

Pray for the sick:

Lately dead:

Kathleen Pettersen

Funeral will take place on Friday 16th March 12 noon at Our Lady of Grace Chingford

Anniversaries:

Eileen Godber, Carmel Cork, Elsie Gerrett, Isabella Kingswood, Margaret Pfeiffer, Mary Ryder, Agnes Simmons, Eileen Went, Patrick Mahoney, Sister Brigid Nugent, Benedict O'Halloran OFM, Nancy Cunningham, Irene De Freitas, Cecilia Fernandez, Leslie Harriss, Ellen McMurdoch, Georgia Perera, Billy Yip, Annie Bartley, Joan Collins, Gerald Vassallo, Winnie Wilcox, Sister Lucille Gicquel, Nancy Glynn, Mary Lee, Sister Sheila O'Rourke, Olivia (Eve) Begley, Madelaine Crafer, Laura Telford, Stanley Western, Sr Mary Fidelma Keane, Sister Gemma Rafferty, Julian Roja-Figueiredo.

Lenten Revision Retreat 25th -26th March 2023

Fed up with the library or revising in your room? Get a change of scenery at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this Lent to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and some peace and quiet.

Reflect during times of prayer; enjoy socialising with friends and the team; revise alongside friends and the Walsingham team members. Price is £35! Open to all in years 11 – 13. Visit www.bcys.net to apply.

Mass Timetable

The masses on Saturday evening and Sunday at St Thomas' are live streamed

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

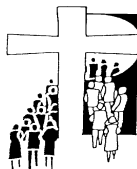
10am Chigwell Convent

WEEKDAY MASSES

10am St Thomas'
9.30am Chigwell Convent except on Saturday's when mass takes place at 10am

Each Friday in Lent

we conduct the Way of the Cross at 7.30pm.



CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month.



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

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Friary: 020 8504 1688

Email: parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org



Website: www.stthomaswoodford.org

Facebook: @STOCWoodford

Twitter: @STOCWoodford



Served by the Franciscans

Third Sunday of Lent (A) 12th March 2023

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

Today's readings focus on living water as a symbol of God's healing love and desire to save. They also remind us of the deep thirst within every human soul that can lead to deep relationship with God or to desert dryness and emptiness. The choice is ours.

First Reading Exodus 17:3-7

The book of Exodus tells the story of God's unfailing desire to be in relationship with us. However unfaithful we may be, however many false idols we may turn to in our search for security, God will never fail us and always holds to the covenant promises.

Second Reading Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

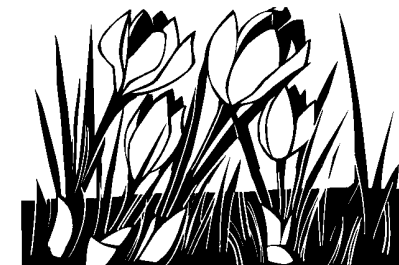
Paul writes to the Romans, reminding them that through God's grace they have a reliable hope that cannot be disappointed. This is not cheap and easy grace, but the power, through Christ, to live differently and to trust in his promises.

Gospel John 4:5-42

The story of the woman of Samaria is rich with resonance. Jesus comes to meet this woman where she is. He listens to her questions and her struggles with faith, trust and hope. He invites her to change her perception of God and by doing so changes her experience of herself.

Responsorial Psalm

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



Jubilees

Next Sunday at the 11.30 Mass we will be celebrating two jubilees. Michael Copps was ordained priest on 10th March 1973 and Quentin on 21st March 1953.

Together we invite you to join us in the celebration mass of thanksgiving, and light refreshments afterwards. But please do **not** give us gifts of any kind. We welcome your prayers: of thanks for God's goodness to us, and yours; for our guidance and perseverance in the future. And if you really want to give – then join us in continuing the weekly routines and societies of friary and parish. That would be a gift beyond silver and gold.

