

PRAY FOR THE SICK



Lately dead:

- ♦ **Jutta Menzies**
- ♦ **Felicitas De Costa**

May they rest in peace

Anniversaries:

Ellen Coyle, Virginia Crook, Doris L'Estrange, Reginald Allen, Augustinho Paulino De Freitas, Gemma McManus, Arthur Bailey, John (Jack) Kenny, Sister Marian Dewhurst, Margaret Waites, Damiana D'Costa, Paul Shipperlee, Albert Currie, Margaret McHugh, George Cowan, Romei Guisto, Michael Linnane, Ellen Mahoney, Annie O'Brien, Mary Atwell, James Martin, John Moore, John Newman, Chevonne Lobo, Mary Deima, Andrew Jeffreys, Margaret Mason, John Bailey, Anne Connolly, Annie Galligan, Fredrick Hayes, Rose Neville, Pauline Goodsman.

Christmas Week Masses

Monday 21st at 10am & 6pm
A few places are remaining

Tuesday 22nd at 10am & 6pm
A few places are remaining

Wednesday 23rd at 10am & 6pm
Fully Booked

Thursday 24th at 10am
Fully Booked

Thursday 24th at 9pm
Live streamed only

Friday 25th at 10am
Fully Booked

Saturday 26th at 10am
Live streamed only

Sunday 27th at 10am
Live streamed only

**Our next Newsletter will be
produced for the week ending 8th
January 2021**

*May we wish you a peaceful
Christmas and healthy new year.*



ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
Woodford Green
A FAIRTRADE PARISH



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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

20th December 2020

Today's readings are examples of seeking wisdom and trying to work out the best thing to do. David wants to know if he should build a magnificent piece of architecture as God's dwelling place, whilst Mary wonders how she can be the one who provides the precious dwelling for the unborn Son of God.

First Reading 2 Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

David is getting ready for his next big project. Having overcome his enemies, he wonders if he now needs to build a house for the ark of God. God, however, has different ideas of greatness.

Second Reading Romans 16:25-27

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains that the mystery which has puzzled generations of seekers of truth has now been resolved. The wisdom of God has been revealed in the person of Jesus.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

We see two sides of Mary's character. She is a meek and humble servant of the Lord but she is also a strong and courageous young woman, able to ask sensible questions, even of an angel, the messenger of God.

Responsorial Psalm

I will sing forever of your love, O Lord



As Christmas draws near so the coronavirus seems to be increasingly ominous. I wonder what the good Lord is telling us by this? One theme has been coming through the Advent liturgies as we have read and are reading the Old Testament prophets.

In the time of Isaiah and others, God's people were not paying him attention. The kings were almost completely a bad lot. They expected God to win their battles for them, but then forgot him and turned to their self-serving evil practices. So God stopped winning their wars. Kings and people were taken into forced labour in Babylon. From their misery and slavery they remembered and sighed for God and his home in Jerusalem, sometimes called Sion.

Are we experiencing something similar? We fear that the Christmas-time relaxation of disciplines won by hard graft, is going to lead to another surge in infections. We have a part to play in preventing that. But just as Christmas is about to break upon us the hope of the vaccines dawns. Still much is uncertain. The only certainty is the presence of Jesus, our awareness of it concentrated and reinforced by our Nativity celebrations. *All was still* the carol tells us. If we are still now we will find him. The best gift of all.



New heating

Much planning and consultation has been going on quietly for many months. The agreement – for a total replacement of all heating and water services in church, friary and Beckett - has been struck with Hellabys of Ongar. They intend beginning the work in the second week of January and will take most of 6 months to complete. So we have to expect more disruptions of the pattern of our friary and parish life even when covid is conquered. It is good news that they will begin. Hellabys have proved themselves to be efficient and pleasant workers. We can trust them to keep inconvenience to the minimum.

Thank you and well done

Zoom Quiz

A huge vote of thanks to Keith & Lynsey Stanger for their organisation and presentation of the Zoom Quiz last Friday. About 28 groups took part. It was great fun, full of the Christmas spirit and much family involvement. The initiative was great, thanks to Nicky Crowther, Geraldine and Tania. It shows the strength of our parish interest. Keep it going. There is a lot of rebuilding ahead. We can do with more of these new ideas – ideas followed up by practice. Some of us found out how ignorant we are – especially in the friary..

Donations

A big thank you from the SVP and the Redbridge Foodbank for your kind and generous donations which will go in some way to help people in our community over the Christmas period.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 20th December

People of the parish
Stephen Ahearne anniversary
Donald Dourado RIP

Monday 21st December

Jutta Menzies RIP
Bernice Anning RIP

Tuesday 22nd December

Peter Jacques RIP
Nick Bradford RIP

Wednesday 23rd December

James Murchan
Eustace family

Thursday 24th December

Michael Murphy anniversary
Community & benefactors

Friday 25th December

People of parish
Patricia & Lorenz Koenen anniversary

Saturday 26th December

John Hanlon RIP
John Potter RIP

Sunday 27th December

People of the parish
Jane Brandon
Mary Waldron RIP

Congratulations

To Jacinta & Alan McKay who celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on 19th December.

Available from the Parish Office

- **Christmas cards and advent calendars**
- **Parish Diaries** for 2021
- **Mass Cards**
- **Brentwood Diocese Directory 2021**

Parish Office Christmas Opening Times

The office will close on 23rd December at 1.30pm and reopen on Monday 4th January at 9.30am

Vacancies

St Mary's Catholic School in Chingford are seeking to appoint a Deputy Head teacher, a midday assistant and a special needs assistant. More information is available on their website

Trinity Sixth Form

Details of Trinity's Sixth Form open event is available on their website.