

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lately dead: John Martin

May he rest in peace

Anniversaries: Sister Mary Heenan, Michael Carroll, James Cunningham, Florence Mulroue, Joan Reynolds, Catherine King, Moby Lalani, Suzanna Wright, David Archer, Craig Lobo, Wynnifrid Musselwhite, Hilda Kavanagh, Sister Mary McKowan, Frederick Watts, Ralph Steele, Mary Wynne, Rose Maidment, Jeremiah Fitzpatrick.

The God who speaks; The year of the word 2020

To support the year of the Word you will find booklets at the back of Church which are aimed at helping you pray that during this special year, we may all be enriched and renewed in the living Word of God.

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

Franciscan Vocation Talks **Friday 3 and Saturday 4 January 2020**

Single Catholic men, 18-43 years of age, interested in the Franciscan Life Are invited to join us in the Becket Centre

Friday: 3rd January

5-5.45pm, "Franciscan Prayer"

Saturday: 4th January

12noon-12.45pm, "Life and Spirituality of St. Francis"

2.30pm to 3.15pm, "Franciscan History"

4pm to 4.45pm, "Franciscan Formation"

7.30pm to 8.15pm "Franciscan Ministry now + the Future"

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

St Antony's School Nursery

Application forms are now available for Children born between 1.9.16 and 31.8.17. Please visit the school website for more information

www.stantonyscatholicps.co.uk.

Trinity School

Vacancies P/T Teacher of Business & Economics — Teacher of English - Teacher of Science. Visit the website for more information.



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



2nd Sunday of Advent

Cycle A 8th December 2019

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

Today's readings speak to us of the peace we may expect with the coming of God's kingdom. And yet there is also an undertone of violence and retribution in the call for our repentance and change of heart.

First Reading Isaiah 11:1-10

The spirit of the Lord will rest on the offspring of Jesse, and he will judge the wretched with integrity.

Second Reading Romans 15:4-9

Christ came to bring salvation to all, pagans as well as Jews.

Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

John the Baptist calls us to prepare the way for the Lord through baptism and repentance.

Responsorial Psalm

In his days justice shall flourish, and peace till the moon fails



Newsletter

To receive the newsletter by email please sign up on our parish website www.stthomaswoodford.org or mail communications@stthomaswoodford.org

A message of sympathy

We join in the great surge of sympathy for the family in the death of their son Harley Watson. We pray for them and for all injured or involved in the disaster. It serves as a grim reminder of how brittle is the prevailing climate of celebration. Christmas was the best news that the world ever had or will have. But the crib speaks loudly both of the poverty into which Jesus was born and also the threat to his very existence coming from the people who wielded power at that time. Something similar is much with us this year in all our uncertainties.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Tomorrow Monday 9th at 7.30 we will offer an opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation. After a brief scriptural reflection there will be 5 priests for you to choose from. The emphasis of Advent is not one of self-denial. It is rather a time for thought. When December 25th comes we concentrate on God's gift. You could perhaps think of the postman coming to deliver your presents. You need to be at home to receive them. The opportunity is for you to tease out with the priest's help what exactly needs to change in you. We are all failing to take in and receive the benefit of God's grace by the obstacles we are regularly putting in their path. That is what we need to talk about on Monday so that God can do what he wants in you on Christmas day.

Christmas Masses at St Thomas'

Calling all Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans. If you will be attending Mass at St Thomas' on either Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, please indicate your availability by adding your name to the lists located on the table at the back of the church.

Parish Activities

Monday 9th December

Keep Fit in the Becket Centre at 8pm

Tuesday 10th December

Tuesday Club at 2pm teas and mince pies

Fr Quentin will be signing certificates of practice 7—8pm

Wednesday 11th December

SOUP RUN all donations by 7pm and please some chocolate selection boxes would be appreciated.

Journey of Faith in Assisi Room 7.30pm

Thursday 12th December

Bereavement Support Group 7.30pm

Second Advent Talk 7.30pm

Brother Chris Dyczek of our Woodford Franciscan Community will give the second talk on the topic of **St Augustine on the Gift of Love**.

Saturday 14th December

Saturday School 10am upstairs in the Becket Centre for children who do not attend Catholic Schools

The blessing of your family cribs/nativity scenes will take place in Church at **12 noon**

Mass Online

Saturday vigil mass will be recorded and available to view online. To view mass online visit our parish website www.stthomaswoodford.org Click **Mass Online**, then click the link to **Online Mass**.

Newspapers

From January 2020 new arrangements will be in place should any parishioner wish to receive the catholic newspapers. For those interested please see the leaflet at the back on the Church and return it to the Parish Office.

Notice Boards

In January we will be reviewing the contents of the notice boards in the Church porch area. This will involve removing all current posters etc. and deciding what will be placed on the boards in future. More information will follow in due course.



Bereavement Support Group

Our next meeting will be held in our usual place, in the big room downstairs in the Becket Centre, (Henrietta Suite) on **Thursday 12th December 2019 at 7.30pm**.

This is always a painful and difficult time of the year for anyone who has been bereaved, whether recently or in the past. All of our group understand your feelings and you would find a sympathetic environment to talk about your loss or listen to how others cope with theirs. We talk and listen for an hour and then there we have a cup of tea and a chance to chat in a friendly and informal way. Anyone who has been bereaved and feels that they would like to come to this meeting is welcome. Do phone me, **Angela Barnes 020 8505 0356**, if you would like more details.

SVP

There will be a retiring collection for the SVP who help families locally next weekend

Jam Jars wanted

Wanted Urgently – Jam Jars (1 lb only please) for Charity Jam makers! If you have any please contact Solange 020 85055171 and will collect.

Church Cleaning Friday 13th December at 9am

Maria-Clare Fawsett, Lisa McDonnell, Jackie John, Michelle Liddle, Breda Murphy

Please note that the big Christmas clean will take place on 19th December at 9am

Sunday Teas

Don't forget to join the community for refreshments after the 10am and 11.30am masses on Sundays.

A message of thanks from the Parish Council

St Thomas' thrives because of the large band of volunteers that keep it alive, active and well cared for. In recognition of this the Parish Council would like to thank you all for your contribution to parish life and our community. As a small token of our appreciation, we would like to invite those who can come to a small social event on 25th January 2020 between 7 & 9 pm. We would love to be able to embrace you all at this event but alas, numbers have to be restricted to the numbers that can be accommodated in the Henrietta suite. Therefore, on a first come first served basis if you can come along can you please email the Parish Office at parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org as soon as possible. Whether you attend or not please accept our thanks for your role in our parish life and a mass will be offered for all your intentions on that day.

Community Film Nite Christmas special Saturday 14th December

Everyone of all ages is invited to the movie "A Christmas Candle" by Max Lucado To be screened at St James URC in Palmerston Rd. Come at 6.30pm for seasonal snacks. Film starts at 7pm. All free but donations welcome.