

### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Truci Abrahams, Baby Oliver Barker, Angela Barrett, Miss Terry Bennett, Sandra Bourke, Arlene Bowman, Angela Bromfield, Geoff Brown, Gerry Cook, Irene de Freitas, Conor Dempsey, Anthony Doherty, Don Dourado, Trish Gardner, Betty Halliday, Doris Harriss, Joan Hayes, Bernie Hauser, Annie Keenan, Rory McCreesh, Frank McDermott, Margaret McDonnell, Mary McKay, Roger Machin, Camille Malone, Audrey McDonnell, Jutta Menzies, Dr. Douglas Murphy, Betty Norton, Dympna O'Donnell, Liam O'Sullivan, Evaritia (Linda Palmer's Mother), Lily Reding, Jean-Yves de Sainte-Croix de la Sabliere, Debbie Smythe, Madelaine Sydic, Astrid Turner, Maria Vaughan, Rita Watkins & David Underwood.

**Anniv:** Fr Austin Kinsella OFM, Angela de Cesare, Fredrick Hayes, Andrew Jeffreys, Peggy Durcan, Chevonne Lobo, Paul Shipperlee, Patrick Duggan & John Bailly

**Lately Dead:** Joan Reynolds

Joan's requiem will be on Friday 5th January 2018 at 10am in St Thomas'

**Eternal Rest Grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her.**

### CHURCH CLEANING

Saturday 6th January 2018  
Charmaine Turnell, Kristine Pinnock,  
Rosie O'Connor & Deborah McNamara

### MEDJUGORJE IRISH CENTRE PILGRIMAGES 2018

7 nights B&B and Airport Shuttle service from €279 per person. Book any flight - any time & we provide guaranteed airport shuttle service. Call us for further info on 01 4434510 or email [reservations@med-irishcentre.com](mailto:reservations@med-irishcentre.com)

### TRINITY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

There are vacancies for two temporary teacher positions at Trinity from Jan 2018. Teacher of Psychology & Sociology and Teacher of RE  
ALSO a Temporary SEN Teaching Assistant (29 hours per week)  
Please review the school website for full details <http://fc.tchs.uk.net>

### NANNY WANTED

I am looking for a nanny to drop off and pick up two girls from St Antony's Primary School, Woodford, Monday - Friday . If you are interested please contact Agatha on 07405 438585

### NEXT SOUP RUN WEDNESDAY 10TH JANUARY 2018

#### 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  
Woodford Green

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

Parish Office: 020 8504 1686

Email: [parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:parishoffice@stthomaswoodford.org)



Friary: 020 8504 1844

Website: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)



### 4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT Cycle B

24th DECEMBER 2017

Jesus will be born into the house of David, the fulfilment of all that the prophets have foretold. Yet his Good News will be not only for the people of Israel but for everyone.

#### First Reading

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14-16

The prophet Nathan assures David that his kingdom will be protected, but it will not be his task to build the temple.

#### Second Reading

Romans 16:25-27

God's plan is for the Good News of Jesus to reach out to the pagans as well.



#### Gospel

Luke 1:26-38

Mary is chosen and she consents to be the mother of the son whose throne will be established forever, as foretold in the book of Samuel.

#### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**Your offerings at the Christmas Masses will be for the community**

**A newsletter on Christmas Eve?** No. Normal business can wait while we celebrate family and the joy we find in looking to give rather than receive. I want to thank you for being such a good parish. Easy to start, but I am always going to miss other groups and individuals who give their love and service, mostly unnoticed and taken for granted. The regular liturgies are well performed in three venues. I am most grateful to the Sisters of Chigwell Convent. They support every parish activity, and provide all for the daily celebrations open to all and serving the Chigwell part of our parish. Then we would have no Eucharist were it not for all those who provide the action of the mass – musicians, readers, servers, collectors, welcomers, ushers, ministers, sacristans and, so important - cleaners and those who add beauty to the church. We are so blessed in the dedication of teachers in our schools and the preparation for each of the sacraments. While we lament the insufficiency of provision for young people, the November church parade showed what good work is being done for the various age-groups involved. It is not only children who need teaching of their faith. Adult education has moved in intensive bursts in Lent and autumn, and in teasing out the direction the Diocese intends to go. There is extensive caring going out through SVP, soup run, Becket centre and the unseen daily care of neighbours and friends. Our Telco commitment is widely admired and recognised as outstanding, even among many others which excel, in that organisation so necessary for wider society and so thoroughly in tune with Catholic Social Teaching. We are blessed to have a humble deacon who does the real work of a deacon. With the sisters on the Green and many many others quietly providing the contemplation which is our unseen powerhouse.

