennially relevant, even for us today living in the 21st century too. He repeats to us: "Take heed that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name" (v. 8). This Christian virtue of understanding is a call to discern where the Lord is, and where the evil spirit is present. Today, too, in fact there are false "saviours" who attempt to replace Jesus: worldly leaders, religious gurus, even sorcerers, people who wish to attract hearts and minds to themselves, especially those of young people. Jesus warns us: "Do not follow them, do not follow them!".

The Lord also helps us not to be afraid in the face of war, revolution, natural disasters and epidemics. Jesus frees us from fatalism and false apocalyptic visions.

The second aspect challenges us as Christians and as a Church: Jesus predicts that his disciples will have to suffer painful trials and persecution for his sake. He reassures them, however, saying: "Not a hair of your head will perish" (v. 18). This reminds us that we are completely in God's hands! The trials we encounter for our faith and our commitment to the Gospel are occasions to give witness; we must not distance ourselves from the Lord, but instead abandon ourselves even more to him, to the power of his Spirit and his grace. I am thinking at this moment, let everyone think together. Let us do so together: let us think about our many Christian brothers and sisters who are suffering persecution for their faith. There are so many. Perhaps more now than in past centuries. Jesus is with them. We too are united to them with our prayers and our love; we admire their courage and their witness. They are our brothers and sisters who, in many parts of the world, are suffering for their faithfulness to Jesus Christ. Let us greet them with heartfelt affection.

At the end Jesus makes a promise which is a guarantee of victory: "By your endurance you will gain your lives" (v. 19). There is so much hope in these words! They are a call to hope and patience, to be able to wait for the certain fruits of salvation, trusting in the profound meaning of life and of history: the trials and difficulties are part of the bigger picture; the Lord, the Lord of history, leads all to fulfilment.

Despite the turmoil and disasters that upset the world, God's design of goodness and mercy will be fulfilled! And this is our hope: go forward on this path, in God's plan which will be fulfilled. This is our hope.

Jesus' message causes us to reflect on our present time and gives us the strength to face it with courage and hope, with Mary who always accompanies us.

Reminder
St Thomas' Bereavement Service
16th November 4pm
Please join us



Mass Intentions

Sunday 16th November

8.30 Neil O'Sullivan RIP

10 Nora Power RIP

11.30 Brian Beveridge anniversary

Monday 17th November

Mary Prendergast RIP

Bro Raymond RIP

Francis De Costa RIP

Funeral 11am Leonilde Branca

Tuesday 18th November

Tom Nolan anniversary

Derek Faulkner anniversary

Wednesday 19th November

Joe Malone

Luciano Pesci RIP

James Horan anniversary

Thursday 20th November

Jennifer Little anniversary

Graeme McNeil RIP

Sujiwa Lamahewage RIP

Friday 21st November

Brian Correya RIP

Theresa Pride RIP

Saturday 22nd November

10 Relatives & friends of Murphy & Costello families

6 Donald Raecke anniversary

Sunday 23rd November

8.30 Marco Casali

10 Sally & Norman Picton anniversary

11.30 Maria Grant birthday

Mass every day for those named before the altar

Church Cleaning **Thursday 20th November 9am**

Jackie John, Sue Mansbridge,
Srimathie Crusz, Margaret Parkinson
Chelsea Chaplin & Mary Charter

Thank you

The Parish Finance Committee thanks Parishioners for their continuing generous donations that ensure the ongoing financial well-being of the Parish. We also take this opportunity to remind Parishioners of the significant benefit to the Parish that can be gained by donations made through the Gift Aid program that enhances the value of every £1 you donate via Gift Aid to £1.25 for the work of the Parish. This benefit can apply to your kind loose plate donations. But to benefit from the Gift Aid tax contribution relating to the loose plate donations in particular, we invite you to consider setting up a standing order or placing your donation in the blue envelopes which you will find at the back of the church. If you pay income tax, you can either put your details on the envelope or, to make it easier for you, you can register for Gift Aid through the Parish office, enabling your regular donations made by loose plate, standing order or through the tap-and-pay machine at the back of the church to be supplemented in this way. In case you are not aware, the tap-and-pay machine offers a very modern and convenient means of making donations, either as a general donation to the Parish or for specific funding at relevant times through the year (such as specific second collections or donations to the clergy). The machine offers you options to direct your donations to specific funds and, once you have registered for Gift Aid, your donations will automatically attract the additional Gift Aid supplement. If you would like any further information please speak to the Usher and/or contact the parish office.

Trinity School

Have a number of vacancies, please see the school website for further information.