

### **LENTEN TALKS**

The fourth of Fr. Austin's talks will be on Wednesday at 8pm in the Becket Centre.

*All welcome*

### **ORANGE OR LEMON?**

St. Thomas' was represented at an important event on Thursday, 20th March. Boris Johnson was on site, with his trowel, to plant an orange tree on the old St. Clement's Hospital site (Mile End Road). This marked the success of a long campaign begun by TELCO in 2004. We campaigned to make this site a Community Land Trust (first CLT in London). By 2011 we had got support from both Mayors' and Prime Ministerial Candidates'. The East London CLT is buying 23 of the 230 units which will be sold. To local residents who have registered with the CLT. These properties will cost 50% of market value.

Now to get a similar deal on The Olympic Site, Boris has promised to fight with every muscle to ensure this; he will plant a lemon tree there!

You may remember that in the autumn last year, the parish TELCO group conducted a "listening Campaign" after some of the Sunday Masses to obtain parishioners stories in relation to care home and care provided in the community.

The campaign still goes on, but now it has reached a national level and on Mon. 31st March 20.30am—11.45am there will be a "tea party" action meeting in Parliament Square (or the Methodist Central Hall if raining) which will be attended by the Minister for Care; Norman Lamb. If you are passionate about Care in our communities and beyond, please join us if you can.

### **1ST COMMUNION**

Catechists' Meeting 8pm Wed. 2nd April in the Assisi Room. Please make every effort to attend this last session.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

8th April Fund raising evening for Ovarian Cancer in the Becket Centre at 7.30pm. Tickets available from Angela 0208 504 2138 or Gloria 0208 418 1125. Fish and Chip supper £10 per person.

### **IN TOUCH**

The parish magazine, a special edition to mark the anniversary of Pope Francis' first year, is on sale at all Masses this weekend and next weekend. Price £2.

### **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

The Woodford Bereavement Support Group is having a Service of Remembrance at St. Thomas of Canterbury for those who have died young. We invite you to join us on Sunday, 27th April at 4pm in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and afterwards in the Becket Centre for refreshments. Any enquiries please contact Kathie on 07778 216212.

### **CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT**

Sat 5th April 7.30pm start in the Becket Centre. Tickets £5pp/£10 with 2 glasses of wine. Contact 08985 197051. Crukchair@gmail.com. All proceeds to Cancer Research UK.

### **THANK YOU**

A big thank you for the anonymous donation of fund to the Soup Run. Very gratefully received.

### **HOLY FAMILY**

Lay Associates' Meeting on Monday, 7th April at 7.30pm at the Convent.

### **MOTHERS' PRAYER GROUP**

Tuesday, 1st April after 10am Mass in the Francis Room.

### **LENTEN LUNCHES**

Tuesdays in Lent in the Becket Centre 12.15pm until 1.30pm. Homemade soup with French bread £2.50 (tea and coffee extra). All funds raised will be sent to Mary's Meals, which feeds schoolchildren in Haiti.

### **CWL**

Wednesday, 2nd April 7.15pm in the Assisi Room. Please note change of time.

### **BLESSING OF EASTER FOOD**

Those parishioners who traditionally make Easter baskets of food can bring them to the Becket Centre on Holy Saturday, 19th April at 11am. We will bless them then.

### **EASTER TRIDUUM**

(17th, 18th and 19th April)

Readers, Ministers of Communion, Ushers & Sacristans: If you will be attending any of the services on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday; please add your name to the lists located at the back of the church.

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY**

#### **Washing of the Feet**

We are looking for up to 12 volunteers (male or female). If you would like to take part, please add your name to the list at the back of the church.

### **11.30am SUNDAY TEAS**

We are in urgent need of help to make tea after the 11.30am Mass on a Sunday. It will be on a rota basis once in 6 weeks. If you can help please ring Sheila Smith Pryor on 8504 3839.

### **STEWARDS REQUIRED**

Volunteers are required to help assist with stewarding at the 6pm Mass on Saturdays. If you would like to find out more about being a Steward, please contact Myrtle Scannell on 020 8504 6609 or 07956289441.

### **Austin O.F.M.**

Could the purification we experience after death be understood in this way, namely, as an opening of our vision and heart to a light and a love that are so full so as to force upon us a kind of painful relearning? Might purgatory be understood precisely as us being embraced by God in such a way that warmth and light so dwarf our earthly concepts of love and knowledge that, like a person born blind who is given sight, we have to struggle painfully in the very ecstasy of that light to unlearn and relearn virtually our entire way of thinking and loving? Might purgatory be understood not as God's absence or some kind of punishment or retribution for sin, but as what happens to us when we are fully embraced, in ecstasy, by God, perfect love and perfect truth?

But the breaking in of love and light is, all at the same time, delightful and bewildering, ecstatic and unsettling, wonderful and excruciating, euphoric and painful. Indeed, it's nothing less than purgatory!