The parish office quietly oils the wheels and also engages with many others in managing finance. CWL caters with apparent ease, whether for ten or a hundred together with other social events: Christmas Bazaar, Summer Fair, Film Night, International Night and more. The parish Council animates and supports all this. And still there is more.....

**I want simply to thank you and to wish you and all your families peace joy and love at Christmas and through the coming year. QUENTIN**



### **CHRISTMAS MASSES AT ST THOMAS'**

The rotas for the Christmas Masses are displayed at the back of the church, on the left-hand side as you leave. If you have volunteered your services, please check the list on your way out. As usual some Masses/Ministries were oversubscribed and others left with "vacancies". On the table at the back of the church is a list of what we still require, if you can help, please add your name.

### **PARISH OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS**

The office will close on Fri 22nd Dec at 1.30pm and reopen on Tues 2nd at 9.30am. Thank you for generous Christmas wishes and may you all enjoy your Christmas celebrations - Kate, Sue & Lucy

**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER FOR THE WEEKEND OF 31ST DECEMBER**

### **TO ALL USING THE BECKET CENTRE**

Please note that we are regularly testing the FIRE ALARM on a Wednesday around 11am. The alarm will usually sound for about one minute to test that all is working well. The alarm sounding for a time longer than this or at other times should be treated as indication of fire and evacuation of the building commenced.

### **REPOSITORY**

Stand up liturgical calendars are now in, together with 2018 Brentwood Diocesan Year Book. A lovely selection of Christmas Cards are also still available.

### **IN TOUCH MAGAZINE**

The Christmas edition of the parish magazine is on sale, with a Christmas Message from Fr Austin and lovely articles from Trinity pupils.

### **DIOCESAN RENEWAL & RESTRUCTURING**

Last weekend and this you receive a synopsis of the Diocesan plan. "Nothing changed at Woodford" is a comment heard more than a few times about the Restructuring part. Emphatically: this is not the case. The Diocese will flourish or shrivel to the extent that we renew our faith and practice. Priests and people must change considerably to become the church of Pope Francis and Vatican II. We have been nibbling at this task in the past year and made some progress. Much more remains to be done. On that agenda we will launch again as 2018 comes in.

Please collect a summary of this most important Diocesan document. Available at all Masses this weekend. Feel free to comment

### **ON THE WEB**

As you will have seen from last week's newsletter we have a brand new and vibrant website! You can find it here: [www.stthomaswoodford.org](http://www.stthomaswoodford.org)

We want this to be our hub of communication and would invite you to go there to find the latest parish newsletters. You can also sign up to receive them by email which will help us to cut down the amount that we need to print.

From the Home page you can download Advent and Christmas service times and also view the latest news. Also if you have something to publicise let us know.

You can reach us at [webadmin@stthomaswoodford.org](mailto:webadmin@stthomaswoodford.org). We look forward to hearing from you.

IT/COMMS TEAM

### **From Br Donal & Brothers OFM**

The Franciscan community of Friars wish you all many wishes and blessings for Christmas and 2018. Thank you for your prayers, support and example. God bless you; you are in our prayers.



**Franciscan Vocation Talks will be held in the Friary (at Woodford) on Friday 19th and Saturday 20th January for single catholic men 18 - 43 years of age interested in the Franciscan Life. Please contact Br Donal by 15.01.2018 by email only -**

[brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:brdonalofm@yahoo.co.uk)

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Reminder of Meeting**

Next catechists meeting on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 at 8pm in the Becket Centre.