An afternoon retreat

I thank Peter, Susan and Michelle for the excellent 3-hour retreat they organised last Saturday. Twenty came for a time comprising some sharing of prayer, silence and adoration. I am so pleased that this was an event both suggested and then very well organised by you, members of the parish. Those who took part want more of such prayer opportunities. On the same theme it is good to see young and not-so-young praying the Stations of the Cross through Lent. Mass is important. But our church has a much wider rich store of teaching and devotional practices and exercises to nourish our life with God.

Children's Sunday liturgy

Some more good news: We now have 10 volunteers to take part in leading the liturgy for children at Sunday mass. I am sure that more will come forward so that we can make a rota to ensure no one is over-burdened. We are also looking for good presentations of the stories. Story-telling is so important for all but especially children. That is how Jesus taught. The bible is full of wonderful stories that provide the basis for our faith and practice.

Lenten Lunches

Are taking place in the Becket Centre every Friday during Lent from 12.15 to 1.30 pm. Do come and join us for a choice of home-made soups, French bread and butter, with tea or coffee to follow, all for 5 pounds. The proceeds will go to Mary's Meals, feeding schoolchildren in Haiti. We hope to see you there.

Preparation for sacraments

For Communion and confirmation preparations are going ahead at pace. You see a collage of Jesus' Last Supper made by the children for Holy Communion. Their work helps you parents to work with them through the chapters of *I Belong*. Then those seeking confirmation spent an energetic fun-day at Lambourne End. What has a fun-day to do with confirmation? you might ask. The answer: a great deal. For all, but especially for teenagers struggling to find their own values, the experience of friendship and solidarity is so important. For all of us it is imperative that we come, in the bond of being one family, together to make the Mass. Not as separate individuals. And certainly not as spectators.

Rails on the sanctuary steps

Finally they are in place, and I think, universally admired. As we age we need a little help to get up those steps, and particularly to approach the Blessed Sacrament chapel.

Relay 100 Sponsored Walks

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 12th March

8.30am Mary Lee anniversary
10am Mary Ryder anniversary
11.30pm Bill Green RIP
Chigwell Craig & Chevonne Lobo RIP

Monday 13th March

James Dillon anniversary
Holy Souls

Tuesday 14th March

Enda & Teresa Mullins RIP
Peter & Petrina

Wednesday 15th March

John Francie & P Corrigan RIP
Trinity intentions

Thursday 16th March

Philomena Spangles
David Samuels anniversary
C.W.L

Friday 10th March

Brian Dunleavy intentions
Michael Howes RIP

Saturday 17th March

10 am Johanna Roedle int
6 pm Sandra & Christopher Lobo

Sunday 18th March

8.30am Allen Charles anniversary
10am Norman Picton recovery
11.30 am Jubilarians
Chigwell Dominic Correia RIP



Church Cleaning

Friday 17th March at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Susanna Barnoin,
Michelle Liddle, Agatha Emohare,
Susan Juffs

Baptism Congratulations

The following children were recently baptised at St Thomas'

Emery Bradley & River Davis

For Sale—Violin

Handmade Chinese Violin (The Mussima) 4/4 with bow and case. Originally purchased from J P Gulliver London in 2016. Contact our parishioner Patricia 079891 80870.

Trinity vacancies

- Physics teacher
 - SEN TA
 - Economics and Business teacher -
 - Psychology and Sociology teacher -
 - Teacher of Art,
 - Science Teacher
 - Exam Invigilator
- Please visit the School website for more information

Piano advert scam alert

We apologise for placing an advert about the piano in the last newsletter, it appeared to be a scam. We have learned the lesson and will amend our policy with regards to advertisement accordingly.

Parish Keep Fit Club

CWL are starting up this fun class again from Monday 13th March 8.15 – 9.15pm taught by Claudia, an experienced flexible teacher. £5 per class, payable on the night. Please bring a mat or towel and water. A great chance to get fit, have fun and socialize.