



Lately Deceased

John Noden; Bridie (Bridget) Linnane; Rosa Fitzpatrick; Gabriel Amodio

FUNERALS

The Funeral's of
Rosa Fitzpatrick will take place on 17th September at 11.00am;
Bridie (Bridget) Linnane on, 18th September at 10.00am

ANNIVERSARIES:

Annie Croke, Michael Higgins, Mark Hodgskin, Margaret Honeyman, Catherine Mair, Beryl Mahoney, Mary McClean, Kenneth McDonnell, James McHugh, Dennis McCardle, William Maher, Mark Thompson Maggie Little, Doreen Ritchie, Sister Patricia Collins, Jay Hellis, John Maher, David Millar, Mary O'Sullivan, Joan Spalding, Monica Dias

TUITION - COMPUTER SCIENCE

Experienced Teacher of Computer Science is available for tutoring. If interested in finding out more contact Mark on 07580 665664.

TUITION - ENGLISH

DBS checked, friendly and experienced English teacher, offering tuition in G/CSE English Language and English Literature and Media Studies. References available if required. No charge for trial lesson.

Contact: Linda Compton
Phone 07736402343 / email
lindaecompton32@yahoo.com

BALLROOM DANCING

Ballroom dancing with international teacher. 1pm—2.30pm on Wednesdays **starting soon**. More details to follow in next week's newsletter.

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 10.30am - 11am & 5.15pm - 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month

BAPTISM COURSE DATES

The next course will take place on Wednesday, 23rd AND 30th September.

Parents are required to attend both dates to complete the course. To register, please visit the parish website and complete the baptism course application form.

Baptism Congratulations

To the following children who were baptised at St Thomas in **August**; Lara Autumn Theadosia Fontaine & Noah William Nicolas Fontaine, Raphe Morgan Daniel O'Connor, Matteo De Barros, Sylvie Emilia Hope Owen, Azalea Rose Bygrave, Exyla Rose Bygrace, Amara Stella Loretta Addai

Wedding congratulations

To Ayabbey Hagan & Vanessa Indome, married at St Thomas in August

Scared Heart of Jesus and Mary

Next meeting will take place on 14th September in Chigwell convent at 2pm

Second Collection Catholic Education Service

There will be a second collection on Sunday, 13th September after mass

YOGA

Yoga classes at The Beckett Centre starting 7th September. First class **FREE** this month
Contact Claudia Tel: 07973 122 322 or
info@soulfullyyogaandfitness.com



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

TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2026

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

How do we put things right when they have gone wrong? Our readings today offer different ways in which we might move towards justice and reconciliation.

We ponder our own families, friends and colleagues, and ask God to help us heal any divisions we recognise between us.

First Reading Ezekiel 33:7-9

What is required of those appointed as watchmen of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm

O that today you would listen to his voice! "Harden not your hearts"

Second Reading Romans 13:8-10

You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

What we bind on earth will be bound in heaven



WELCOME BACK!

I hope you managed to have a good break in this glorious and record-breaking summer. So many people of all ages are starting something new and we ask God's blessing on their efforts. For those who are carrying on their commitments, we pray that they have the energy to start again.

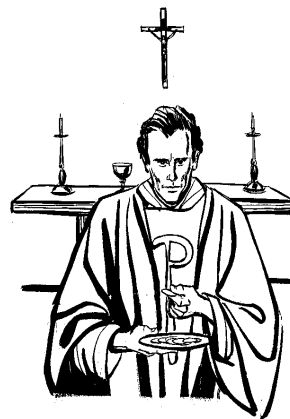
AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER?

In this Sunday's Gospel passage is taken from Jesus' fourth discourse in Matthew's account, known as the discourse on the 'community' or the 'ecclesial' discourse. Today's passage speaks about *fraternal correction*, and invites us to reflect on the twofold dimension of Christian existence: community, which demands *safeguarding communion* — that is, the unity of the Church — and personal, which obliges attention and *respect for every individual conscience*. To correct a brother who has made a mistake, Jesus suggests a pedagogy of rehabilitation. And Jesus' pedagogy is always a pedagogy of rehabilitation. He always tries to rehabilitate, to save. And this pedagogy of rehabilitation is articulated in three passages. In the first place he says: "tell him his fault, between you and him alone" (v. 15), that is, do not air his sin in public. It is about going to your brother with discretion, not to judge him but to help him realize what he has done. How many times have we had this experience: someone comes and tells us: 'But listen, you were mistaken about this. You should change a little in this regard'. Perhaps in the beginning we get angry, but then we say 'thank you', because it is a gesture of brotherhood, of communion, of help, of rehabilitation. And it is not easy to put this teaching of Jesus into practice, for various reasons. There is the fear that the brother or sister may react badly; at times you may lack sufficient confidence with him or with her. And other reasons. But every time we have done this, we have felt it was precisely the way of the Lord. However, it may happen that, despite my good intentions, the first intervention may fail. In this case it is good not to give up and say: 'Make do, I wash my hands of it'. No, this is not Christian. Do not give up, but seek the support of some other brother or sister. Jesus says: "if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. This is a precept of Mosaic law.

