

Lately dead: Brother Raymond

May he rest in peace.

Anniversaries:

(24th December - 13th January)

Michael Murphy, 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, Michael Carrig, Colin Correya, Anne Driscoll, Patrick Grant, Chevonne Lobo, Mary Deima, Andrew Jeffreys, Margaret Mason, Malachy Seymour, John Bailey, Anne Connolly, Annie Galligan, Fredrick Hayes, Rose Neville, Pauline Goodsman, Derek Blogg, Angelo De Cesare, Frank Dewey, Francis Fitzpatrick, Sylvia Hawkins, Doris Skelt, Teresa Brownlow, Mary Dooley, Patrick (Parks) Duggan, Fr Austin Kinsella, Giuseppe Pallottolo, Domenico Villacci, Julia Zykun, Bridget Craven, Gabrielle Daye, Maureen Dodsley, Cynthia Haskins, Mary Hendry, Sr. Paul McDonald, Elsie Albrecht, Alexander Borg, Margaret (Peggy) Durcan, Daniel O'Halloran, Martha Spencer, Ermelinda Trotta, Ernest Turpin, Beatrice Balmer, Mary Black, Theo Carver, Elizabeth Voisey, Sister Michael Cleary, Kelly Hugh, Phyllis Kinsella, Mary Flynn, Nora Gallagher, Edward Haliburn, Minnie Nash, Sean Connolly, HARRY Donovan, Ersilia Fazzani, Frank O'Shea, Patricia Tish, Jacqueline Da'Prato, James Hopkins, Kathleen Johnson, Ann Maher, Kathleen Naismith, Mary Spillane, Vera Barr, Muriel Cooper, Majorie Cummings, Eric Du Casse, Mary Ferrett, Patrick Graves, Nello Pieroni, Wlodzimierz Zykon Edward Foley, Gertrude McCarthy, Keith Newman, Betty Norton, Joan Steadman.

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'

St Thomas' Prayer Group

Saturday mornings
10.30 to 11.30am

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 10.30 to 11am
and
5.15 to 5.45 pm

BAPTISMS

1st and 3rd Sundays
of the month

Vacancies

There are a number of vacancies available at Trinity High school. Please visit the school 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



Served by the Franciscans

Fourth Sunday of Advent 2023 (B)
24th December 2023

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

Today the weeks and months of preparing for Christmas are almost over. Christmas Day is just around the corner. Another 24 hours and our Christmas celebrations will be under way. But it's still not too late to capture the true spirit of this feast. Who better to guide us in our quest than Mary, who is at the very heart of the Christmas story?

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

Although Samuel is a "big man" in his day, he's also sensitive enough to see that it isn't right for him to be dwelling in a spacious house while God dwells "in a tent", and he is determined to do something about it.

Second Reading Romans 16: 25-27

Paul rejoices in Jesus, whose strength enables us to live out the Good News so that, reaching to the ends of the earth, it draws all people to become Jesus' disciples. Glory is to be given to the Father through Jesus Christ for ever.

Gospel Luke 1:26-38

Luke retells the glorious story of the incarnation. Through Mary's unconditional acceptance of the angel's message, Jesus has come into our world as one of us and is like us in all things, apart from sin.

Responsorial Psalm

I will sing for ever of your love,
O Lord



The Christmas Story

At this time of year, there always seems endless things that we should give our attention to. In the friary, we have had the thought, who is going to see Brother Raymond today and take him Holy Communion. That concern has sadly come to an end but now it is how do we fittingly celebrate his passing? All of us have different calls on our attention. The ordinary business of family life with perhaps particular concerns about a child and then the relationships and business of work. We are forever switching our attention from one to the other and concentration on one thing is a big problem. Then there are narratives in the background about particular people we know who are ill or in difficulty. We often have 'shoulds' that bother us; I should phone Auntie; I should do something about the leaves in the garden etc. There are so many balls to keep in the air and we are tired, what's the sense of it all?

The background hid behind the background, is the story of Jesus Christ into which we have been introduced by our own rebirth in baptism. St Paul writes, "I live now not with my own life but with the life of Christ who lives in me." We live a life shared with Christ so we should trust the thoughts that occur to us that are to do with our family, our work and our wellbeing and act on them. The point about the Christmas story is that God is with us at our side sharing all those concerns with have and helping us to answer without anxiety. Do what you believe you have to do in moment and don't even think about the moments to come. The help will come when it is the time for it. Despite our many concerns there is a time for celebration and it is now. Happy and peaceful Christmas to you all.

Brother Raymond Hynes OFM

Last Saturday at just before 7am, Brother Raymond died. Raymond was a gentle and devout man who was at the heart of our Franciscan community. He was a man who could be relied upon to do the ordinary things that keep a household going. For many years he looked after brothers in the community who were sick taking their food to them and seeing to their medicines. He looked after our petty cash and God help you if you did not hand in your receipts. He was well known to those who were entering the church in the Journey of Faith and no doubt he shared his wisdom with them. He worked with Brother Michael O'Kane for the Commissariat of the Holy Land, keeping the account books in very good order. Many of you will have got into conversation with him after Mass and found him a congeal companion. The friars miss his presence greatly. May he rest in peace.

Funeral arrangements

Brother Raymond's Reception into the church will be at 4pm on the 2nd of January and the funeral will be at 11am on the 3rd of January 2024.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve 24th December

Masses at St Thomas:
3pm, 6pm and 10pm

Christmas Day 25th December

Masses at St Thomas:
8.30am, 10am and 11.30am

Mass at Chigwell: 10am

Calendar

Franciscan Missionary Union calendars are available at the back of the church.



Mass Intentions

Sunday 24th December

10am Michael Murphy RIP
3 pm Maggie Rubello RIP
6 pm People of the parish
10 pm Community & benefactors

Monday 25th December

8.30 Allen Charles RIP
10 Deceased Fitzpatrick & Burke families
11.30 Patricia & Lorenz Koenan RIP

Tuesday 26th December

Kathleen McMenemy anniversary
Intentions Joe Malone

Wednesday 27th December

Sean Davies RIP
Italo Gandolfi RIP

Thursday 28th December

Des Brenan very sick
Bro Raymond RIP
Joe Linnane anniversary

Friday 29th December

Mrs V Gaughan
Denis Doherty RIP

Saturday 30th December

10 am Dorothy Elsie Hetherington
6 pm Patrick Grant anniversary

Sunday 31st December

8.30 Michael Carrig anniversary
10 Mrs S Smith-Pryor
11.30 Friends of Karen Koenen

Please check the notice board for mass intentions during the period 24th December to 14th January

Church Cleaning Friday 28th December at 9am

Claire Hobbs, Julia Bever, Susanna Barnoin, Susan Juffs, Agatha Emohare & Michelle Liddle

Please check the Rota for future dates

Christmas Masses

The rotas for Readers, Ministers of Communion, Sacristans and Ushers are at the back of the church, on the left hand side as you leave. Please take a moment to check to see what ministry you have been assigned. You will notice that we still have a few gaps, if you can help, just add your name. Many thanks for all your help.

Certificates of practice

Fr Michael will be available to sign the certificates of practice on the following dates:

3.30-5pm on the **8th January**
7-8pm on the **9th of January 2024.**

Office Notices

The next newsletter will be published for Sunday 14th January. The Parish Office will be closed from 23 December and reopen on 2nd January. We wish you all a happy Christmas and heathy, safe 2024.

Order of Service

We have printed a number of order of services for Christmas eve and Christmas day Masses, but if you need more than one for your family, they are available to be print from the link below:

www.stthomaswoodford.org/adventoos