### **TRINITY DRAMA DEPT. QUIZ NIGHT**

Saturday, 5th April in Lower Site Hall Trinity Catholic High School 7.30pm—10.30pm. Please bring your own drinks & snacks. Contact Peter Jackson (236) Upper Site for further information/bookings.

### **BUCKET COLLECTION**

The second collection this weekend is supporting two Mums from the Parish as they fundraise for their trek to Machu Picchu, Peru in aid of HemiHelp, the charity which supports one of their children with Hemiplegia. Thank you.

### **CLEANER?**

Very reliable, good rates. References available. Contact Lisa 097988453839.

## PLEASE PRAY FOR

**Sick:-** Phil Archer, Ellen Armstrong, Mary Barnes, Moira Bisset, Teresa Bonaventure, Angela & Kerry Bromfield, Janet Canty, Donald Dourado, Bernie Doyle, Mary Duffy, Michael Durcan, Harold Elston, Alan Farmer, Ray Finney, Fr. Jim Fitzpatrick, Philomena Freeman, Irene & Carter de Freitas, Nora Gaiger, Martin Garnar, Judy & John Gilmartin, Kathleen Gissane, Joan Green, Pat Greene, Lyndsy Greck, Doris Harriss, Christine Hewstone, Maureen Howlin, Desmond Kavanagh, Sophie Jordan, Phyllis & Geraldine Kelly, Fr. Austin Kinsella O.F.M., Claire Lauren, Nora Lucey, Mary McKay, Gloria McQueen, Roger Machin, Hannah Martin, Paul Mason, Sadie Meade, Jutta Menzies, Kay Meyler, Jean Morgan. Trisha Morgan-Smith, Maureen Moss, Maureen Noden, Betty Norton, Anthony O'Boyle, Mary O'Boyle, Joanne O'Boyle, Fr. Con O'Connell, Mick O'Hara, Janet Pinfold, Anneli Prowse, Jacky Rott, Debbie Smythe, Karen Spencer, Carmel Sweeney, Mary Sullivan, Lan Anh Ta, Christine Thurston, Teresa Warnock, Terry Wauer, Monica Worsefold.

**Lately Dead:-** John Burnham, Monica Cruz, David Efemena-Dibie, a Year 9 pupil from Campion School who has died in his sleep, Doris Housego, Helen O'Brien, Adrienne Pollard, Baby Julian Roja-Figueiredo, Theresa Rowley,

We extend the sympathy of the parish to Sheila Burnham and family on the death of John who was loved and respected by us all. John was born and bred in the parish and was an altar boy with Fr. Brian. He will be sorely missed.

Parishioners are welcome in the Becket Centre after John's Requiem.

*May he rest in peace.*

Christine Thurston and family would like to thank the kind people who sent Mass and prayer cards following recent sorrows that have occurred in the family.

Recently, in the Lately Dead we prayed for Diane, and Michael Burke. We would like to make it clear that it was not Mike Burke, the retired Loyola Teacher, and his wife Diane.

### NEED A RELIABLE BUILDER?

No job too small—All work guaranteed. Contact [www.justrightworks.co.uk](http://www.justrightworks.co.uk).

### SVP

We are looking for girls' clothes age 4/5 and 11/12 yrs, and boys' clothes age 7/8 and 14-16 years. If you can, help please leave donations at the Parish Office. Many thanks for your support.

### NEW TO THE PARISH?

Contact the parish office to register.

### 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

# St Thomas of Canterbury

557/559 High Road, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0RB

**Served by the Franciscans**



A FAIRTRADE PARISH

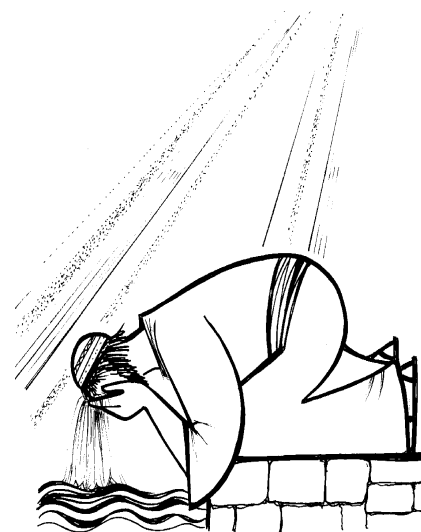
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## 4th SUNDAY IN LENT CYCLE A

**30TH MARCH 2014**



Jesus is the light of the world. To learn from Jesus we need first to admit our ignorance, to be healed we need first to acknowledge our blindness, to be forgiven we need to confess our sins.

### First Reading

**(1 Samuel 16:1. 6-7. 10-13)**

The Lord makes the surprise choice of David to be king of Israel.

### Second Reading

**(Ephesians 5:8-14)**

Live in the light of the Lord, doing good and being virtuous.

### Gospel

**(John 9:1-41)**

The miracle of Jesus curing a man blind from birth, which testifies to the power of Jesus to heal, not just the blindness of the eye but, above all, the blindness of the heart.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The Lord is my shepherd;  
There is nothing I shall want.