Although it may seem a disadvantage to the accused, in reality it served to protect him against false accusers. But Jesus goes further: the two witnesses are called not to accuse and judge, but to help. 'But let us agree, you and I, let us go talk to this man or woman, who is mistaken, who is making a bad impression. Let us go as brothers and speak to him or her'. This is the attitude of rehabilitation that Jesus wants from us. In fact, Jesus explains that even this approach — the second approach, with witnesses — may fail, unlike Mosaic law, for which the testimony of two or three witnesses was enough to convict. This teaching of Jesus helps us a great deal, because — let us consider an example — when we see a mistake, a fault, a slip, in that brother or sister, usually the first thing we do is to go and recount it to others, to gossip. And gossip closes the heart to the community, closes off the unity of the Church. The great gossip is the devil, who always goes about saying bad things about others, because he is the liar who seeks to separate the Church to distance brothers and sisters and not create community. Please, brothers and sisters, let us make an effort not to gossip. Gossip is a plague more awful than Covid! Let us make an effort: no gossip. It is the love of Jesus, who had embraced the tax collectors and Gentiles, scandalizing the conformists of the time. However, it is not a sentence without an appeal, but a recognition that at times our human attempts may fail, and that only being before God can bring the brother to face his own conscience and responsibility for his actions. If this matter does not work, then silence and prayer for the brother or sister who has made a mistake, but never gossip

**** JOURNEY OF FAITH ****

On **Wednesday 9th September** we resume our journey, meeting in the **Assisi** room at 7pm for tea and cake. Then about 7.30pm we talk about what it means to be a practicing catholic. We welcome anyone who cares to join us from any christian denomination, any faith or none. Our journey companions include some baptised in the catholic church but who have not engaged with the church beyond that. Come and try it!



Mass Intentions 6th—13th September

Sunday 6th September

8.30am - Francis Vaz anniversary
10am - Fr Jan Biletskyi good health
11.30am - Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP
Chigwell - Monica Dias anniversary

Monday 7th September

Mrs Saroja Jayanathan RIP
Rutendo Musonza healing

Tuesday 8th September

Allen Charles RIP
Chigwell - Sr Rosemary Kazembe Silver Jubilee

Wednesday 9th September

Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP
C.W.L

Thursday 10th September

Neil McKenna anniversary
Auxilia & Raphael Musonza RIP

Friday 11th September

Auxilia & Raphael Musonza RIP
Eusebio Dias RIP

Saturday 12th September

10am - Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP
6pm - Maureen Thomas RIP

Sunday 13th September

8.30am - Kesauan Sri Ram & team
10am - Rosa Fitzpatrick RIP
11.30am - Frank White
Chigwell - Michael Kilkenny

Church Cleaning
Friday, 11th September at 9.00am
Claire Hobs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin,
Michelle Liddle, Agatha Emohare,
Susan Juffs

First Holy Communion 2026/2027

CLOSING DATE

******Tuesday, 8th September******

Applications are now open for registration for children who will be going into **Year 3 in September 2026**. The application form can be found on the Parish website at;

<https://www.stthomaswoodford.org>

SVP Summer Raffle tickets on sale - 1st prize £5000!

Members of the SVP will be selling raffle tickets after all masses weekend of 05/06 September. SVP members, staff & volunteers provide friendship, practical help and daily support to people in need in the community. Every ticket we sell makes a difference supporting SVP's work locally & nationwide.

BCCS Gala Dinner & Summer Luncheon

Fr. Eugene O'Hagan and Fr. Martin O'Hagan invite you to join them at a one-off charity weekend, hosted by and in support of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

9th-10th October at The Lawn, Rochford.

For full details and to purchase tickets, please visit www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns

or contact Julie Abbott 07912 277 413

Remember A Charity Week !!

Every September, charities across the UK come together to raise awareness of legacy giving. *Remember a Charity Week* is the perfect moment to think about the impact you want to leave behind. Information about legacy giving and our free will-writing service can be found here: <https://your-place.org.uk/gift-in-your-will/> or contact Anwar Beeharry anwar.beeharry@your-place.org.uk