

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Joan Hayes

Peter and family would like to thank the parish for their love and concern, mass cards, prayers and words of comfort during this difficult time.
Thank you.

 **ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY**
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Served by the Franciscans


4th Sunday of Advent Cycle C

23rd December 2018



The final Sunday of Advent each year is the only one on which the Gospel explicitly refers to the birth of the one whose birth we celebrate at Christmas. Today, that proclamation takes place in the context of that famous meeting between Mary and her older relative Elizabeth.

First Reading Micah 5:1-4

Micah the prophet looks to a new age, set against the background of King David's birthplace of Bethlehem.

Second Reading Hebrews 10:5-10

The writer of the letter to the Hebrews focuses on the obedience of Jesus to his Father's will.

Gospel Luke 1:39-45

Mary and Elizabeth meet, and each proclaim Mary's child – as does Elizabeth's unborn child. This story, usually called the visitation, could also be classed as another annunciation.

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back: let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Reviewing the sick list

As we approach the end of 2018 we will be removing all names from the above sick list. If you would like a name to be included for January 2019 please email - parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org

Lately dead: Catherine King.

Funeral at St Thomas'

Catherine King's funeral will take place on 3rd of January 2019 at 12.30pm.

May she rest in peace

Anniversaries: Marry Deima, Margaret Mason, Romei Guisto, John Moore, John, Newman, Damiana D'Costa, Annie O'Brien, Margaret McHugh, Paul Shipperlee, Albert Currie, George Cowan, Margaret Waites, Ellen Mahoney, Mary Atwell, Sister Marian Dewhirst, Michael Linnane, Ivy White, Chevonne Lobo, Andrew Jeffreys, Joseph Dewey, Teresa Brownlow, Domenico Villacci, Mary Dooley, Cynthia Haskins, Mary Hendry, Rose Neville, Paul McDonald, Annie Galligan, Pauline Goodsman, Bridget Craven, John Bailey, Gabrielle Daye, Sylvia Hawkins, Maureen Dodsley, Julia Zykun, Patrick Duggan, Fredrick Hayes, Angelo Vittorio de Cesare, Joseph Kinsella, Mrs. Maidment.

Memorial cards for Father Roger are available at the back of the church

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

Preparation

The preparations for Christmas Day 2018 are now done. But the 4th Sunday of Advent reminds us of God's preparations for the event in Bethlehem. He started making the world 4.5 billion years ago – and the story continued and continued through gradual evolution. St Thomas of Canterbury is a tiny part of that. We have worked together through this past year: teaching, loving, caring, praying. Some we have done well, some not so well. But Christmas comes to remind us forcibly of the process, all fired and driven by the love of a Father.

I want to thank you who have collaborated in the building of our parish through 2018. I thank particularly you who work steadily and unseen. I think of the carers in your many roles; of those who teach especially by example; you who heal bodies minds spirits and divisions. I have often been asked: Why do you not have a party to thank all the workers? I know I should. But where does the guest-list end? And who else is there to make the provisions? So your reward is quietly tucked into the bank of grace the balance of which you will only see with a whoop of delight on the last day. I do thank you all. My prayer is that your family bonding will grow stronger; that you will each become more like the family in the stable having little of the goods of the material world, but everything of the world that only matters.

Thank you

Already you have been exceedingly generous in your gifts to us friars. We thank you very much for your gifts and the love they signify.

May God bless you abundantly.

Your offerings at the Christmas Masses will be for the community

Christmas masses at St Thomas'

Christmas Eve
3pm (Children's)
5.15pm
7:30pm
10pm

Christmas Day
8.30am
10am (family)
11.30am

The rotas for the Christmas Masses are displayed at the back of the church, on the left-hand side as you leave. If you have volunteered your services, please check the list on your way out.

As usual some Masses /Ministries were oversubscribed and others left with "vacancies". On the table at the back of the church is a list of what we still require, in particular:

Ministers of Communion for the 3pm & 7:30pm masses on Christmas Eve and the 10am mass on Christmas Day.
Sacristans for the 5:15pm & 7:30pm masses on Christmas Eve and the 10:00 mass on Christmas Day.
If you can help, please add your name.



Sacred Heart Companions

The meeting is on the 7th of January 2019 at 2pm at Chigwell Convent.

Parish Office Hours over Christmas

The office will close on Friday 21st December at 1.30pm and will be reopen on Wednesday 2nd January at 9.30am.

There will be no newsletter for the weekend of 29th December.



TELCO - Real Living Wage

Many of you will recall attending the Social Care Tea Party in 2015 where you asked your local MPs to champion the Living Wage for Card Workers. Three years later with commitment and perseverance the Telco team are proud to announce that Redbridge Council has accredited as a Real Living Wage employer. This means that all staff including care workers will be paid the hourly rate of £10.55.

We have also worked with the Diocese of Brentwood, which has reviewed all contracts and accredited to pay all staff the London living wage of £10.55 or outer London hourly rate of £9.00.
For Living Wage information contact bernadette.harris2013@gmail.com

Franciscan Vocation Talks

For Single Catholic men, 18-43 years of age, interested in the Franciscan Life . Talks will take place on **Friday 4 and Saturday 5 January 2019** at St Thomas of Canterbury church.

If interested in attending these talks and you are seriously considering a Religious Vocation, then please contact now and by 28 December;
Br. Donal OFM (Vocation Director),
Email only - brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk

Church Cleaning

Friday 28th December at 9am.

Christine Acons, Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin & Jac Edwards

Thursday 3rd January at 10.30am

Jean Burke, Mary Charter, Dorothee Gabriel, Florence Kiggundu, Sue Mansbridge & Louise Deans.

Online Mass

The next masses that we intend to record are:

Saturday 29th December 6pm.
Monday 24th December 7.30pm
Saturday 5th January 6pm

The mass for this week should be uploaded mid-morning on Sunday. Masses should be available online within 2-3 hours of recording. To view please visit our parish website <https://www.stthomaswoodford.org> Click **Mass Online**, then click the link to **Online Mass**.

Ecumenical Advent Service

The retiring collection raised of £740 which has been divided equally between Mary's Meals and Redbridge Cold Weather Centre. Many thanks for your generous contributions, and thanks to all those who supported the event.

IN Touch Magazine

The Christmas edition of the parish magazine is on sale